

KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

MANX MUSIC TODAY

Maynrt 2025 March

MANX MUSIC TODAY



Shennaghys Jiu are gearing up for their 26th festival of Celtic music, song and dance. Enjoy the ceilis, concerts, sessions and workshops next month in Ramsey and Peel!

Festival Director, Juan Garrett, tells KMJ about this year's exciting line up:

Kekezza are a lively Cornish dance and music group who perform internationally, showcasing their traditional dances, music and songs. The group originally formed in 2006 and since then has gone on to represent Cornwall at festivals in Brittany, Asturias and Wales.

Kekezza have two costumes, traditional and modern, both of which incorporate the pinks, purples and white of the Cornish heather from which their name 'Kekezza' comes, as well as the black of the Cornish flag.

Last year they performed at the 70th anniversary of Sidmouth Folk Festival and the Lorient Interceltic Festival, taking Cornish dance to over 2.5 million people in 2 weeks.

They are excited to visit and perform at Shennaghys Jiu for their first visit as a group to the Isle of Man.



In this month's edition...

- Coraa choral pack online
- "Harmony of the Seas" waltz by Patrick Knight
- History of "The Laxey Wheel" song



Gerry O'Connor comes from Dundalk, in County Louth and is the product of four generations of fiddle players. His recordings have focused strongly on local music and his work as a soloist and as a band member of Lá Lugh and Skylark is well known across the world. Over the past two decades he has recorded 14 albums and performed with all the leading performers of the Irish music world including members of the Chieftains, Boys of the Lough, Planxty, De Dannan and The Bothy Band. His solo album 'Journeyman' has been hailed as one of the significant albums of Irish fiddle music. Gerry is also a violin-maker, music teacher and music producer and currently tours as fiddle player with the Canadian Irish legends The Irish Rovers. He is a four times winner of the Fiddler of Oriel and regularly adjudicates the competition.



Kevin McElroy has played Irish Traditional Music since his teens, inspired by family and friends to celebrate his heritage. He sings and plays guitar, fiddle, banjo and mandolin. Kevin had the good fortune to play with and learn from some of Boston's best Irish musicians during the revival of Irish traditional music and set dancing in the '70s, '80s and 90's, playing banjo and backup guitar with Brendan Tonra, Mike McDonagh, Larry Reynolds, Séamus Connolly and other members of the Connaught Céilí Band. Kevin played regularly with Séamus Connolly and has shared the stage with Joe Burke, Paddy Keenan, Jerry O'Sullivan, Father Charlie Coen and Séamus Egan. He can be heard on "The Séamus Connolly Collection" at Boston College. Kevin's singing style was informed by his studies of traditional singing, including with the late greats Sean Corcoran and Frank Harte.

Echoes of Killarney, dancers, under the tutelage of Maureen and Lisa Hegarty, are mostly based in Killarney, and are all dancers with the Hegarty Irish Dance Academy. They have performed in many parts of Europe, including Germany, France and Cornwall and are delighted to again be returning to the Isle of Man and Shennaghys Jiu; one of the highlights of their calendar year.

Toe tapping, show stopping rhythms and traditional céilí style, you will also be encouraged to join in, have fun and celebrate their Celtic music, song and dance.

Echoes of Killarney Musicians are some of the senior members of the **Killarney School of Music** stageworks group directed by Páidraig Buckley.

The group's genre is trad Irish dance music and song, with other strong Celtic Influences! The group regularly plays for discerning international audiences both at home in Killarney and abroad and regularly combine with the Hegarty Irish Dance Academy to deliver high quality shows.



We also have **Loïc Heurteaut** coming from Brittany, many of those who have been to Lorient recently will know him from his role in being a festival steward and looking after the Manx contingent.

He is coming to give a Breton flavour to the weekend, with the grateful help of **David Kilgallon and Jamie Smith**. Which we are absolutely indebted to for enabling this to happen.

We will also have a small group coming from **Fochabers** to add to the mix of ceilidhs and styles of music to hear over the weekend.

Alongside all of this we will also get to hear Katie Lawrence and her band perform from her new collection of tunes, *From Western Shores and Beyond* at the Peel Centenary Centre.

Beccy Hurst will be back on the Island, along with a whole host of Manx Musicians and dancers, including Skeddan Jiarg, Ny Fennee, Perree Bane, Ny Claarseyryn Twoaie, Lucy Gilmore, Arabella Ayen and the Trinity School of Irish dance.

<https://shennaghysjiu.com/>

AUNDYRYN KIAULL-THEAY VANNIN / MANX FOLK AWARDS 20th - 25th March 2025

Almost 1,000 children will be performing Manx music, song, dance, poetry & more in only a few weeks.

Organised by Dr Chloe Woolley (Culture Vannin) & Jo Callister (DESC, Isle of Man Government), these friendly competitions for school children happen every year, and these short films will give you a good idea of what they're all about!

* Manx National Anthem (solo):

<https://youtu.be/Q22PZlq8ZCA>

* Hunt the Wren (dance):

<https://youtu.be/q1RAs5LgGPE?si=umRn0oz6WMrXVnk4>

* Roll Away (choir): <https://youtu.be/WIXp-xwV2xM?si=kpH32osYSed2fkZY>

* Hello, Little People (duet): <https://youtu.be/ML8L0pA2ZPY?si=k4tgggCWXbxcqhw>

* Ushag Veg Ruy, Three Little Boats & Zigzag:

<https://youtu.be/JmsaTB68zJY?si=KsK8LIjxEwKaVAH6>

Aigh vie, ooilley! www.manxmusic.com/schools/manx-folk-awards/



Butfirst
PROMOTIONS

TOM
BRIGHT

ERIN ARTS CENTRE
Tickets £20.00
Fri March 28th 2025

TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/BUTFIRSTPROMOTIONS

*Tom Bright with support from
Manx singer-songwriter
Ruby Biscoe-Taylor from Biskee Brisht*

BISKEE BRISHT at
Kerroo Brewery,
Port Erin
Friday 7th March

Celebrating Kerroo Brewery's 1st
Birthday with great food & craft beer!

WEEKEND OPENING TIMES

FRIDAY 7TH MARCH
OPEN 5-10PM

@FILBEYSFOOD FROM 5PM

@BISKEEBRISHT 7-9PM

SATURDAY 8TH MARCH
OPEN 4-10PM

@FILBEYSFOOD FROM 4PM

MARCH
9TH

Folk and Roots Music at The Institute 2025

The Big Wheel Blues and Roots Club



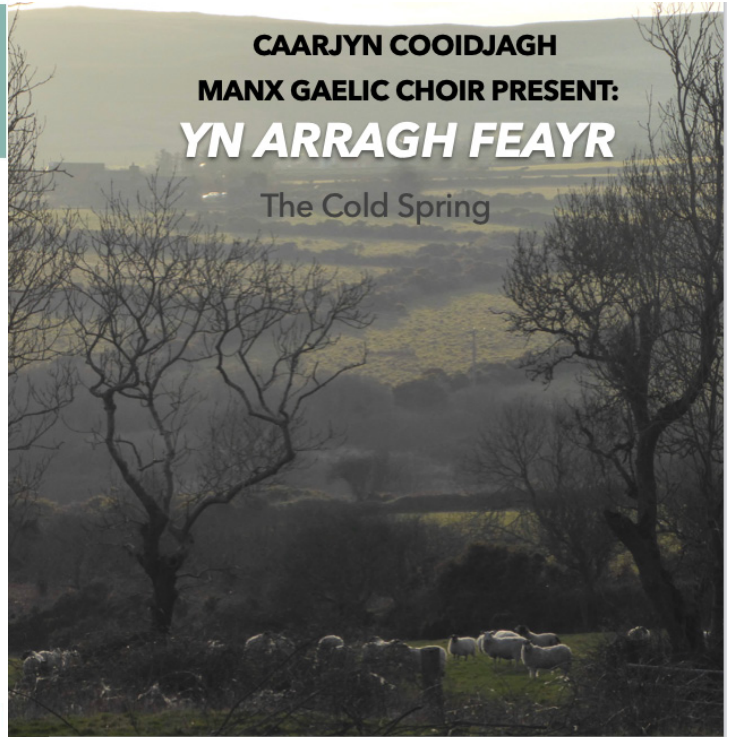
KRIS DREVER & CHRIS STOUT

Two icons of Scottish roots culture in concert in Laxey!

The Institute, Laxey

Sunday March 9th 2025
Doors open 7:30pm.

Tickets just £15 from
www.etickets.im/et



CAARJYN COOIDJAGH

MANX GAELIC CHOIR PRESENT:

YN ARRAGH FEAYR

The Cold Spring

Singing songs of fishing, farming, folklore ... and spring

BARREGARROW METHODIST CHAPEL

15th March 2025

2.30pm

REFRESHMENTS

RETIRING COLLECTION FOR CHAPEL FUNDS

Tar shiu ooilley

All welcome

ISLE OF MAN
Symphony
ORCHESTRA



slp

Slaithwaite
Philharmonic
Orchestra

ISLE OF MAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & SLAITHWAITE PHILHARMONIC present an EXTRAORDINARY CONCERT

**Mahler : Symphony no. 1
Britten : Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra
& music by Chabrier, Mussorgsky & Haydn Wood**



Leaders :
Juliet Tranter
Matthew Chadbond

Conductors :
Graham Kirkland
Benjamin Ellin

Narrator :
Charles Guard



Tickets on sale from 10th March
Circle - Adult : £20, Concessions : £18, Child : £5
Stalls - Adult : £18, Concessions : £16, Child : £5
Tel : 600555 www.villagalety.com



**SATURDAY 17TH MAY 2025
VILLA MARINA 7.30PM**



The Manx Music, Speech & Dance festival

Entries closing date 1st Feb 2025

Villa Marina, Douglas
from 26th April - 3rd May

<https://www.manxmusicfestival.org/>

www.facebook.com/ManxMusicFestival



kiuill manninagh jiu 03/25 culture vannin

Ballakilpheric Manx Concert

Friday 28th March
7.30pm
£10 including
supper

Tickets on the door - if you are able to let us know numbers we would appreciate it -
text Katie on 438473

SAVE THE DATE!

<https://makemusicday.org/>

**MAKE
MUSIC**

ISLE OF MAN
Laa Jannoo Kiaull
JUNE 21

Ahoy, Mateys! Set sail for an unforgettable night at Milntown on Friday, 28th March 2025 with local legends the 'Star Shanty Singers'! Join us for an evening packed with good vibes, great tunes, and scrumptious seafood that'll transport you straight to the high seas!



Friday, 28th March 2025 at 7pm

A refreshing Rum Punch on arrival – the perfect way to embrace the sailor spirit!
Indulge in a Seafood Platter loaded with ocean-fresh delights that'll have you hooked at first bite. Local legends, 'Star Shanty Singers' take the stage, unleashing a lively performance of toe-tapping sea shanties, guaranteed to shiver your timbers!

Tickets: £35 per head Book Now: 812321 or events@milntown.org

SUMMER SEASON CONCERTS IN PEEL

Next month sees the start of a huge variety of free concerts organised by Paul Reynolds of Shoh Slaynt.

Watch and listen each week on Wednesday evenings at the Sailors' Shelter from 7.30pm and Saturday lunchtimes at the House of Manannan from 12.30pm

<u>SAILORS SHELTER. Wednesday.</u>				<u>HOUSE OF MANANNAN Saturday</u>	
9 th April	<u>Paul</u>	Brian & Denise	John Barker	12 th April	Derek Oates
16 th April.	<u>Peter</u>	Gary Smith	Rob & Paul	19 th April	Chris Killey
23 rd April	<u>John G</u>	The Mollag Band		26 th April	John Cowley
30 th April	<u>Derek</u>	Graham Dimelow	Callum Brew	3 rd May	Rob Middleton
7 th May	<u>Peter</u>	Dan Looney	Donna Colligon	10 th May	Adrian Cowin
14 th May	<u>Paul</u>	The Whiskey Boys		17 th May	Dickie Kelly
21 st May	<u>John R</u>	Colin Brew	JohnRuscoe Jnr	24 th May	Chris Sprague
28 th May TT	<u>Paul</u>	Dan Buttimore?	Jenny B.?	31 st May	TBA
4 th June TT	<u>Paul</u>	Eugene Wilson	Mine's a Shanty	7 th June	John Cowley
11 th June	<u>Peter</u>	Alan & Chalky	Dickie Kelly	14 th June	Peter B / Clive Parrish
18 th June	<u>John G</u>	<u>Student(s)</u>	Nigel Brown	21 st June	Zac Colligon
25 th June	<u>Derek</u>	Joe Russell	Matt Kelly	28 th June	Geoff Kerrison
2 nd July	<u>Paul</u>	Clash Vooar		5 th July	John Gregory
9 th July.	<u>Peter</u>	Mark Lawrence*	Mike & Ian	12 th July	Alan & Chalky
16 th July	<u>John R</u>	Jon Lightfield	Brian & Denise	19 th July	Salty Dogs(Rob & Paul)
23 rd July	<u>Paul</u>	<u>Yn Chruinnaght artists</u>		26 th July	Richard Hogg
30 th July	<u>Derek</u>	Paul Beckett	Amore	2 nd Aug	John Ruscoe
6 th Aug	<u>Paul</u>	Geoff Kerrison	Relative Impact	9 th Aug	Peter Corkhill
13 th Aug	<u>Paul</u>	Heinrich Manoeuvre		16 th Aug	Paul Beckett
20 th Aug GP	<u>Rob</u>	Folkish	Heikki Koistinen	23 rd Aug	Jimmy Gillespie
27 th Aug	<u>John R</u>	<u>Derek</u>	<u>Peter</u> John Barker	30 th Aug	TBA

Have you recently completed any amazing Manx themed art or poetry?

Have you entered the Manx Folk Awards or the Guild?

Have any of your students done any extraordinary community work?

The North American Manx Association (NAMA) is once again presenting awards for outstanding achievement in Manx language, art, music and dance by young people under the age of 18 years on the Isle of Man, along with two additional awards for older recipients, these include a community award. The awards are arranged in five categories and for each category a silver medal has been minted for presentation to suitable candidates.

Full details of criteria can be found in the accompanying nomination form.

Nominations should reach Frances Cowin at the email address listed on the application form (frances.cowin@sch.im) by Friday, 9th May 2025.

Find out more details and download the nomination form here:

www.manxmusic.com/news/north-american-manx-association-awards-seeks-nominees-890803/



Patrick KNIGHT

Obituary

KNIGHT. Patrick. Passed away on Monday 17th February 2025 aged 74 years, peacefully at home with his loving daughters by his side. Treasured Dad of Emily and Martha, Step-dad to Phoebe and Greg and friend to many on the Island's traditional music scene.

A service to celebrate Patrick's life will take place at 1.15pm on Friday 7th March 2025 at Douglas Borough Crematorium, Glencrutchery Road.

Family flowers only please, donations in lieu may be made, if so desired to Hospice Isle of Man. All enquiries please to Eric Faragher Ltd, Main Road, Onchan. Tel - 673109 or 622897

Photo - with thanks to Katie Lawrence



This edition's **KMJ Transcription of Month**
is "Harmony of the Sea" which was written by Pat Knight

Join Us for the Next Oie Voaldyn Folk & Fire Festival Meeting!
 Mark your calendars! Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, 16th March at 2:30pm at Peel Masonic Hall.

We'll be discussing some important elements of the festival, including:

- Costume/Choreography
 - Blocking - this includes a recce on the beach to figure out timings of the blessings etc.
- All of our characters are now allocated, however, we are still looking for volunteers to help make this event a blazing success! We need passionate people for the following roles:
- Paraders (for both the Summer and Winter Parades)
 - Marshalls
 - Crowds / queues / workshop help & management
 - Arena setup team
 - Merchandise stand shift workers
 - Torch lighters
 - Clear up crew (Monday)
 - Experienced face painters



This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved, show your support, and be part of something special! Whether you're a seasoned veteran or a new face, your help is greatly appreciated.

More info: <https://fb.me/e/2KKFeuQqy>

Oie Voaldyn Veg
 Summer/Winter fancy dress parade
Sunday May 4th 4pm

Meet at Fenella Beach Peel at the slipway for 3.50pm
 All children must be accompanied by an adult at start and finish of parade.

Fancy dress prizes:
 ✨For Winter: pram/buggy, best 5 and under, best 8 and under, best 11 and under
 ⚡For Summer: pram/buggy, best 5 and under, best 8 and under, best 11 and under

QR to Oie Voaldyn website

OIE VOALDYN
 Oievoaldyn.com

MANX MAY DAY AND EVENING FIRE FESTIVAL

Sunday 4th May
 BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND
Peel Beach & Promenade

2.00pm - Music & Food / Viking Games
 8.45pm - Fire Show - 10.00pm - Fireworks

SPONSORED BY

ELEMENT ISLE

FREE EVENT - SUITABLE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



The Mollag Band hosted a great evening of singing, music and dance in Peel Masonic Hall for Oie'll Vreeshey (Eve of St Bridget, 31st Jan) Photos - thanks: Valerie Caine

Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering celebrates the Isle of Man's vibrant Celtic heritage and its deep connections with Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall and Brittany.

Set in the picturesque coastal town of Peel on the Island's west coast, with some events in the capital city, Douglas, the festival runs from 21st – 27th July 2025.

Yn Chruinnaght (meaning "the Gathering" in Manx Gaelic) creates a welcoming atmosphere, ensuring a memorable experience for performers, locals and visitors alike. Founded in 1978, this annual festival features a mix of Celtic music, song and dance, film, language and literature, folklore, crafts and community activities for all ages. Festival-goers can enjoy lively pub sessions, concerts, ceilis, talks and workshops, and immerse themselves in Gaelic through Culture Vannin's Manx language summer school. Book on the course here: www.learnmanx.com

The performer line-up for 2025 promises to be fantastic and will be revealed soon, along with the release of tickets and festival passes.

Highlights for this year's festival will include the 160th anniversary of Art Nouveau and Celtic Revival artist Archibald Knox, a variety concert celebrating Celtic 'myths and legends', and the infamous 'Mega Manx Ceili' inside Peel Cathedral.

The Isle of Man is easily accessible by plane or ferry from Dublin, Belfast and the UK. You could even moor up your own boat for the final weekend and join us and our festival friends at 'Peel Seafest'.



For information on travel and accommodation, see: www.visitisleofman.com

Keep up to date with festival news:

www.celticgathering.im and www.facebook.com/CelticGatheringIOM/

ARTIST LINE-UP TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

& THE CHANCE TO GRAB YOUR DISCOUNTED EARLY BIRD FESTIVAL PASSES!!



Join the new Biosphere Board!

Are you passionate about creating a sustainable future for the Isle of Man? Do you want to make a real difference in your community? If so, then we need you!

The UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man (UBIOM) Board is seeking dynamic and dedicated individuals to join our team as non-executive board members. We're not just looking for figureheads; we need passionate advocates who will roll up their sleeves and champion Biosphere Isle of Man's mission.



Who we're looking for:

We need people who understand the interconnectedness of our island's environment, economy, and community. We need collaborators who can bridge the gaps between diverse stakeholders and forge a path toward a shared vision.

Expertise in any of the following areas would be a huge plus:

- Environmental and cultural conservation
- Sustainable economic development
- Community and social development
- Education and research
- Youth empowerment

What we're working towards:

The UBIOM Board will be focused on our periodic review, due for submission in September 2026, and creating a self-funding model that supports the Biosphere's goals for the Isle of Man:

- Protecting our unique natural environment and cultural heritage
- Growing a thriving and sustainable economy
- Strengthening the bonds within our community

Building a 'Biosphere Economy' for the future:

We're not just thinking about today; we're building a Biosphere economy for tomorrow. This means:

- Championing sustainable businesses and fostering entrepreneurship
- Developing innovative financing mechanisms for Biosphere projects
- Creating a Biosphere marketplace to showcase local products and services

How to apply:

There are several non-executive, non-remunerated board member roles to be filled. Apply before midnight on Wednesday 2 April 2025 by submitting your CV (including IOM worker status) and a cover letter outlining your vision for UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man to biosphere@gov.im; interviews will be held during the week beginning Monday 14 April 2025.

For more information, contact Jason Bissell, UBIOM Board Chair, on jason.bissell2@gov.im

www.biosphere.im

kiaul1 noa

The Manx dance, 'Sharon's Jig,' performed by Gráinne Joughin and Cara Rowles. It is performed to the new Manx tune, 'Purt y Skeddan Jiarg' composed by Jamie Smith, by Jamie Smith and Frank Joughin. Watch here: <https://youtu.be/aPg4LxjkaCk?si=bGZho-UbVhlgSIK0>

Tune here: <https://manxmusic.com/learn/tunes/purt-y-skeddan-jiarg/>

Resources for learning the dance & tunes are available here:

<https://manxmusic.com/learn/dances/sharons-jig/>

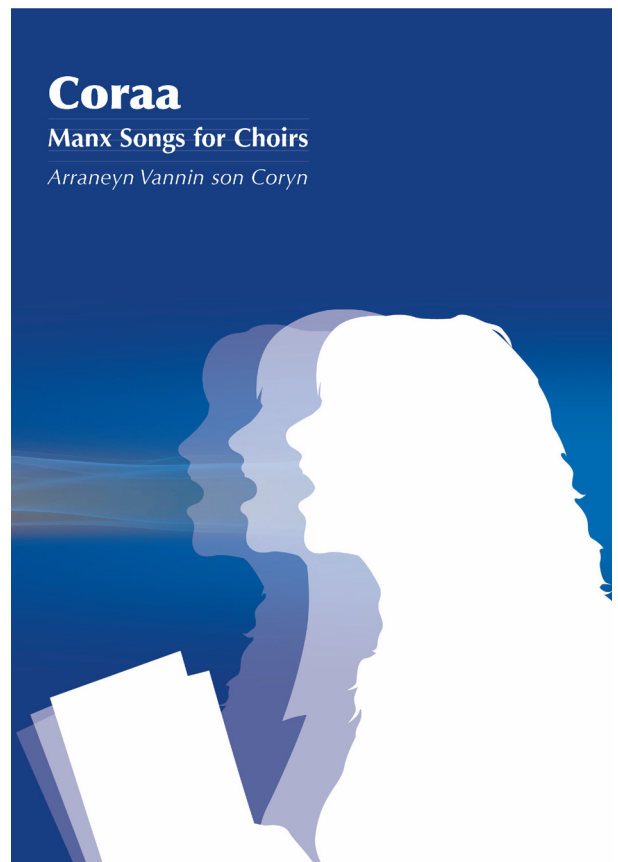
This is a live recording from Arrane son Mannin, Peel, Isle of Man, 18 January 2025.

Event organised by Yn Çheshaght Ghailckagh. Supported by Culture Vannin. Sound recording by Mannin Sound.



CORAA Now released online - a collection of ten Manx songs arranged for choirs of all ages and abilities, and performed by the Manx choir, Caarjyn Coidjagh, conducted by Annie Kissack. This recording was originally released as an accompaniment to the book, 'Coraa: Manx Songs for Choirs,' edited by Dr Chloë Woolley and published by the Manx Heritage Foundation in 2011.

The project was designed for the Isle of Man secondary schools, but it will appeal to choirs or singing groups of any age interesting in performing Manx songs. Download the music and listen here: <https://manxmusic.com/learn/songs/coraa-pack---manx-songs-for-choirs/>



CUMMAGHYN - Manx dance accompaniment

<https://www.manxmusic.com/learn/tunes/she-bosun-dy-row-ayns-dover-sthie/>

There are now nearly 200 tunes, songs & dances available to listen to, watch or learn on the Manx Music website. This is being added to every week, as the space expands as a place to access anything of wonderfully rich world of Manx music & dance, wherever you are in the world and whatever your level. The latest tune to go online is the traditional Manx tune, 'She bosun dy row ayns Dover s'thie' (It was a boatswain whose house was at Dover).

The tune was collected from John Radcliffe of the Howe, and was first published in W. H. Gill's Manx National Music (1898). However, the tune languished in obscurity until the 1990s, when it was taken up as the tune to accompany the new dance, Cummaghyn, by Bock Yuan Fannee. It is because of this that the tune is well-known today and is very much still to be heard, particularly in thanks to the brilliant dance fit to tax even the best of Manx dance troupes!

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

Festival Interceltique de Lorient

LES COUSINS
D'AMÉRIQUE

1-10 août 2025

Solas • Alan Stivell • Le Vent du Nord & l'ONB
Calum Stewart & Celtic Odyssey #4 • Talisk

Niamh Dunne • Red Hot Chilli Pipers • The Kilkennys • Startijenn • Lúnasa

Mary Bergin • Red Cardell • Xabier Díaz • Hamon-Martin Quintet

Nolwenn Korbell • Flook • Alienda • Annie Baylis • 'Ndiaz • Élodie Jaffré

VRi • Gness • Soirée Bouge ton Celte ! • Astro Bloc • TRIP • Kathleen MacInnes

Rubén Bada • Rant • Toxic Frogs • Brieg Guerveno • Taff Rapids • Ali Hutton • ...



NORTH ATLANTIC SONG CONVENTION

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND, 11-13 APRIL 2025

"Connecting Cultures Through Song"

Workshops | Song Circles | Concerts | Panels | Discussions | & More

www.northatlanticsong.com

NASC

Access Folk

Traditional Music for Kids

TRACS



www.northatlanticsong.com

Manx Gaelic singer Ruth Keggin will be taking part in the Edinburgh convention.

Spotify

Manx Music Playlist

<https://tinyurl.com/c4c247wd>

RESEARCH NEWS

An article for The Manx Independent (13th February 2025) written by Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin.

The Laxey Wheel

If there is one Manx folk song guaranteed to get everyone singing the chorus, clapping and yee-harr-ing, it is "The Laxey Wheel", honouring the iconic waterwheel built in 1854 to pump water from the Laxey mines. The wheel, of course, is popularly known as the 'Lady Isabella' after the Governor's wife who declared the Wheel open 100 hundred years before the song was written.

The song was composed by Douglas postal worker and champion cyclist Stuart Slack circa 1957 and tells the story of the Laxey Mines, which, in the words of the song, employed "600 miners working under Captain Rowe"!

It has rightly become a local classic, a favourite with children and grandparents alike, and still sung in many Island schools.

In a broader sense, "The Laxey Wheel" symbolises an exciting period of live music-making in the Island. Skiffle and the American folk revival had made its way over to Britain in the 1950s; a movement that resurrected the neglected songs of the working classes and prompted the youth to reflect on the songs of their own people. A reaction against the prevalence of mainstream, manufactured pop music, and the politics of the time, the folk revival struck a chord with many.

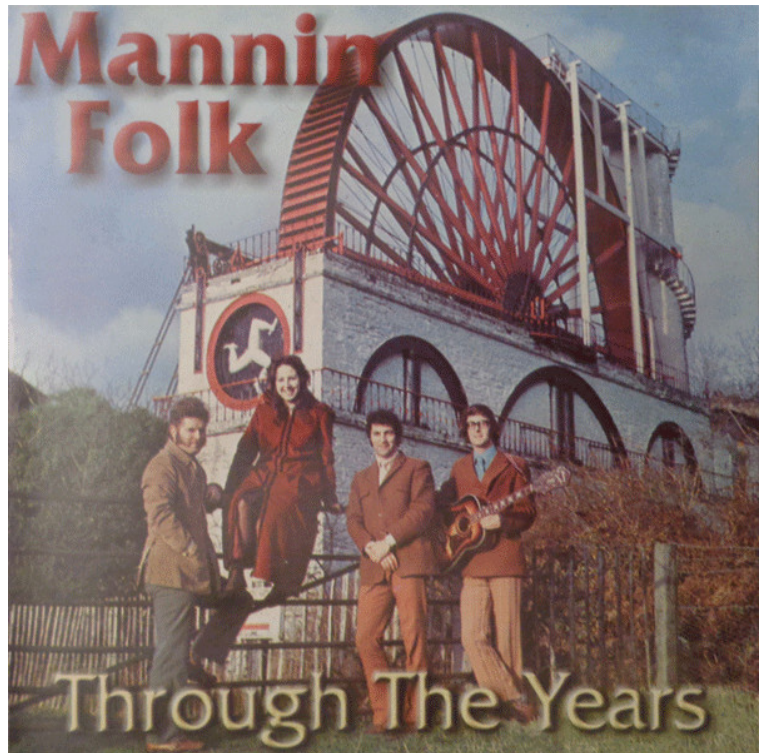
The Isle of Man embraced the trend too and prompted singer-songwriters to compose their own songs. Stuart Slack was one of those who found a passion for song-writing and an appreciative audience at the Manx Ballads and Blues Club at the Oban Hotel, Douglas.

As the movement gained a following, groups such as Mannin Folk, Treadmill, Triad, Mike, Laurie and Al (Mike Williams, Laurie Kermode and Al Lawrence) and Pocheen were formed, and pubs were eager to host folk club performances: The Coach and Horses in Laxey, Glen Helen Hotel, Athol Hotel in Douglas, Mitre in Kirk Michael, Tholt-e-Will in Sulby, and The Raven in Ballaugh. Douglas boasted a particularly vibrant folk scene in venues such as The Globe, The Fort Anne, the Castle Mona, Peveril, Falcon Cliff and The Crescent.

Born and brought up in Douglas, Stuart Slack (1939 -1998), was also fascinated by local history, and wrote several valuable books about the Island's past.

As a songwriter, he was prolific. Over a 40 year span, he produced more than 30 songs inspired by historical events and local places including "Wreck of the Herring Fleet" and "The Foxdale Miner", industry and transport in "Ride the Rails" and "Bulgham Bombshell", and humorous songs about the Island like "Give me the Bus-fare to Laxey"!

It was Mannin Folk who took his songs to a wider audience, due to their massive popularity at The Coach and Horses, The Crescent and other venues. Terry Clough of Kelly Recordings produced their EP of "The Laxey Wheel" in 1976, and a year later, Mike, Laurie and Al performed it on their LP, Saturday Night at the Colby Glen (1977).



“The Laxey Wheel” has since been recorded by the Houghton Weavers and local band The Stationary Willberries, and is still regularly performed by Shenanigans Banned and of course the children of Laxey School!

The music is included in the Manx National Song Book Vol 2, and the Stuart Slack memorial bench sits in the valley below Laxey Wheel, which “still stands majestic in the shadow Snaefell”. Stuart is included in New Manx Worthies and is a 'Manx Musical Worthy' on www.manxmusic.com. Memories of Stuart are shared on the Facebook page, Stuart Slack - The legend 1939 – 1998.

Photo credit: Mannin Folk's 'Through the Years' album cover - in front of The Laxey Wheel

LEARN the song: www.manxmusic.com/learn/songs/the-laxey-wheel/

Youtube (& Facebook) corner

Enjoy a recording of David Callister performing Stuart Slack's song

“Moddee Dhoo” [sp. Modhee Dhoo].

Manx Radio's 'Folk Hour' 14 May 1972, presented by Bill Crisp:

www.facebook.com/colin.slack.9/videos/517014734975292/?idorvanity=474460265907653

“MR JOSEPH WOOLCOCK” (1883)

(1)

On Thursday afternoon last, the funeral of Mr Joseph Woolcock, who died on Monday last, took place at Kirk Lonan. The funeral left his residence in the Glen a little after three o'clock, headed by the Laxey Amateur Band (of which the deceased was formerly a member) playing the “Dead March” in Saul. The coffin was covered with several beautiful wreaths, and his uniform cap was placed in the centre of one of them. A detachment of the Hallelujah Band and a great many Oddfellows followed their deceased friend and brother to his last home. It is said that this is the most numerously attended funeral that has taken place in Laxey for over a period of ten years.

(2)

Some eighteen months ago, when the Laxey Band were performing in Ramsey, one of their number named Woolcock, residing in Laxey Glen, unfortunately got into the harbour during the darkness of the night, and the “cold” which he then took terminated in his death from consumption on Monday last. On Thursday evening his remains had an imposing burial in our parish churchyard, the Laxey Band attending in uniform and played mournful strains suited to the occasion, and a numerous concourse of neighbours following.

Quite how John Joseph Woolcock ended up in the drink at Ramsey is not made clear, nor whether drink itself was to blame; however, end up he did and that was to lead to his demise aged just twenty-three. Woolcock was enumerated in the 1881 census as a blacksmith, unmarried and living with his brother and parents at 79 Glen Road in Laxey. The Laxey Amateur Band were in attendance, a reminder of the music making opportunities open to males in the Island in this period.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

For the newspaper pieces, (1) “[Laxey] On Thursday afternoon” *Isle of Man Times* 9 June 1883: 5f; (2) “[Laxey] Funeral of a Bandsman.” *Manx Sun* 9 June 1883: 4e. The census record is *Census Enumerators' Book* for Laxey 1881, TNA, RG 11/5601, fol. 70, sch. 137. Obituary notices are “[Births, Marriages, and Deaths] Deaths.” *Isle of Man Times* 16 June 1883: 5g; “[Births, Marriages, and Deaths] Deaths.” *Mona's Herald* 20 June 1883: 5f.

Cavalcade of Music

1895

Concert Artistes

Artistes who have been other years

The Palace and Derby Castle Dance Music

Waltzes: *España* (op. 236) by (Émile) Waldteufel; *In Old Madrid* (on melodies from the song of that name by Clifton Bingham and H. Trotere) arranged by Josef Meisler; *Frascita* (or *Frascati*) by (Phillipp) Fahrbach;* *Bright Eyed Norah* by (Edwin H.) Prout (unidentified); *Die Gräfenberger* by (Josef) Gung'l; *Journalisten*** by Johann Strauss II; *Nilfluthen* (*The Waters of the Nile*, op. 275) by Josef Strauss; *Krolls Ballklänge* (1846) by (Hans Christian) Lumbye; *Love Star* (1887-9; based on a melody by Daniele Pecorini) by (Otto) Roeder;

* Probably Phillip Fahrbach Jr (1843-94), although father and son were both named Phillip and wrote waltzes during the 'golden age' of the Viennese waltz.

** Probably the waltz *Morgenblätter*, written for the publicist's association 'Wiener Journalisten - und Schriftstellerverien Concordia' for their Concordia Ball in January 1864.

Polkas: *En Chasse* by (Phillipp) Fahrbach; *Rollocking Frollicking* by J. H. Greenwood (the composer of the *Cliff Lancers* and the *Falcon Waltz*, the musical director and entertainer at the Falcon Cliff, successor to Charles Reynolds).

Schottisches: *In the Sunny South* by Glover (unidentified).

Lancers: (on themes from) *Iolanthe* by Sullivan.

Concert music played at the Palace and Derby Castle

Overture *Le Puits d'amore* (French opera, libretto by Scribe, 1843; known in England as *The Lover's Well*) by (Michael William) Balfe; selection from Wagner's *Tannhäuser*; cornet solo *My Dreams* (song written for the Welsh tenor Ben Davies) by (Francesco Paolo) Tosti; piccolo solo *Danse de Satyrs* by (Eugene) Demare (unidentified but possibly by Charles le Thiere; the soloist was probably Harry Wood's brother Daniel); descriptive piece *At the Forge* by Sugg (unidentified); Berceuse *Petite Reine* (c.1882) by Victor Benaud (later arranged by Elgar as a violin salon piece); (Second) Gavotte, *Maids of Honour* (*Souvenir de Versailles*, 1778) by (Henri) Roubier; *Serenade* (op. 15/1, 1877) by Moritz Moszkowski; *La Berceuse* (*Sérénade* for Mme Lefebure-Wely) by Gounod; Suite *Mascarade du Marchand de Venise* (from the incidental music - eight numbers including a tenor song - to Shakespeare's play produced at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, in 1871) by Sullivan.

Derby Castle

In the new Opera House (a variety theatre adjacent to the Ballroom, opened 1893) the Sisters Levey* sang (Charles Deane's new song) *Sporting Girls* (1895).

* Adèle, Carlotta and May, actresses, singers and burlesque dancers. 'Shapely girls (buxom) and sized up pleasingly in their specialities'. London debut 1887. Notwithstanding Harry Wood's recollections, they are

mentioned in the local newspapers only in 1893 and 1894 when appearing at the Falcon Cliff with comedian Lester Barrett and Maestro, the Royal Court Illusionist.

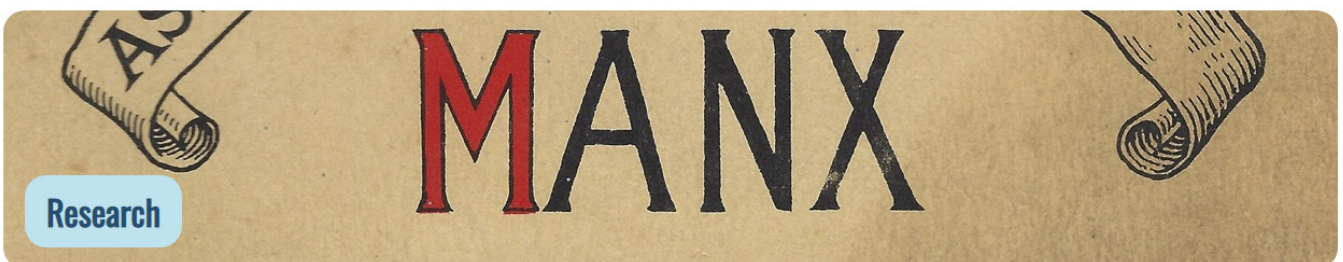
Charles Collette* sang the new song 'Phil the Fluter's Ball' (described as 'an irresistible slice of Irish life' from the composer of *Come Back Paddy Reilly* and Abdul Abulbul Amir, W. P. French), with great success.

* Charles Henry Collette, character actor, composer and writer of comedy sketches and patter songs. His musical play *Cryptoconchoidsyphonostomata* famously shared the bill with the historic premier of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury* in 1875. Colette and his company first appeared in Douglas in 1881 in the play *The Colonel* at the Gaiety Theatre, Prospect Hill; he last appeared in Douglas in 1902 in the farce *What Happened to Jones* at the Grand Theatre.

By Maurice Powell 2025



1911 – Folklore collector and Manx language activist Sophia Morrison won 1st Prize in the *Traditional Manx Music* class at the Guild (Manx Music Festival)



For more research, see www.manxmusic.com/history/research/

Home | History | Research

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

see www.manxmusic.com for more printable pieces of Manx music

Harmony Of The Seas

“This tune was composed by Pat Knight about 8 years ago and I’m posting it here [www.thesession.org] in his memory. Sadly Pat died last weekend. Known popularly as “Pat the Flute” many people reading this will have come across him over the years at sessions and festivals. He said the tune just came to him and he thought he must have heard it somewhere. After much checking he decided he must have made it up. It was about the time that the cruise ship Harmony of the Seas was in the news (launched 2015, so possibly the year after). He thought the name was a good name for the tune and that’s the name that stuck.

Both Pat and his late brother Andrew were wonderful musicians with a deep knowledge and love of traditional music. They both moved to the Isle of Man in the 1990’s and remained there, but often travelling to trad music events near and far. He (as was Andrew) will be greatly missed by friends and fellow musicians. Gurra mie mooar Pat.

[NB The tempo is that of a slow waltz]”

Transcribed by David Speers <https://thesession.org/tunes/25324>

Harmony Of The Seas

Pat Knight

The musical score is presented in four staves. The first staff shows the beginning of the melody in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 3/4 time. The second and fourth staves include first and second endings, marked with '1' and '2' above the staff. The third staff provides a bass line accompaniment. The notation includes various note values, rests, and repeat signs.

CALENDAR

MARCH

7 Biskee Brisht at Kerroo Brewery, Port Erin, 7-9pm

9 Kris Drever & Chris Stout, The Institute, Laxey, £15 www.etickets.im/et

15 Caarjyn Coidjagh concert in Barregarrow Methodist Chapel, 2.30pm

20 – 25 Aundyryn Kiaull-Theay Vannin / Manx Folk Awards, St Johns & Douglas

28 Tom Bright with Ruby Biscoe-Taylor, Erin Arts Centre, £20

28 Ballakilpheric Manx Concert, 7.30pm, £10

28 Star Shanty Singers at Milintown, Ramsey £35 inc refreshments

APRIL

3 - 6 Shennaghys Jiu, Ramsey & Peel <https://shennaghysjiu.com/>

11 – 13 North Atlantic Song Convention, Edinburgh

26 – 3 May The Manx Music, Speech & Dance festival [Guild]

www.manxmusicfestival.org/

MAY

4 Oie Voaldyn, Peel

17 Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra concert, Villa Marina, 7.30pm

JUNE

17 The Sound of Mann, Villa Marina, 7pm

21 Laa Jannoo Kiaull / Make Music Day

JULY

7 Tynwald Day

21 – 27 Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering www.celticgathering.im

AUGUST

1 – 10 Festival Interceltique de Lorient

Please send in dates so that we can publicise events here & online:

www.manxmusic.com & keep in touch at www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance

MON 8pm Trad session at The George Hotel, Castletown

TUES 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas

WED 8.30pm Trad Session at O'Donnell's, Douglas

THURS 8pm Singing session at R.A.O.B. (Bufs) Club, Ramsey

FRI 8.30pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey

Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary

Each **SUN** 12.30-4 Trad session:

1st Sunday of Month Laxey Sailing Club

2nd Sunday – Douglas Venue

3rd Sunday – Blackdog Oven, Peel

4th Sunday Woodbourne Pub, Douglas – Slow session 4pm – 6pm

Stay up to date: www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan

~ SESSIONS ~

~ SESSIONS ~

culture vannin

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Written and edited by Chloë Woolley for Culture Vannin

The Editor welcomes submissions but reserves the right to edit for style and space

PRESS: please feel free to pick up articles without named authors to spread the word about Manx culture