

KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

mee boaldyn 2014 may

manx music today

Pan-Celtic song contest victory!

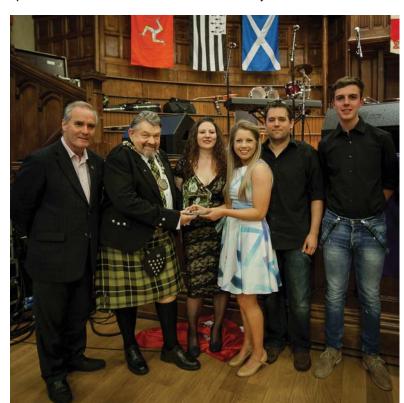
43rd Pan-Celtic Festival 2014 - Derry - Report by Fiona McArdle

We had high hopes for the Manx musicians when we set out for Derry and they lived up to expectations. For the first time Mannin has won the Inter-Celtic New Song contest! Shenn Scoill's winning Arrane son Mannin has now proved to be top of the Inter-Celtic pops as well. 'Tayrn Mee Thie', 'Drawing Me Home' was written by Laura and Dave Rowles, translated by Bob Carswell, and performed by Laura and Dave and their two pupils from Mannin Music, Michelle Jamieson, whose lovely young voice wowed the judges, and Frazer Grant whose bass guitar was beautifully and sensitively played. Four of the five judges eligible to vote placed Shenn Scoill with top marks, and the fifth was not far behind. Isle of Man Arts Council sponsored Shenn Scoill's visit to Derry for which we are most grateful. Shenn Scoill are hoping to record 'Tayrn Mee Thie' very soon (in between Michelle and Frazer sitting their G.C.S.E.s) as it's a great and memorable song.

As if one win wasn't enough, Marlene Hendy won the 'New Song in Traditional Style' solo competition with her 'Yn Challoo Yiarn', 'The Iron Pier', a reminiscence of her childhood days watching 'the visitors' disembarking at Ramsey's Pier for their annual summer holiday.

The Festival competitions attracted good entries, particularly in the choirs' classes, where once more the amazing young singers from the Welsh'Cor Glaneuthwy' swept the board with their powerful performances.

The Manx party who went to Derry was small (but quality!) and we were given a great welcome by everyone we met, in particular by the Derry Pan-Celtic Committee who went out of their way to make it a memorable stay. As well as providing the newly refurbished Guildhall by the banks of the Foyle as the major and spectacular venue for the Festival, they had invested in the 'Spiegeltent', an amazing circular Edwardian



wooden and glass concert venue brought in (flat-pack!) from Holland, with its stage, dance floor, seating in booths at the sides as well as tables and chairs on the main floor where required, tented fabric roof and bar. Big names in Celtic music like Capercaillie, Barzaz and Declan O'Rourke played there with supporting acts in the evenings, and for families during [cont. p.2]

In this month's edition...

- latest music & dance news
- research articles
- community events
- WINNER of World Fiddle Day tune

and much, much more!



kiaull manninagh jiu 5/14 culture vannin

the day there were craft and music workshops, storytelling and treasure hunts. The Festival dance groups from Brittany and Wales also provided outdoor daytime entertainment.

The weather was kind too so it was great to visit surrounding attractions like the Giants' Causeway as well as walking Derry City Walls, seeing the Bogside murals, and visiting Derry's museums, shops and restaurants.

JEANT DY MIE, VANNIN! www.panceltic.ie

Tayrn Mee Thie was written for David and Laura's newborn baby daughter, Cara, and is about how hard it is to be away from your loved ones. Shenn Scoill have just recorded the song, so we'll let you know when it's available!



Shennaghys Jiu review

An action-packed 17th Shennaghys Jiu youth festival took place at the start of the Easter hols (11-14 April), with entertainment from Awry (Scotland), Kerry Dancers (Ireland), Meini Gwirion (Wales), Splann (Cornwall) and lots of local acts including the Manx Folk Dance Society, Ny Fennee [both pictured], Mec Lir, the Mollag Band, Malcolm Stitt, Tree Cassyn and Ballacottier School.

During the festival, visiting groups performed at local schools, there were several family concerts and ceilidhs, dance workshops, music sessions and the beautiful weather meant the outdoor displays gathered good crowd outside the Post Office/Court House (no sign of snow this year, phew!)

Thanks to Jiri and Aida for some of the photos.

AND **happy 40th birthday** to festival
director Juan Garrett!!
[pictured receiving a cake
and personalised top!]

www.shennaghysjiu.com

Background to Song of the Southern Hills by Charles Guard

There's to be some new Manx music in the forthcoming big orchestral concert in the Villa on **Saturday**, **17th May.** Not only a newly discovered work by J E Quayle, which is being heard for the first time since the 1930s, but a new composition by **local composer Charles Guard.**

Over the years Charles has made many of videos about the Isle of Man and one of the most popular of these was *The Isle of Man From the Air*. Charles writes all the music for his productions and this new piece, *Song of the Southern Hills*, is a bringing together of some of the main themes from his most successful programmes and scored, for the first time, for a full symphony orchestra. Using themes from *Isle of Man From the Air* and the recent *Castles and Forts of the Isle of Man* Charles has produced a short tone poem inspired by the landscape of the south west of the Island. The **Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra** is combining with the Yorkshire-based Slaithwaite orchestra for a Year of Culture extravaganza which includes, in the second half, Holst's Planet Suite.

It promises to be a memorable occasion.

[See end of KMJ for details & poster]

MANX FOLK AWARDS 2014

Last month's DEC Manx Folk Awards was a fantastic success which attracted 700 schoolchildren from all over the Island to the annual Manx music, song, dance and recitation competitions. Organised by Jo Callister (Department of Education & Children), Chloë Woolley (Culture Vannin) and Anthea Young (Manx National Heritage), the MFA took place at the youth Arts Centre and Trinity Church, Rosemount from 7 – 9 April, with secondary classes being judged online as video entries.

Highlights included the Feddan whistle class which saw 150 children from schools play the tin whistle (some of whom had customised their Feddan books!), some excellent Manx dance displays, massed primary choirs singing the "The Moddey Doo" from Lin Marsh's Chronicles of Mann and a touching rendition of TE Brown's famous poem "Betsy Lee" by an infant from Jurby School – there wasn't a dry eye in the house!



MANX FOLK AWARDS – RESULTS 2014

Class	1st	2nd
KS3 Recitation	Zachary Elliott	
KS3 Solo Song in Manx	Magnus Cain	
KS3 Solo Instrumental	Mera Royle	Owen Williams & Lukas Hayhurst
KS 4-5 Solo Instrumental	Isla Callister- Wafer	
KS 3 Original Composition	Owen Williams	
KS3 Solo Girls Dance	Aerin Roberts & Freya Skillicorn	Kerry Shakespeare
KS 4-5 Solo Girls Dance	Victoria Broadman	
KS 4-5 Solo Boys Dance	Cesar Joughin	
KS 3-5 Folk Group	Club Kiaull (QEII) The Unwanted (Bree)	Bree Group 1
KS 4-5 Fiddyl / Fiddyl Vooar	Alexandra Lily & Sarah Buss	
KS2 Solo Song Manx Gaelic	Hope Goldie	Rose Turner
KS2 Solo Song English	Lucas Hills Field	Georgia Marsh
KS2 Recitation	Freya Melvin	Amelia Kopacz
KS2 Group Singing (under 10)	Michael Melody Musicians	Bunscoill Rhumsaa
KS2 Group Singing (under 30)	Ballacottier School 2	Ballacottier School 1 & Jurby School
KS2 Solo Girls Dance	Elle Brannon	Lucy Gilmore

KS2 Solo Boys Dance	Thomas Bell	Conylt Dillon & Ryan Higgins
KS2 Solo Instrumental	Olivia Colgan	Jack McLean
KS2 Couples Dance	Nicole Crellin & Olivia Nichol- Clark	Rona Dillon- Tashtagh & Anna Radcliffe
KS2 Feddan	Michael School	Bunscoill Rhumsaa
KS2 Fiddyl/Fiddyl Vooar	Amelia Kopacz	Rose Turner
KS2 Folk Group	Bunscoill Rhumsaa	Michael School
KS2 Instrumental Music Making	Bunscoill Rhumsaa	St Thomas School
KS2 Team Dance	Onchan School	Victoria Road School & Bunscoill Rhumsaa
KS2 Balanced Programme	St Mary's school	
KS1 Couples ance	Lindwie Nyroni & Isabell Mikaill	Adam Brooks & Lucy May Kermeen
KS1 Manx Team Dance	Hop tu Naa (Auldyn)	Hunt the Wren (Auldyn)
KS1 Recitation	Daisy Quinn	Samuel Perry & Annabel Cranmer
KS1 Song in Manx Gaelic	Joseph Savage	Josephine Addy & Amelia Dillon- Tashtagh Annabel Cranmer
KS1 Song in English	Oliver Howard	Connor Huyton & Keira Green
KS1 Group Singing	Manor Park	Bunscoill Rhumsaa (Auldyn)

MANX FOLK AWARDS 2014



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credits: John Caley MNH, Jo Callister, CW

Rachel Hair talks about *The Deer's Cry* – a new work for harp ensemble

Last year I was asked by Culture Vannin and the Archibald Knox Society if I would be willing to write a piece of music inspired by the life and works of the Manx art nouveau designer Archibald Knox for performance at the 150th year celebration of his life on the 9th of April 2014. Since coming to the Isle of Man I've always been interested in Knox's work so was excited that this would give me the opportunity to delve more into his creations and discover more about the man himself. I currently live in Glasgow, a city famed and very proud of the work of the designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh, who lived at the same time as Knox. While Mackintosh's designs concentrated more on furniture, and were often based around flowers and roses, Knox is more Celtic in his designs and he tended to work more in silver-wear. I think that this struck a chord in me as a Celtic musician, and, well, one that likes the shinier things in life!

I decided to split the piece into 4 sections, which were then connected through the use of the harp ensemble for the performance of the piece. I was given the title "The Deer's Cry" by Liam O'Neill, chairman of the Archibald Knox Society, so naturally one of the first things I did was research "The Deer's Cry", and I was grateful to Wendy Hurst who emailed me a copy of Knox's manuscript work of that title. I wanted to keep a distinctive Celtic feel to the piece, to reflect Knox's Celtic style, and bit by bit, names for each of the sections evolved as I was writing the commission:

The Deer's Cry

1 - Cymric Silver

Knox is famed for having his designs sold in Liberty's of London, and Cymric Silver was one of the more Celtic styles sold by the Silver Studio there.

2 - Knox's Jig

It's often said that Manx music reflects the Isle of Man. 3 legs of Man, and many a tune written in 3's with many a jig about. It was only right to compose Knox a jig as part of my commission.

3 - The Deer's Cry

The title piece of the commission, and a solo section that I performed, this haunting air reflects the decorative manuscript based on St Patrick's Hymn from the 8th century.

4 - The Ghost Designer

Although Knox had his work sold by Liberty, it was never attributed to him, so it was often said he was the "Ghost Designer".

One of the conditions of the commission was that it was to be performed by the ensemble "Claasagh", the Manx harp ensemble made up from my students on the Island. This meant that I had to think hard when choosing how to write the piece. The students that I knew would be performing the piece are all under 16 so I had to be sure that they would be able to play the piece, and that it wouldn't be too troublesome for them to learn. They currently have lessons with me once a month for 40 minutes, and well, as I didn't want to take up 8 months of their lessons teaching them my piece, I had to be careful to write music that they would be able to work on in their own time. Thankfully technology played a part in this and I was able to upload mp3s to soundcloud and youtube to help them along. On the night, it was performed by Mera Royle, Amy Stout and myself. I was so impressed by how hard the girls worked towards the performance; they were a delight to have perform my piece.

This has meant that my piece isn't a virtuosic Rachel Hair solo extravaganza... very much the opposite. I have written it so that it should be accessible and playable by all; in fact I have already started teaching one of the sections to others at harp courses in Scotland. In the next while I'll be tidying it up, and publishing the sheet music of it online for free download. There will be two versions of it... the straight-forward tune sections of the piece in treble clef, for all instruments, and then the full piece for harp ensemble with connecting sections, bass and treble clef.

It's hoped that I'll be able to attend the opening of the Knox exhibition as part of the Olympia International Arts & Antiques Fair, in London this June. There's also talk of it being recorded too, so I'm hopeful that will happen, and more will be able to hear the piece.

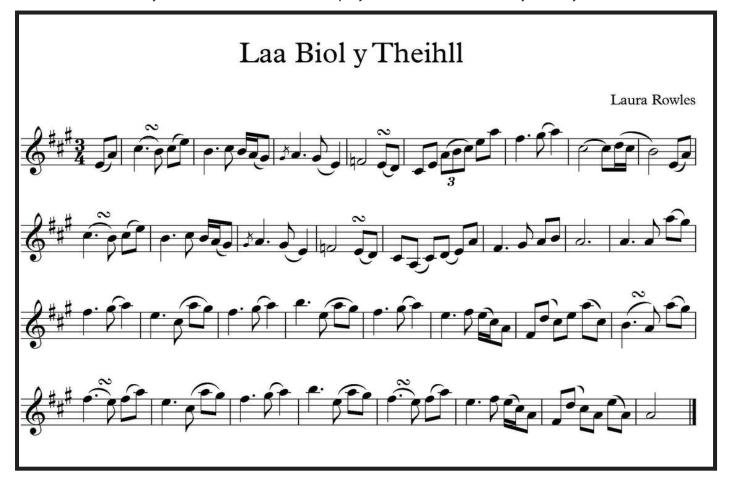
www.rachelhair.com

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Laa Biol y Theihll - World Fiddle Day

In the last KMJ, we challenged you to compose a special Manx tune to celebrate the forthcoming World Fiddle Day – Laa Biol y Theihll. Culture Vannin's chairman and fiddle player/singer with Skeeal, Hon Phil Gawne MHK, chose the winning entry, and we're pleased to announce the winner as Laura Rowles. Fiddlers - wherever you are in the world, have a play of this tune on Saturday 17 May!



Bree 'folkestra' workshop

This month's Bree session (Sat 10 May from 3 – 4.30pm) at the Youth Arts Centre in Douglas will be a special 'folkestra' workshop led by Katie Lawrence. Katie was commissioned by Culture Vannin to arrange Manx trad tunes for folk groups and school ensembles, so she will beworkshopping some of the pieces with the Bree instrumentalists.

More details – manxmusic@culturevannin.im



~ SESSIONS ~

THURS 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey
FRI 8.30-11pm Green's Tea Rooms, St Johns
FRI 9pm Irish at The Mitre, Ramsey
Shoh Slaynt (1st/2nd Fri of month), 8.30pm, Highwayman, Peel
Last FRI of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
SAT 10pm Manx at The White House, Peel

GUILD SUCCESSES

There have been lots of Manx music related classes at the Manx Music Festival [Guild] this week, winners included were Share na Veg for Music making, Bee er dty Hwoaie for instrumental ensemble (yes 1 -6); Olivia Colgan on harp won plucked strings class (up to yr 6) Mera Royle (plucked strings yr 9&10) and Amy Stoutt on harp (plucked strings yr 11+) – both with 92 points! [pictured below/MMF facebook]. Folk song classes were won by Elizabeth Shooter (yrs 4-8), Michelle Jamieson (yrs 9-13) and Kevin Mort for the adult folk song class, Marilyn Cannell winning new song competition at the Guild [Manx Music Festival] with her setting of Kathleen Faragher's poem, Land of my Birth. Good luck to those in the Gaelic solos and choirs, Manx dancing and recitation in Manx or Manx dialect this weekend!



Mananan Festival 15-28 June

There will be plenty of superb concerts at the Mananan Festival this June, but of particular interest to Manx music fans will be the return of Shetland fiddle and harp duo Chris Stout and Catriona McKay [Mon 16 June] & a new score for the silent film The Manxman by Stephen Horne [Fri 20 June - £15/£1 students. See end for details].

CHARITABLE STATUS FOR SOUNDCHECK

Soundcheck, the music project run by DEC's Youth Service has been granted charitable status. Our Manx music specialist, Chloë Woolley has been appointed one of the Trustees and attended a reception at the Lieutenant Governor's House. Soundcheck have released a compilation CD called *Time to Listen*, which features the students performing Manx favourite "Ellan Vannin".

http://www.manx.net/tv/mt-tv/watch/63289/soundcheck-at-government-house



SUMMER IS-A COMING

Early music group Hartes Ease are performing a concert called 'Summer is a-coming in' on Sunday 11 May at 7.30pm in St John's Methodist Hall. They are dedicating the concert to Adrian Pilgrim who passed away last year. He was a Gaelic scholar and talented musician.

Youtube/video corner

London based musicians, the Chapel Hill Duo (and friends) have been inspired by Barrule's Mylecharaine's March and have arranged it for violins, cello and trombone! Check it out here: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=wdMqiA06tsw

Lizzie Nunnery sang "The Ellan Vannin Tragedy" as part of the Irish Sea sessions at Liverpool Philharmonic: http://irishseasessions. com/2013/09/09/lizzie-sings-ellan-vannin/

APRIL IN PICTURES

Young Manx dancers from Perree Bane and Gaelic choir Caarjyn Cooidjagh entertained **Norwegian visitors** last month.

Caarjyn Cooidjagh and the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh performed Manx songs in the Island of Culture's **Passion play**, held at various venues around the Isle of Man... and Noah's wife and friends got very wet at Mooragh Park!

Marilyn Cannell won the new song competition at the Guild [Manx Music Festival] with her setting of Kathleen Faragher's poem, "Land of my Birth".

A Manx evening was held in Chester to raise funds for **The Ruins of Ballacreggin** – a new play by Angela Johnson with Manx themed songs by Mike Penney

Loads of Manx music featured in this spangly **Island of Culture** Magazine - including an interview with Culture Vannin Manx music team.

Claasagh & Barrule gave excellent performances at the **Archibald Knox anniverary concert** in St German's Cathedral.





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RESEARCH NEWS

"UNE SOIREÉ DE MUSIQUE CELTIQUE" MONA DOUGLAS IN QUIMPER (1924)

In September 1924, the Celtic Congress was held at Quimper in Brittany. A feature of the Congress was an evening of Celtic music and song. In attendance as part of the Manx delegation was Mona Douglas who performed that evening as recorded in the official report of the Congress: "Miss Mona douglas, originaire de l'île de Man, présentée par lord ashbourne, chante, d'une voix douce et expressive une série de chants popularies qu'elle a receuillis elle-même dans sa petite patrie et qui déchaînent l'enthusiasme de la salle." ['Miss Mona Douglas, a native of the Isle of Man and introduced by Lord Ashbourne, sang in a soft and expressive voice a number of folk songs that she had collected herself in her small homeland and which brought forth the enthusiasm of the hall.'] Unfortunately, the titles of the songs performed were not recorded.

Stephen Miller, Vienna

The Manx Cat Song

We had an enquiry from one of our 'Manx music ambassadors' Carol Walker from the USA recently. She had been taught a song about a Manx cat from a fellow mountain dulcimer player John Cuyler from Connecticut who said: "I learned that from my father, and I think he learned it from his mother. I don't really know. A one-verse children's ditty. I have looked for it but I have no idea what its source was. I'd be curious if anyone on the Isle of Man has heard it." Well, it just so happens that KMJ featured this curious little song last year, as it had caught someone's eye in the Manx museum and they had forwarded it. Check the song out here on p.6 of KMJ from June 2013: http://www.manxmusic.com/media//Newsletters/

http://www.manxmusic.com/media//Newsletters/ KMJ%20June%202013.pdf

Carol will be featuring the song in her forthcoming Manx dulcimer book Tailless Tunes 2, scheduled for release in the summer of 2014. find out more here: www. musicladycarolonlinestore.com

David Speers - Research article number four

Histories and Mysteries – the secret life of traditional music in the Isle of Man by David Speers

This is the fourth in a series of articles that sets out to explore some of the links between the traditional music collected in the Isle of Man and that found in Ireland and Britain, to discover some of the hidden histories behind our traditional music, and to show that the Island has produced beautiful music to match any found elsewhere.

THUROT - The manuscript music books contain a group of six tunes, three of which are shown above, that have the title Thurot, a French naval officer and sometime smuggler. Two of these tunes are in a fourth manuscript music book in the Clague collection. Although the major part of the traditional music collection is in the three books looked at so far, there is a fourth book mainly containing 2 arrangements of collected tunes. However, it also contains some tunes in "fair copy" (those noted from informants and copied out, or inked over, in a neat hand).

Full article: http://manxmusic.com/news_story_314567.html



MA in Traditional Music

You can now gain a masters by distance learning through Sheffield University. Taking advantage of Sheffield's position as a major hub of both English and 'Celtic' musical activity, and taught by academic staff who have both scholarly and practical expertise in British Isles traditions, the course combines short intensive 'residentials' in Sheffield with longer periods of internet-supported study when students can be anywhere in the world.



and recorders from

Hartes Ease

Sunday 11th May 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Hall, St John's

Light refreshments included. All donations to the Philippines Disaster Emergency Fund



Manx Folk Dance Society invites you to attend a

Regency Dance Evening

Marown Church Hall (Crosby) Saturday 17th May 2014

Commencing at 8pm *** Carriages at 11pm

Your Dance Mistress is Dame Heather Reeves Music by Robin's Regency Band

Advance-purchase Tickets: Five Guineas (£5.00 will do) Includes Buffet Supper Period Costume optional

For Tickets please tel. Mrs Robinson at 481741





CALENDAR

May

7th Jurby School Manx concert, 7pm. donations.

10th Bree trad youth music WORKSHOP with Katie Lawrence, Douglas Youth Arts Centre, 3-4.30pm

11th Hartes Ease concert, St Johns Methodist Hall, 7.30pm. donations

17th Regency Dance evening, Marown Church Hall (Crosby), 8pm, £5 from Mo Robinson 481741

17th IOM Symphony Orchestra & Slaithwaite Philharmonic perform Holst's Planets plus Manx works by Guard, Wood & Quayle, Villa Marina, Tickets: www.cfvg.gov.im

18th Caarjyn Cooidjagh at Ballakipheric Chapel, 3pm

June

14th Bree trad youth music session, Douglas Youth Arts Centre, 3pm

15-28th Manannan Festival, Erin Arts Centre, Port Erin, www.erinartscentre.com

July

6th Mooragh Park dance displays for Yn Chruinnaght, 2pm FREE

7th Tynwald Day - national holiday. Come and visit the Culture Vannin stall!

8th Ian O'Leary Memorial Lecture for Yn Chruinnaght, Ramsey Town Hall, 7.30pm FREE 10th/17th/24th/31st Manx music concert - IOM Arts Council summer season, Villa Arcade, FREE

16th-20th Yn Chruinnaght Inter-Celtic Festival see www.ynchruinnaght.com for details

August

1st-10th Festival Interceltique Lorient, Brittany www.festival-interceltique.com 18th-22nd Culture Vannin Summer School, Douglas Youth Arts Centre, details tbc 21st & 28th Manx music concert - IOM Arts Council summer season, Villa Arcade, FREE

We welcome your stories, photos, reports, musings - all on Manx music and dance, of course. Just send something in if you want to share it with hundreds of direct KMJ readers worldwide and thousands more online!



Daunse noo George, performed by **And Sometimes Y** at the New England Folk Festival



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

www.manxmusic.com

culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact: Manx Music Specialist **Dr Chloë Woolley**: culturevannin.im

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Call: Chloë: 01624 695787

or write to: Music Team, Culture Vannin, The Stable Building, The University

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