

ISLE OF MAN SHOWS EXCELLENCE IN BRITTANY



FLYING THE FLAG IN FRANCE

Once again the Isle of Man more than pulled their weight at the recent Inter-Celtic Lorient festival.

Despite being one of the smallest nations taking part in the mammoth, 10-day long festival, the visiting acts from the Isle of Man proved to be highly popular with the many thousands of festival goers who flock to the event.

Opening on Saturday, August 3, the Manx acts, including the adult and child dancers of Skeddan Jiarg, The Mollag Band and the Mera Royle Trio, performed daily at show piece events, such as the opening grand parade, the Manx concert on the large Espace Marine stage and also in front of the crowds who flocked to the popular Manx pavilion.

The Manx pavilion, shared with the delegation from Cornwall, featured a busy kitchen and bar, selling Manx queenies and bacon, and serving the locally-produced Fynoderee Gin, along with Bushy's Beer, and a shop selling Manx produce.

The stage area was a hive of activity as hundreds of people congregated and enjoyed the performances from the children from Skeddan Jiarg.

Chief Minister Howard Quayle and Marlene Maska MLC watched the Manx flag parade through the town for the Grand Parade des Nations Celtes.

Leading the Isle of Man delegation this year was Grainney Sheard. More used to dancing at the event, Grainney only took up the reins of the Manx involvement at Lorient in January, and impressed the organisers so much she was awarded the award for the best delegate at the festival.

Grainney said that she was thrilled to win the award, and said that the week and a half spent taking part in this year's festival was the most rewarding time of her life,

'Being at the Lorient festival is like being in a surreal bubble that you live in for 10 days,' she said. 'There is nothing like it. You think the TT is big, but in terms of numbers, this festival blows the TT away.'

In this month's edition...

- *Trad Music Weekend*
- *Freethinkers Lament winners announced*
- *Harvest traditions*





'You get 750,000 people visiting the festival, and for the grand parade alone, more people watch that than live in the Isle of Man. It is a huge event shown live on television, showcasing every country and region taking part, I watched it this year from the grand box, alongside the Chief Minister. He enjoyed it very much. He lit up when the Manx came along.'

Both the adults and the children dancers of Skeddán Jiarg, led by Grainne Joiughin, were cheered every step as they danced to the tune of 'Flitter Dance' along the grand parade., and they won admiration and praise at their other shows.

Ahead, the Three Legs was carried alongside the flags of the other nations by the owner of Fynoderee Gin, Paul Kerruish.

'Skeddán Jiarg's show at the Espace Marine was just wonderful', said Grainney. 'They had a standing ovation at the end of their performance at the Espace Marine, and people didn't want them to leave. Everybody loved them. The kids were brought on afterwards and interviewed, which was very sweet, and they just seemed to take it all in their stride. They were absolutely worth their weight in gold out



there. They just charmed everyone who saw them, and did the Isle of Man so incredibly proud.'

Mera Royle also played a series of concerts and shows backed by Owen Williams and Raygie Dolloso, and the Mollag Band were once again a popular presence, bringing large crowds to their shows at the Manx Pavilion.

Elsewhere at the festival, the Manx representative artist Julia Ashby Smyth welcomed crowds of people to the Euro-Celtic art exhibition, held alongside artists from the other Celtic nations.

'Even though our team is small, we always deliver, and though we are one of the smaller contingents alongside Cornwall, the festival really values the Isle of Man,' said Grainney. Everyone has heard of us, and there is no trying to explain where we are or where we are from. They all know.

'The pavilion is packed whenever we have any of our acts on. The crowds just descend upon us, which is just wonderful. There are people who tell us that they have booked holidays to the Isle of Man on the back of seeing the Manx at Lorient, which is amazing. And we also have loads of people who ask us where they should visit and where they should stay and [what they should] do. It is a massive opportunity for tourism that shouldn't be sniffed at.'

Now Grainney and the rest of the team are back on the Island, she said that they will have a couple of weeks off, before starting work on plans for next year's festival, which will be the 50th anniversary of Lorient, leaving her enough time to reflect on a successful debut as the head of the Manx contingent.

'I was supported by many people, especially Sarah Hendy who was my assistant delegate.

'Chloe Woolley and Breesha Maddrell, from Culture Vannin, were a big help, as was my sister Ealee, who was delegate for the past five years.

'But nothing could quite prepare you for being on the ground during the festival, running around, putting out fires everywhere.

'We barely had any sleep, and we didn't eat at all hardly, and it was exhausting. But it was the most rewarding thing I have ever done in my life, and to get the award was phenomenal.'

By Mike Wade / Article originally published in the Manx Independent, August 16th 2019



The Manx Pavilion is organised by Peter Young of Event Management Solutions with the support of Culture Vannin, the Isle of Man Arts Council, Visit Isle of Man and the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company.

More photos: www.facebook.com/manxlorient/

Official photos: www.festival-interceltique.bzh/photos-2019/

If you and/or your Manx music or dance group are interested in applying to represent the Isle of Man in Lorient in the future, get in touch with Grainney or Chloe

ISLE OF MAN Traditional Music Weekend 27 - 30 Sept 2019



Friday 27th September
Pinewood Community Club, Pulrose. **8pm**

Saturday, 28th September
Brendan O Donnell's Bar, Castle Street, Douglas **noon - late**
& Sir Norman's Bar @ The Sefton. **4-8pm**
children welcome

Sunday 29th September
Prospect Bar, Prospect Hill, Douglas. **noon - 10pm**
children welcome

Monday 30th September
11.00 am
The Thirsty Pigeon, Douglas.

A free weekend of trad music, open to everyone that wishes to come along and join in. There are some amazing musicians coming over, including Eileen O'Brien, Thomas McIlvogue, Finbar Magee and Philip Hickey. Find out more: www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan/

Winners of Free-thinkers competition announced

Isle of Man Freethinkers, the local secularist group, has announced the winners of a competition to produce music for a unique event.

In March local musicians were invited to compose music for a new annual secular commemoration ceremony for war victims. The competition aim was to produce a suite of short pieces of music, one of which must be a lament or slow air, playable on acoustic instruments by no more than four musicians of average ability, which will set the mood throughout the ceremony. This will be used annually as the ceremony evolves, with varying groups of musicians invited to perform each year.

Thanks to a generous bequest, a total of £2,000 in prize money was on offer for the lament class, the full composition commission, and best entry by someone aged 21 or younger. Interest was keen, with eight entries from a broad cross-section of the Manx musical community received by the deadline. This week the winners were announced as follows:

- **Best Lament – David Kilgallon and Malcolm Stitt (£750 prize).**
- **Full Composition Commission – David Kilgallon and Malcolm Stitt (£1,000 prize).**
- **Best Under 21 Entry – Owen Williams (£250 prize).**

In addition, the judges decided to award a special prize of £50 to the youngest entrant, **Frank Joughin**, aged 10, for his lament entry.

The winners have been invited to perform their work at the ceremony, which will be at the Villa Marina on the evening of November 11th. For various reasons, the judging had to be concluded later than planned. This makes it impractical for the winners to finalise and rehearse their full suite by November, so the full composition will therefore not be used until the 2020 ceremony.

Stuart Hartill, of Isle of Man Freethinkers said:

“There was an extremely high standard of entry, and great stylistic variety, giving the judges some tough decisions. We would love to use all the entries and reward all the entrants, but that just isn’t possible.

As the son of a musician and composer, I also hate the thought of good music going un-played. So, if any event organiser could use short, original and beautiful local music pieces, please contact me via the Freethinker website sec@iomfreethinkers.org and I have the entrants’ permission to let you know what’s available.”

Competition for a new song in Manx

Win a trip to Ireland with your new song in Manx Gaelic!

The International Pan Celtic Festival will take place in Carlow, Ireland 14-19 April 2020, but before that, an original song in Manx Gaelic will be chosen to represent the Isle of Man. This heat will take place in January 2020 (date, venue TBC), so start penning a new ditty or translate your original song now!

RULES & INFO

- Your song can be rock, pop, folk, traditional - any type, as long as it’s in Manx!
- Both lyrics and tune must be new and original, and not performed previously in a public competition
- Live group performance can include up to 6 people with no pre-recorded music or effects
- The adjudication is based on:
 - 30 marks – lyrics (English translation or transliteration required)
 - 30 marks – music
 - 40 marks – performance (which doesn’t need to include the composer)

Judges will also be looking for good Manx pronunciation and phrasing in the performance.

Translation and pronunciation help is available, so don’t be afraid of singing in Manx for the first time!

Contact Manx delegate, Fiona McArdle, for more info and entry form: fmcardle@manx.net

Deadline for entries:

6th December 2019 / Deadline for song lyrics in Manx, English translation & music: 28th Dec 2019.

APPLICATION FORM:

www.manxmusic.com/media/New%20Images%202019/2020%20Arrane%20son%20Mannin%20entry%20form.pdf

Food and Drink Festival 2019

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September

Villa Marina Gardens

More details and ticket info:

www.iomfoodanddrink.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Isle-of-Man-Food-Drink-Festival-Programme-2019.pdf

*NB updated programme for Sunday below



Saturday's Programme

Rhiannon Jade	12:00 - 13:00
Lee Brooks	13:00 - 14:00
Poster Girl	14:00 - 15:00
Brian Brough	15:00 - 16:30
Clash Vooar	16:30 - 18:00
The Birds & The Beards	18:00 - 19:30
Mae Challis	19:30 - 21:00

Free entry
after 5pm

Sunday's Programme

Perree Bane	12.00 - 12.45
Roc Vannin	12.45 - 1.30
Scran	1.30 - 2.15
Skeddán Jiarg	2.15 - 3.00
Rhythm of Bulgaria	3.00 - 3.45
Manx Folk Dance Society	3..45

Following the success of its launch last year, **Manannan's Winterfest** returns to the Gaiety Theatre in a unique concert celebrating Manx Christmas traditions through a collaboration of the Island's finest exponents of classical, folk, brass and choral music, with a sprinkle of local humour and drama added to the mix!

The mighty sea-god Manannan invites you to get into the Manx festive spirit and join him for this very special evening of entertainment!



Gaiety Theatre, Douglas

7.30pm, Thursday 5th December 2019

Tickets £15-£24 www.villagaiety.com/whats-on/manannans-winterfest/



18 new Manx performances of music, poetry & theatre are now available online

Some of the best and most exciting talents in the worlds of Manx music, dialect and theatre appeared at the Manks Concert of May 2019 in the Peel Centenary - an event dedicated to the 160th anniversary of the birth of Sophia Morrison.

The event was filmed by Culture Vannin, thanks to the generosity of the Mannin Branch of the Celtic League, and it showcases some of the brightest talents of Manx culture, including Mera Royle Music, the Michael Players RBV, Deborah Taubman and the children of the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh.

The films are available to enjoy in these locations:

- * Culture Vannin website: www.culturevannin.im/video_story_590383.html
- * YouTube: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLB95FuN2S6jPH0BPfhDzD1UooPOIRfOd-
- * Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/6212321>

Find out more about the Celtic Congress: <http://celticcongressmannin.com/>



CELTON-MANX MUSIC & DANCE RESIDENTIAL HOME PROJECT

Culture Vannin have been awarded a Celton-Manx Recognition Grant to organise a programme of Manx traditional music and dance performances for the elderly residents of care homes all around the Isle of Man this autumn.

Manx Music Development Officer, Dr Chloe Woolley is inviting Island-based musicians and dancers to get in touch if they are interested in applying. The performers will receive a financial donation for their time. Depending on the space available, the 45 minute performance could consist of a short variety show shared between 2-4 soloists (e.g. singer, instrumentalists and dancer), a small music group, school class or a whole choir or dance group.

Ideally, the performance will include as much Manx traditional material as possible (traditional tunes and dances, Manx Gaelic songs, well-known folk songs such as Ellan Vannin, Laxey Wheel, Hunt the Wren, etc.), although it may be appropriate to include a few widely-known popular songs for residents to join in with too.

Chloe hopes this project will lead to future interaction between Manx performers and the residential homes, provide some enjoyable entertainment that may inspire some of the residents to share memories of growing up in the Isle of Man, and equally, be a fulfilling experience for the performers.

If you are interested in getting involved, please email Chloe at manxmusic@culturevannin.im with the



Name of soloist / group	
If group, number of members (approx.)	
Contact name/s	
Contact email & tel. no.	
Please circle all possibilities of suitable days and times for a visit.	Weekdays Mon / Tues / Wed / Thurs / Fri morning / afternoon / evening Weekend Sat / Sun morning / afternoon / evening Preferences:
What kind of performance can you offer? Give examples of repertoire	
Would you prefer to share the performance spot with others?	
Do you have any restrictions on photography / press / social media?	
Other requirements / considerations	

NB. Personal data collected will only be used in relation to this project.

following information:

Media release about 2019 award recipients:

<http://celtonmanx.com/index.php/celton-manx-recognition-2019-awards-to-benefit-22-local-good-causes/>



There was some wonderful music and dance at last weekend's **Our Island Our World** festival, organised by Dave Mclean and friends from the Centenary Centre in Peel. One highlight was the 'Bulgarian-Manx Project' - a new collaboration supported by Culture Vannin, featuring Vlad, Vlad and Ivelina (who are Bulgarian musicians living in the Isle of Man), and Manx musicians David Kilgallon and Paul Rogers. There were other Manx acts involved in the line-up, including Lava, Scran and Skeddán Jiarg. Watch the adult dancers from Skeddán Jiarg perform **Billey Keirn**: <https://youtu.be/7IAhUsYmh2M>

There's no rest for Manx music and dance, even in autumn!

Next up is the harvest celebration of Y Mheillea and the ancient spooky custom of Hop tu naa!

Get prepared with this range of online resources from Culture Vannin:

MHEILLEA www.culturevannin.im/manx_year_event_468995.html

HOP TU NAA www.culturevannin.im/manx_year_event_491585.html

Isle of Man primary schools will soon be offered a music & dance workshop about the two customs from the Babban ny Mheillea and Jinny the Witch themselves (AKA Chloe and Jo!)

Contact the Advisory Teacher for the Manx Curriculum, Jo Callister: Jo.Callister@sch.im for more info.

You can also pop into Culture Vannin or email manxmusic@culturevannin.im for a free copy of the Year of our Island 2018 booklet about Hop tu naa traditions.



“Shoh Slaynt”

folk rock band

Guests - “Amore”



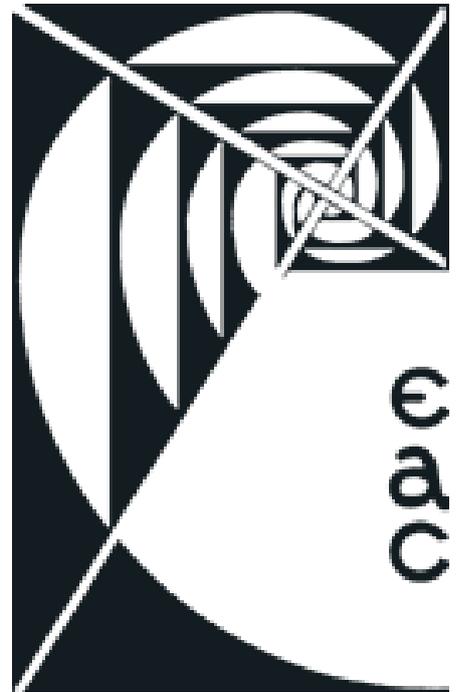
Peel Centenary Centre Fundraising Concert

Free entry

(donations gratefully received)

The Athol Room

Friday 13th September – 8pm to 10.30pm



Erin Arts Centre, Port Erin

Event organisers and music/dance groups - if you're thinking of putting on a concert, talk, film night, art exhibition, workshop, etc. do keep the Erin Arts Centre in mind.

It's a wonderful building, very reasonable to hire and they're very keen to include more Manx material in their programming.

www.erinartscentre.com

The Big Bree Workshop Weekend

Aged between 10 and 18 and want to play or sing Manx music?! Join fellow musicians, singers, dancers and Manx speakers for the 13th annual Bree weekend in the **Youth Arts Centre 26th & 27th October**, for two days of friendship, fun & creativity with Manx culture. The form will be in the next KMJ, but to find out more, get in touch with Dr Chloe Woolley at Culture Vannin: manxmusic@culturevannin.im



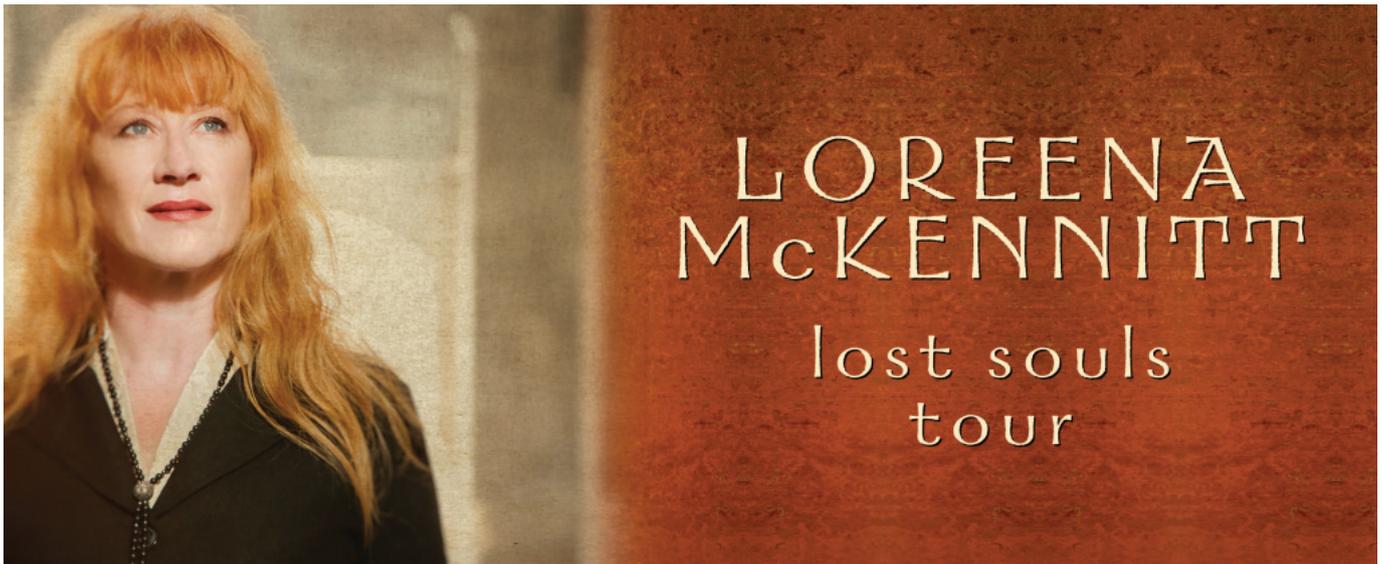
Perree Bane dance group brought their own 'mooijer veggey' to perform at MNH's Little People's Picnic last week in Rushen Abbey!

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More photos by Janice Farnan

https://www.facebook.com/pg/manxnationalheritage/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10156412196062093

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



Manx Ayre in Canada

Well-known musician Loreena McKennitt says she learnt this melody called 'Manx Ayre' in Winnipeg, Canada during her early years of connecting with Celtic music. It features on her latest album:

Lost Souls:

<https://loreenamckennitt.com/album/lost-souls/>

Do any KMJ readers know this tune?

<https://loreenamckennitt.com/>

Arrane ny Niece performed by Tiffany Schaefer

Tiffany Schaefer is a Celtic harpist, singer, and educator based in Ohio, USA. Inspired by a workshop with Rachel Hair, Tiffany was rather taken with the Manx tune, Arrane ny Niece (Washing Song) and has since filmed an arrangement which you can watch here:

www.facebook.com/tiffanyschaeferharp/

Kinnoull in Glasgow

Peddyr Cubberley's epic tune Kinnoull was performed by the Scottish Power Pipe Band at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall (Wednesday 14th August).

Watch/listen here:

www.facebook.com/Peddyrtradmusic/videos/2439291456328735/

Manx music & dance in Cornwall

Young Manx dance group Ny Fennee and Celtic acoustic guitarist Mark Lawrence will be representing the Isle of Man at the annual Lowender Peran Celtic festival in Newquay, Cornwall which takes place 30th October – 3rd November 2019.

www.lowenderperan.co.uk/isle-of-man-ny-fennee

www.lowenderperan.co.uk/mark-lawrence

Gaelic song in Lorient

Members of Manx dance group Skeddan Jiarg were invited to perform a few Manx songs at the Press Conference at Festival Interceltique de Lorient. The Bunscoil students sang The Manannan Song & Cabbyl Braew!



kiaul1 noa



MARK LAWRENCE - CELTIC GUITAR

A series of traditional and modern Manx tunes arranged for guitar and performed live by Mark Lawrence are now available to enjoy online:

Melodies include; Arrane y Chlean, Car ny Ferrishyn, Dooraght and Eunyssagh Vona.

This performance took place at Cathedral Isle of Man in July 2019 as part of Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering Isle of Man.

www.culturevannin.im/video_story_591663.html

NEWS FROM BISKEE BRISHT

"We've been working hard for what feels like a long time now so we are ECSTATIC to announce our first single, 'Not Again', being released on Friday 13th September... And here is your first teaser!!

Watch/listen:

www.facebook.com/biskeebriht/

If you've seen us live you'll have certainly heard this before but if you haven't I hope that it goes round and round in your head until you really are shouting NOT AGAIN!!

Big thanks to Isle of Man Arts Council and Culture Vannin, we are so fortunate to have arts funding on the island!"

Photo credit: Phil Kneen and Hannalogue Photography >>



<< Catchy new single out from Looney & the Vikings!

www.facebook.com/Looneyandthevikings/

Spotify <https://spoti.fi/2YQrSNL>

Youtube/ video corner

- Set to stunning film footage of her adopted home in the Isle of Man,
- Indian singer and broadcaster Sravanti Mazumdar performs "Ellan Vannin" in Bengali:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=COyf3rZoAx0



Mera Royle weaves her way through music

After a whirlwind year-and-a-half spent being lauded as an award-winning musician, harpist Mera Royle has released her first full album.



'Woven' is a seven-track collection of music, produced over the course of a rollercoaster year and, along with her first EP, 'The Ballaglass set', released in August 2018, acts as almost a bookmark of her time which saw Mera, 19, named as the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Musician of the Year for 2018, becoming the first harpist, and also the first Manx musician, to win the award.

It is also a collection of music that she said she has taken her time with, looking back on her experiences and creating something she feels is more representative of where she is now, as a composer and musician.

'I felt with my first release that I just recorded a few tunes that I liked and banged it all together,' said Mera.

'This one, however, I really wanted to think about.

'I called it "Woven", as there are so many different styles of music and tunes takes from a lot of different cultures, and it feels like I have woven them together.'

Mera has created a varied collection of tunes and songs which she has both written and taken inspiration from, and they all mark a bright and original direction for traditional harp playing.

'Bastilles' is a mix of tunes from the pop group of the same name, and 'Tubular bells' is a minimalistic cover of the Mike Oldfield classic.

Elsewhere, alongside some Cornish and Galician folk tunes, there are original compositions, such as 'Moon At Dawn', and 'Deep in the Earth', written alongside fellow composer David Kilgallon.

Mera's time as the BBC young musician is now drawing to a close, with the new recipient due to be announced in October.

Mera said that her life since winning the award, in April last year, has become much busier, but it has been a very rewarding time.

'Now that the BBC award is coming around again, I feel like I am ready to move on from it and give it to someone else,' she said.

'The award did let me get my feet into many doors, which has been the most I have benefitted from it.

'When I listen to all the previous winners, you think "my god, some of these people are legends now". It doesn't match up, in my head, that I am in the same category as those guys. But it has given me a lot of confidence, definitely.

'My favourite memory is going to play at the folk festivals,' she continued.

'I played at Cambridge, Towersey and Cropredy. I have never done anything like that before, but it was so much fun. It was so nerve-wracking.

'We must have played in front of 20,000 people at Cropredy. I actually found that easier than playing at, say, the Peel Centenary Centre, where everything is a lot more intimate and the audience are very close to you.

'Another highlight is that I was interviewed on BBC North West Tonight, and my friends all said they saw me on the telly.

'I also played a session for BBC Radio 2 for the Mark Radcliffe show, at their Manchester studios.

'That was really cool, seeing the radio show being produced first-hand and realising you are actually part of it.

'I have had some unbelievable experiences this year, which I am very grateful for.'

Mera has also represented the Isle of Man at the Celtic Congress, in Cornwall, at the Isle of Media showcase in London and, most recently, at the Lorient Inter-Celtic festival, along with her bandmates, the accordionist Owen Williams and whistle player Raygie Dolloso.

'Lorient was the best thing I have done. I loved it, and it was the best way to end my year as the young musician,' she said.

'We played one concert in an underground empty reservoir, which is like this stone tank with these enormous columns. Then I came third in a harp competition, which I am pretty chuffed with too, as there were some very experienced players there.

'We also played at the main stage l'Espace Bretagne, and at the Loic Raison trophy concert, for the best group of the festival. That was probably one of the best performances I have ever done. I came off stage feeling amazing.

'Sometimes we were playing about three times a day. It was a very full-on time, and by the end of the week we were exhausted and ready to go home. But it was incredible.'

Having completed her A levels, Mera is now heading to Newcastle University to study folk and traditional music.

'Woven' is available online, priced £7, from meraroyle.bandcamp.com

by Mike Wade

mike.wade@iomtoday.co.im

Article from: www.iomtoday.co.im/article.cfm?id=50567



The album features a beautiful soundtrack composed by Mera to accompany the time-lapse film 'Cornaa' by Brook Wassall. She has named the piece 'Moon at Dawn'.

Watch the film here: www.culturevannin.im/video_story_583940.html

MANX MEDLEY ON SMALLPIPES

Neil Clark from Falkirk Piping and the Glenbervie Folk Duo has recorded a medley of Manx tunes from the Piob Vooar book on the smallpipes. Neil and wife Kathryn recently took part in the Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering festival in the Isle of Man. Listen to him play Irree ny Greiney, Ellan Vannin, Hie mee Stiagh and Hop tu naa: <https://youtu.be/7KplmH94pm8>

Kiaull veih'n clieau, Kiaull veih'n Cheayn

Manx Gaelic singer, **Aalin Clague** [Clash Vooar, Moor, Caarjyn Coodjagh] has collaborated with guitarist Pete Woodman to produce an online EP of Manx songs, new or re-imagined, with a blues/country feel. Enjoy!

<https://soundcloud.com/user-299368148/sets/kiaull-veihn-clieau-kiaull-veihn-cheayn>

Songs include:

Myr Ooh

Blessing of the water

You took me walking to the river

Ny Mraane Kilkenny

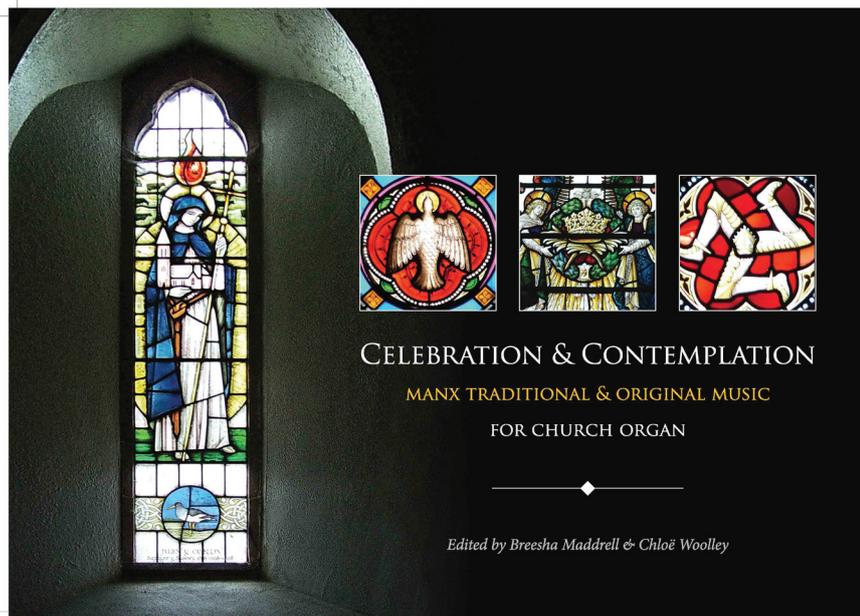
Vuc Ghoo

[pic by Val Caine >>]



OLI KING recently gave a recital for the Isle of Man Organ Society in the Peel Cathedral last month. His programme included three Manx pieces from the publication, *Celebration and Contemplation*.

When he was organist at King Williams College, Oli was commissioned by Culture Vannin, to contribute two arrangements of Manx music for inclusion in the book. Now Director of Music and Organist at Saint Mary's Church in Saffron Walden and teacher of music at St Mary's School in Cambridge, Oli is a graduate of the Royal College



of Music and the Malmo Academy of Music. He performed his own pieces, *Mish as yn Cheayn* and *Tra va Ruggit Chreest*, at the solo recital last month, but also played Frank Woolley's *Prelude - Manx Fishermen's Evening Hymn*. Listen to the live performance here:

<https://soundcloud.com/culture-vannin/sets/manx-music-for-church-organ>

Buy the book: https://www.manxmusic.com/publication_460521.html

Download the sheet music for ***Mish as y Cheayn***: https://www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_287273.html and ***Tra va Ruggit Chreest***: https://www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_287280.html and ***Prelude - Manx Fishermen's Evening Hymn***: https://www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_451731.html

There are more organ pieces to download for free here: www.manxmusic.com/learn.html

There are also video recordings of some pieces from the book performed by Dr Peter Litman, Cathedral Isle of Man: www.culturevannin.im/video_story_527020.html

RESEARCH NEWS

“BESOMS, BESOMS, FINE AND NEW”

BESOMS AND BESOM-MAKERS

The floors were swept with the besom. This was made of bent which was pulled, then plaited, and a stick about three feet long with holes bored through with a gimlet, about three or four holes. The bent was tied to the stick and a wooden peg put through it to keep the bent from slipping off. The Lhane was a noted place for “beson makers” as they were called as a good stock of bent was easily obtained on the Ayres. When a good stock of besoms was made, the men went round with bundles on their backs selling them, and they sang a song which went like this:

Besoms, besoms, fine and new,
Besoms in the kitchen,
Besoms in the hall,
Besoms in the parlour
Among the ladies all.

This was the way they advertised their goods as they went from house-to-house.

Notebook by John Kneen (1949), MNHL, MANX MUSEUM FLS JK B(16).

The collecting of the Gill brothers, Dr John Clague, and A.W. Moore did not feature occupational songs, such as the one recorded here by John Kneen (1860–1958), the blacksmith at Jurby East and later at the Lhen in Andreas. With the passing of this trade comes too the end of the need for songs to advertise those wares.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2019



The **Kegeesh Ommidjagh** (Foolish Fortnight) is only a few months away, so if you're planning to **Hunt the Wren on St Stephen's Day** in the Isle of Man and wish to invite the public, you may like to claim a vinyl banner from Culture Vannin to publicise “where, oh where” you will be meeting and at what time! Designed by Jeni Grose for Culture Vannin, dance or community group leaders should contact Chloe to order their banner in good time. (Isle of Man residents only please).

The well-established gatherings continue to attract new faces each year, so it's a useful way to inform the public where to meet. Or perhaps you're thinking of starting your own Hunt the Wren song and dance extravaganza somewhere else in the Isle of Man, and would like some help to get started.

There are some top tips here: www.culturevannin.im/manx_year_event_469497.html

Please get in touch with Chloe to order yours before the end of September:

manxmusic@culturevannin.im

MONA DOUGLAS AND THE HARVEST DANCE

Between 1940–41, C.I. Paton published a series of articles on Manx Calendar Customs in *Folk-Lore*, later gathered together and published in book form in 1942. The first number appeared in the March number for 1940, and dealt with seasonal customs and those attached to particular months of the year. As regards the section on harvest customs, Mona Douglas wrote to Paton in May that year, “I notice, however, that in your notes on the Mheillea you do not mention the ‘flying home’ of the last sheaf or the dance around it. Unfortunately I have not yet been able to learn all the details of this dance, but it was definitely done, according to the testimony of several old people I know, & some of the movements have been shown to me. The form was circular.” In her notebook recording Manx folk dances, there is the following description which matches her comment:

Circular Harvest Dance.

Both Grany & Charles Watterson of Castletown have told me of a circular dance, apparently ceremonial in character wh. was performed round the Queen of the Mheillia, but the only description they could give me was that the dancers took hands & went round the Queen in a big ring, she holding the babban, & then around in & out in a sort of chain, going the way of the men raising their hands above their heads, & giving “hogs” at intervals. This seems too fragmentary to work out with a set of dancers. Also no particular tune remembered. ‘More’ information may turn up later.

However, the next year (1941) saw a full description of the dance published by her in the *Journal of the Manx Museum*, along with a tune credited to “J. Kelly Baldrine,” who can be identified as John James Kelly (1860–1938). The tune is not present in the notebook of dances but that does not mean it was not collected from him; the date of his death, however, as well as the date of the letter here, precludes this detailed account of the dance as having come from his recollection.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2019

From J. Kelly Baldrine

DAUNSYN NY MHEILLEA

Noted by Mona Douglas

A

B

CONNECTING PHRASE

Y Mheill - ea, y

Mheill - ea, A - reesht, a - reesht, a - reesht !

More about Y Mheillea:

www.culturevannin.im/video_story_527020.html

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Oli King's 'Fantasia on Tra va Ruggit Creest' is a joyful interpretation of the well-known carval 'When Christ was Born', injecting new twists and turns into what becomes a sparkling celebratory piece. In a more reflective mode, 'Mish as y Keayn' (Myself and the Sea) draws on an original song by Annie Kissack, conductor of Manx Gaelic choir Caarjyn Coidjagh. The piece is perfect for contemplative times.

Both pieces were commissioned by Culture Vannin in 2013 and are free to download in full here:

www.manxmusic.com/learn.html

They are also featured in this lovely collection of Manx music for organ, *Celebration & Contemplation*:

www.manxmusic.com/publication_460521.html

Fantasia on Tra va Ruggit Creest

(Registrations are suggestions only)

Solo stop or cornet

Oli King

Musical score for 'Fantasia on Tra va Ruggit Creest' in 4/4 time. The score is divided into two systems. The first system starts with a tempo of **Adagio** and a 'Quasi recitative' style. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and ties, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment. A 'swell 8+4 princ' registration is suggested. The tempo changes to **Allegro giocoso** in the second system, with a 'mf full sw - 16ft reed' registration. The second system begins at measure 8 and includes a 'Gt to mix' registration change. The score concludes with a 'Sw' registration.

Mish as y Keayn

(registrations are suggestions only)

Manx song by Annie Kissack

arr. Oli King

Musical score for 'Mish as y Keayn' in 4/4 time. The score is divided into two systems. The first system starts with a tempo of **Lento** and a 'tempo rubato' style. The right hand features a melodic line with slurs and ties, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment. A 'p Sw strings' registration is suggested. The tempo changes to **poco piu mosso** in the second system, with a 'mp' registration. The second system begins at measure 9 and includes a 'mp strings - shimmery' registration change, followed by a 'pp (echo)' registration, and finally a 'Sw 8 + 4ft principals (box mostly shut)' registration. The score concludes with a 'poco piu mosso' tempo.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

7th Summer Singers concert, St Paul's Church, Ramsey, Saturday 7 September 2019, 7:30pm

13th Shoh Slaynt & Amore, Centenary Centre Athol Room, 8pm

14th & 15th IOM Food & Drink Festival, Villa Marina Gardens

27 – 30th Traditional Music Weekend – various venues

www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan/

OCTOBER

26th & 27th Big Bree Workshop Weekend

30th – 3rd Nov Lowender Peran Celtic festival, Cornwall www.lowenderperan.co.uk/

31st HOP TU NAA!!

NOVEMBER

1st – 3rd Cooish Manx Language Festival inc. Yn Chruinnaght music event

DECEMBER

5th Manannan's Winterfest, Gaiety Theatre, 7.30pm

26th HUNT THE WREN



There's a new category in the IOM Newspapers Awards for Excellence for 'nurturing our arts, culture and heritage' - anyone who wants to enter should check out the link...

www.excellence-awards.im/enter-now?fbclid=IwAR3_VNLMkDOAT8oxjET32B0MtMEdS G8a4uKm7s8VsgNt5HxM6YLaO6-01z8

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

www.manxmusic.com

~ SESSIONS ~

TUES 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas
WED 8.30pm Session at O'Donnells, Douglas
THURS 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey
FRI Trad session at the Manor, Willaston
Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
Occasional **SAT** 10pm Manx session at The White House, Peel
Monthly **SUN** 12.30pm Trad session in Laxey

~ SESSIONS ~

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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