

KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

MANX MUSIC TODAY

Mee Houney 2021 November

MANX MUSIC TODAY

Bree celebrates 125 years of *Manx National Songs*

The 15th annual Big Bree Workshop Weekend (24/25 Oct 2021) was held in St Johns Methodist Hall last month and the activities were all based around *Manx National Songs*; a book which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. Over twenty youngsters aged between 10 and 18 took part in song-writing, composing, drama, music, song and dance workshops.



There is always an informal concert at the end of the Bree weekend where the students showcase everything they've been learning and creating, and this year, all of the Manx and English songs, tunes, dances and stories were connected to the 1896 publication, *Manx National Songs*, which was based on the Clague/Gill Collection and arranged and edited by WH Gill.

The combined folk group *The Ploughboys* started the concert with an arrangement of "Arrane ny Guilley-Hesheree" (Song of the Ploughboy), and they were followed by folk group, *The Ostinatos*, who performed "Hie mee Stiagh"; the tune used for the song, "Cutting the Turf". Next up, the choir *Ushagyn Ruy* sang about the mighty herring in "The King of the Sea" and then they performed a lovely two-part arrangement of "Ushag Veg Ruy" (Little Red Bird) sung to a lesser known melody published in *Manx National Songs*. The *De-Composers* then gave the audience a good laugh as they transformed the hymn "The Old Way" (AKA Tra va Ruggit Crest) into a funky new dance tune, re-named "The Good Old Jig"!

"The Ballad of Arthur Caley" followed next - a new song by the Bree songwriters about the Sulby Giant, who even made an appearance on stage himself! The dance group *Tappaghyn Jiargey* then came on dancing "Guilley Hesheree", (The ploughboy's dance), followed by a fiddle group (4 violins and cello!) who performed a lively set of reels that come from *Manx National Songs*; "The Tiger" into "Betsy Baker". A highlight for many came next - a play based on the story of *Illiam Dhone* where the audience was asked to vote at the end... was he a hero or a traitor?! To conclude the concert, there was a grand finale performance of "Hunt the Wren" which began with the choir and led into the dance accompanied by the folk group.

In this month's edition...

- Manx music video tutorials for harp
- Cooish Manx Language Festival
- MFDS film & oral history interview

Culture
VANNIN

The Big Bree Workshop Weekend was organised by Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin, with help from expert tutors in Manx music and dance; Jo Callister, Caitlin Bennett, Greg Joughin, David Kilgallon and Caroline Helps.

Chloë said; "This was our 15th year of running the Big Bree Workshop Weekend and it's always such good fun. The youngsters get to be really creative with Manx music and dance, and it's an opportunity for them to make new friends and build confidence in performing on stage. We welcomed quite a few new young faces this year, but it was also nice to have the older children who have been coming to Bree for years and who are now really familiar with Manx traditional songs, music and dance".

The filmed concert and photos from the weekend will be available online soon: www.culturevannin.im





photos: Jen Hampton & Chloe Woolley



Manx music tutorials for harp

Culture Vannin are delighted to release a new series of four Manx harp video tutorials, presented by renowned Celtic harpist and teacher Rachel Hair. The tutorials are based on a set of Manx melodies selected by Rachel for her suite “Mannin Aboo!” and they include step-by-step lessons and freely downloadable sheet music for Arrane ny Niece, Auldyn River, Flitter Dance and Hop tu naa.

The Mannin Aboo! suite was premiered at the Edinburgh International Harp Festival in 2018 when Rachel oversaw over 100 harp players who gathered to perform it alongside her young Manx harp ensemble, “Claasagh”. Rachel, who is based in Glasgow, arranged the suite to be accessible by all levels of players, from beginner to intermediate, and “Mannin Aboo”, which translates as “Hooray for the Isle of Man”, can either be performed as individual pieces by a solo harpist or altogether as part of a large harp ensemble.

Rachel Hair has been teaching harp for Culture Vannin for over 10 years. Teaching almost exclusively through Manx music, dozens of young harpists from all over the Island, including BBC Radio 2 Young folk musician of the year, Mera Royle, have benefitted from her expertise. She is a great advocate for the Island too, having performed and taught Manx music all around the world, and she now working on a collaborative album with Gaelic singer, Ruth Kegglin.

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer for Culture Vannin said; “We are very fortunate to have Rachel Hair as our harp teacher, and these new tutorials will not only be useful for her Isle of Man students, but also for harpists around the world who are seeking to discover and explore Manx music”.

All of the Mannin Aboo! Videos and sheet music are here:

https://manxmusic.com/learn_page_530896.html or

www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/videos/rachel-hair-harp-lessons-mannin-aboo-695439/

Monthly harp lessons for school children are arranged by Culture Vannin.

More information on how to join the waiting list: manxmusic@culturevannin.im

More about Rachel Hair: www.rachelhair.com/

****Rachel Hair and Manx Gaelic singer Ruth Kegglin have been working on their debut album together recently. Recorded in the Erin Arts Centre by Adam Rhodes, the album will be released next year!****



THREE LEGS
P R O D U C T I O N S



Auditions

14th November 2021 @ Ballakermeen



quinnlegal

Contact: threelegsproduction@yahoo.com

ONCE, the Tony Award-winning stage musical about friendship, love and music will make its Isle of Man premiere in August 2022 at the Gaiety Theatre.

Do you play a musical instrument but are also interested in acting? This may be the production for you, we are specifically seeking talented musicians and actor/musicians of ALL ethnicities, who can also act and sing! (4-5 women; 7-8 men, 1 girl).

Playing an instrument is not a requirement for the roles for this show. If you do not play an instrument, we will have an accompanist available.

Or you may just want to be a musician in the show?

Instruments needed - Piano, guitar, violin, cello, double bass, electric bass, mandolin, ukulele, accordion, banjo, harmonica and drums/ percussion.

Auditions will be held on the 14th November 2021 @ Ballakermeen Canteen.



To find out more information and REGISTER for the auditions, please contact:
threelegsproduction@yahoo.com



4 - 7 Mee Houney / November 2021

MANX LANGUAGE FESTIVAL

Full programme:

www.learnmanx.com/cooish

Ceili lught-thie as Oie ny Bhenragyn

Family Ceili and Fireworks Night

Jeheiney 5oo Mee Houney
Halley Leejoon, Purt Bhiarn, 6 - 9pm

Friday 5th November
Legion Hall, Port Erin 6 - 9pm
Lesh kiaull, bee as Bhenragyn

Featuring the Island's finest ceili band, hot food and 'The Port Erin Fireworks Display'



Sleih aasit: £11.50 / Paitechyn: nasteel!

Adults: £11.50 / Children: free!

Kionnee tiggadyn / Buy tickets via Eventbrite.com

Organised by Sheshaght ny Paarantyn
as a fundraiser for the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh

Cooish, Cappan as Croo

- * Lioaryn - Books
- * Keirdyn - Crafts
- * Coloartys - Conversation
- * Tey & Berreen - Tea & Cake
- * Language organisations

Gow ayrn marin - join in with us!



Jesarn 6 Mee Houney ~ Sat 6 November

Halley Corrin ~ Corrin Hall

Purt ny h-Inshey ~ Peel

11am - 4pm

Tar shiu gys y Halley Corrin ayns Purt ny h-Inshey, son coloartys, cappanyn dy hey, palçhey dy verreen, lioaryn as ram reddyn elley!

Come along to the Corrin Hall in Peel, for a pop-in event celebrating all things Gaelg!

Featuring: Manx language organisations from across the Island; book stalls; Manx language craft stalls; tea, coffee and cake from the mighty Moonjer Veggey, and more! Free entry.

No matter what your level of Manx, we would love to see you there and welcome you along. Come and join in, and find out more about Manx!

Hosted by Culture Vannin

as part of the Cooish Manx language festival.

PART OF COOISH 2021

CRUINNAGHT VANNINAGH ASHOONAGH

MANX COMPETITIONS

PURT NY HINSHEY, HALLEY CORRIN JESARN 19:00 6⁰⁰ MEE HOONEY

PEEL, CORRIN HALL SATURDAY 19:00 6th NOVEMBER

The original Yn Chruinnaght was a one day competitive festival founded in 1924 & was known as 'Cruinnaght Vanninagh Ashoonagh'.

As part of Cooish '21 Yn Chruinnaght are hosting a fun and informal evening based on this old event.

Sing a song in Manx, recite a dialect poem or even bake a bonnag! Everyone welcome!

BYOB. Tea and Coffee will be available for a small donation and bonnag will be served in the interval.

PRIZE MEDALS SPONSORED BY AUNDYRYN KIAULL THEAY VANNIN ADMISSION: £5 / £2 UNDER 14

MORE INFORMATION: WWW.YNCHRUINNAGHT.COM

See over for the Cruinnaght Vanninagh Ashoonagh classes...

PART OF COOISH 2021



CRUINNAGHT VANNINAGH ASHOONAGH MANX COMPETITION

CLASSES

Admission: £5 / £2 Under 14. This includes all class entries.

OPEN TO ALL: The Great Cooish Bonnag Competition - plain or fruit.
To be judged at the start of the evening and to be served as
refreshments at half time!

UNDER 14 - Spelling Bee in Manx

ADULT/14+ - Stump Speech in Manx - talk for 2 minutes on a given
topic

UNDER 14 - Sight-reading in Manx

ADULT/14+ - Sight-reading in Manx

UNDER 14 - Solo song in Manx-AW Moore's Manx Ballads & Music (<3
mins)

ADULT/14+ Solo song in Manx - AW Moore's Manx Ballads & Music (<3
mins)

OPEN TO ALL: Original Manx joke class - in Gaelg or on a Manx theme.

UNDER 14 - Recitation of a Manx dialect poem by memory

ADULT/14+ - Recitation of a Manx dialect poem by memory

UNDER 14 - Performance of original song/poem/short story in Manx (<3
mins)

ADULT/14+ - Performance of original song/poem/short story in Manx (<3
mins)

OPEN - Manx National Song 'raising' (one verse and chorus of any
song in English or Manx from Manx National Song Book combined
volumes 1 & 2)

Everyone Welcome!

Faillt Erriu!

REIH BLEEANAY VANANNAN ~ Manannan's Choice of the Year

November each year is the time to get your nominations together for the 'Reih Bleeaney Vanannan', the Isle of Man's most prestigious cultural award. Named after the seagod Manannan, this annual award is made to an individual or group who has made the greatest contribution to the Island's culture. A small group of judges from various Manx cultural organisations gather together in December to make the decision, with the winner usually announced in January.

But who could you think of proposing? You may want to nominate someone who works to promote and support an aspect of Manx culture such as art, dance, folklore, language, literature, music, history, education or the environment, or a group or society.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from this page and by emailing enquiries@culturevannin.im – your nomination should assume that the reader knows nothing about the individual or group and should show how they have made an impact on the Island's culture. Think about how they have changed things in their chosen field, what makes them stand out? If they have been active in one or more areas, or have achieved something remarkable this past year or over their lifetime, make sure you detail this – all aspects are considered by the judges.

The winner of the award receives a donation of £500 and is invited to name a Manx cultural cause which will receive an additional donation of £500 from Culture Vannin.

Recipients are also entitled to use the letters RBV after their name.

It was Mona Douglas who championed Manannan as the patron of Manx culture, developing the original 'Mananan Trophy' together with Stephen Quayle. Later reincarnated as the RBV, the trophy was designed by the late Eric Austwick, and consists of the figure of Manannan standing on a piece of Poolvaish marble. The trophy also features traces of quartz from South Barrule, one of Manannan's fortresses, and a brooch of Laxey silver presented by Mona Douglas. Although the trophy is only held for a year, each recipient of the RBV is awarded a medal designed by Jenny Kissack and reproduced by Celtic Gold.

The panel of assessors is appointed by Culture Vannin and represents Manx cultural organisations: Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh, Yn Chruinnaght, the Isle of Man Arts Council, Culture Vannin and Manx National Heritage. Recipients are entitled to use the letters RBV after their name. They are also invited to name a Manx cultural cause which receives a donation from Culture Vannin to further its work.

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER 2021

MORE INFO: <https://culturevannin.im/fundingawards/reih-bleeaney-vanannan/>



A celebration of the Manx Folk Dance Society in film

As the dance group turned 70 years old this year, Culture Vannin went along to one of the MFDS rehearsals to find out what they are all about.

Founded in 1951, the MFDS have played an enormously important part in the preservation, guardianship and teaching of Manx dancing for 70 years. They have enjoyed trips around the world, with new friendships in each place, whilst steering the development of Manx dance

here on the Island, but always at the heart of their activities has been friendship and enjoyment. These are obvious in this short film captured at a rehearsal in August 2021. Key to their longevity and success has been their community spirit and, at the core of it all, their shared love of dancing and this is certainly captured on this short film.



WATCH IT HERE: <https://vimeo.com/616160670>



ORAL HISTORY ~ A conversation with four members of the **Manx Folk Dance Society** about some of the wonderful experiences they have had over the past few decades with the Society which celebrated its 70th birthday in September 2021. Freda Black, Joan Cowell, Rachel Clarkson and Mo Robinson have memories stretching back 50 years, as far as the 1971, covering all of: Mona Douglas and the Leighton Stowell, meetings with royalty, dancing on tilting boats and speeding trains, singing on Norwegian mountains, running between performances in Port Erin every week, improvising a full concert with only an hour's notice, the dances they have composed, and much more besides.

Even in conversation around their current task of closing down of the Society, it is clear that at the centre of everything for the MFDS is friendship and the great joy of dancing.

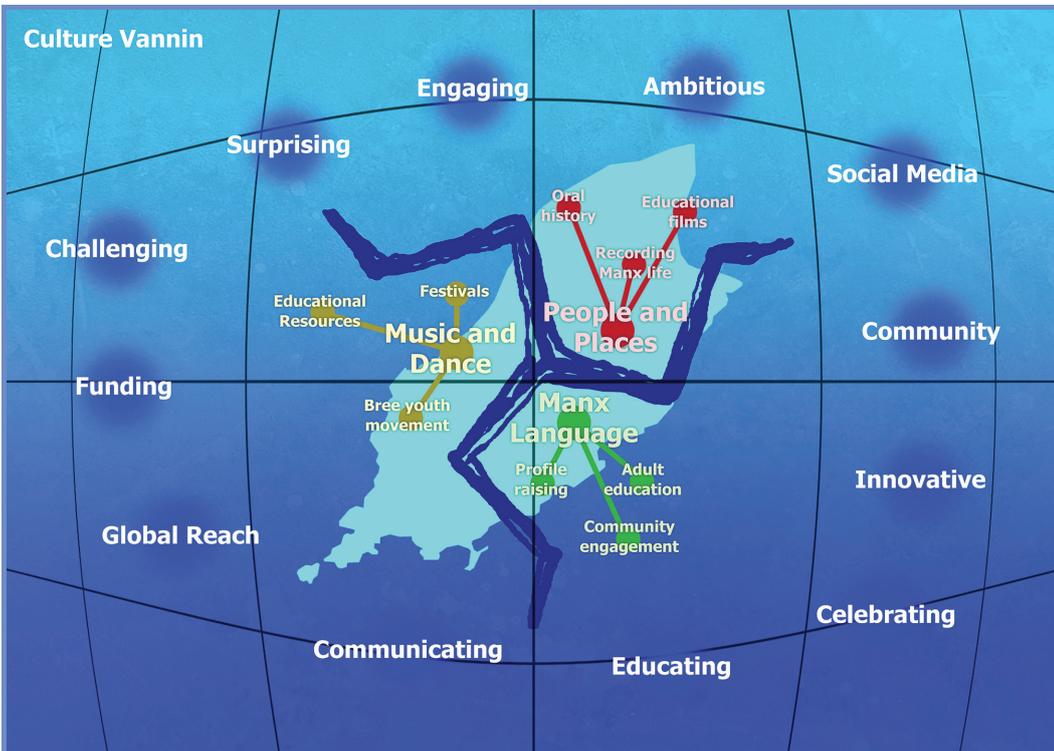
LISTEN HERE:

<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/oralhistory/-manx-folk-dance-society-696757/>

A collection of films, recordings & photos of the Manx Folk Dance Society:

<https://culturevannin.im/resources/manx-folk-dance-society-694602/>

>> See end of KMJ: **Transcription of the Month** for the tune to "Harriers in the Heather"



Culture VANNIN

Thinking about a new project that relates to the culture or cultural heritage of the Isle of Man?

The next deadline for grant applications to Culture Vannin is 12 noon on Friday 12th November.

Grant forms and information on how to apply can be found online here:

www.culturevannin.im/fundingawards/grants/



NEXT FUNDING DEADLINE

**26th Nov
2021**

Grants | Underwriting | Travel Grants

IOMARTS.COM | IOMARTSCOUNCIL@GOV.IM | 694598

<< The Isle of Man Arts Council's final funding deadline of the year is 26th November 2021!

You can speak to one of the Isle of Man Arts Team between 9-5, Mon-Fri to discuss your project and advice regarding what you need and how to fill in your application.

More information can be found at

iomarts.com | iomartscouncil@gov.im | 694598

MANX ANTIQUARIANS - Bursaries for students

Applications opening 1st November - In memory of Marshall Cubbon, the Manx Antiquarians award two student bursaries of up to £250 each year – one for natural history and one for historical or cultural studies. Those eligible are any students (undergraduate or postgraduate) who are researching a Manx related topic at a recognised institution of Higher Education. The bursary can be used towards the cost of equipment, accommodation, travel, subsistence, or other expenses. MORE INFO: www.manxantiquarians.com/news_story_239614.html

Manx Lottery Trust ~ FINAL TRUSTEE MEETING OF 2021!

The deadline is fast approaching for the final Trustees meeting of 2021. The application deadline is 5th November 2021, and this is the last time the Trustees will review applications for all grant programmes this year. They are currently running three programmes:

- Community Awards
- Smaller Grants
- Dormant Assets Fund

More information: www.mlt.org.im/grant-programmes/



Hop tu naa photos

October witnessed lots of singing, dancing and moots!



With their witches' hats on, Jo Callister (DESC) & Chloe Woolley (Culture Vannin) made a couple of flying visits to Rushen Primary School and Henry Bloom Noble School [above] to teach the children Hop tu Naa songs, talk about Jinny the Witch, turnip carving and other traditions. They also gave talks with musical illustrations on mheillea and Hop tu naa traditions to the Braddan WI and Mann O50 Friendship Group. << Skeddan Jiarg young dancers performed at Cregneash (30/10/21).



Black Dog Pizza's 'Moddey Do' pop-up venue over the Hop tu naa holidays was the place to be for spooky refreshments, ghost tales, impromptu Hop tu naa singing and performances from Mark Lawrence, Ian Allen & Mike Wade (above) & others.



Peel Traders held a **Hop tu naa** window display competition last week. Some of the shops took the Peel version of the song as their inspiration, including the winner of *Most Traditional display*, **Black Grace Cowley**, and *People's Choice winner*, **Beyond Beauty**.

Meanwhile, **Clear Pharmacy** in Michael Street composed their own Hop tu naa ditty! (above)

Check out all the windows:
www.facebook.com/PeopleOfPeel

Friends of
Manx National Heritage
PRESENT

A light-hearted evening
of Manx entertainment



FEATURING

Caarjyn Cooiðjagh

Skeddan Jiarg dancers from the group

Michael Players RBV - play loosely based on
'Mr Quilliam decides'

Friday 19th November

CENTENARY CENTRE, PEEL AT 8PM

Tickets: £10 per person via
www.centenarycentre.com



Interval with light refreshments
'Peggy Rum' Auction

Charity No. 1027



The St Germain's Cathedral
Foundation for Music & the Arts

Concert Series 2021

Saturday 26th June
The Shimmers Vocal Ensemble

Saturday 17th July
Summer Serenade
A cabaret of light music for a Summer evening

Wednesday 11th August
Hartes Ease & The Tallis Consort

Saturday 18th September
The Blue Train Big Band

Thursday 14th October
Manx Youth Band

Saturday 20th November
Isle of Man Wind Orchestra

Free Admission 7.30pm
www.cathedralmusic.im



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Simple and fun for all.

Parent and child dancing
with Perree Bane.

Adults also welcome
without children!

Join us from 6pm to 6.30
Sunday evenings from
November 7th at Ballasalla
village Hall.

And then join us at our
Christmas ceillidh on
December 19th

Perree Bane

Email-
helps@manx.net

PIC-COLLAGE



Join the Island's primary schools in a festive celebration of singing. The programme will include a mixture of Manx Christmas songs, carols, Christmas chart hits and more!

ADULT £10

SENIOR £10

UNDER 16 £5

www.villagaiety.com

Entries are now open for the
Manx Music Festival
AKA The Guild!

23rd to 30th April 2022.

Pick up a syllabus in various shops
or download here:

www.manxmusicfestival.org/syllabus/

Manannan's Winterfest ^{No. 4}

A Magical Manx Christmas!

MUSIC & SONG FROM
 BLUE TRAIN BIG BAND
 DUO LANDAT MOISSON
 MAE CHALLIS | MANDY GRIFFIN
 THE REVELLETTES | THE SHIMMERS

AND FEATURING
 DOT, GEOFF & SONIA
 THE DEEMSTERS
 GARETH MOORE
 DAISY DIVERS
 NY FENNEE DANCERS
 & MANANNAN'S HOUSE BAND

FRIDAY 10th
 DECEMBER 2021
 GAIETY THEATRE

ONE NIGHT ONLY

* entire show performed in the 2020 show



TICKETS: £21/£25 | CALL: 600555 | VILLAGAIETY.COM



LESH SHEE AS GRAIH
 ST NINIANS CHURCH
 FRIDAY 10th DECEMBER
 BISKEE BRISHT + THE JEFF JEPSON BAND + TRUMAN FALLS

Reserve Tickets £10 Jj@jeffjepson.co.uk
 GRAIH.ORG.IM

SCRAN DATES:

Finder's Keepers Christmas Market, Isle Contemporary, Peel, Sun 5th Dec
www.islecontemporary.com/events/finders-keepers-ultimate-winter-takeover
Nativity Live, Villier's Square Douglas, Thurs 16th Dec, 7pm - details TBC
www.facebook.com/douglastowncentremanagement

YN CHRUINNAGHT PRESENTS:

BRETON-MANX CONCERT & FEST NOZ

FEATURING

LORS LANDAT & THOMAS MOISSON

AND

MERA ROYLE & DAVID KILGALLON AS 'NEEAR NESAN'

Saturday 11th December • 7.30pm • Onchan Parish Hall - Royal Avenue

• £12 ADULTS • £6 UNDER 16 • BYOB • TICKETS AVAILABLE @ EVENTBRITE.CO.UK

WWW.YNCHRUINNAGHT.COM



For updates & news on Manx music & dance, follow
www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance

kiull noa

Mec Lir Make the Shortlist for 'Album of the Year' in Scots Trad Music Awards

Every December the MG Alba Scots Trad Awards takes place in a different venue in Scotland.

It's a very glamorous event broadcast on BBC Scotland where awards are given out for various categories relevant to the Scottish trad music scene. Think of it a bit like the trad music Oscars, or maybe the Dundies?!

After a public nomination process last month, Manx/Scottish band Mec Lir's latest album 'Livewire' has now been shortlisted in the 'Album of the Year' category, and is up for the final public vote to decide the winner. Voting is open to anyone from the 31st October, not just in Scotland, and not every category needs to be voted on. They're up against some other fantastic albums by some of Scotland's biggest acts, so the lads could do with your help!

Follow the link below and choose Mec Lir's Livewire as 'Album of the Year'!

VOTE HERE:

<https://tinyurl.com/nwavn8vk>

If you haven't heard Livewire yet, it's available on all streaming platforms and on the band's website at

www.meclir.com



*Stunning new single "Daybreak"
by Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe and Daniel Quayle
just released!*

The Sunny Hills of Beara (John Dwyer) / Bush Terrace / Sander's Trip to Latvia - tunes written by Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe

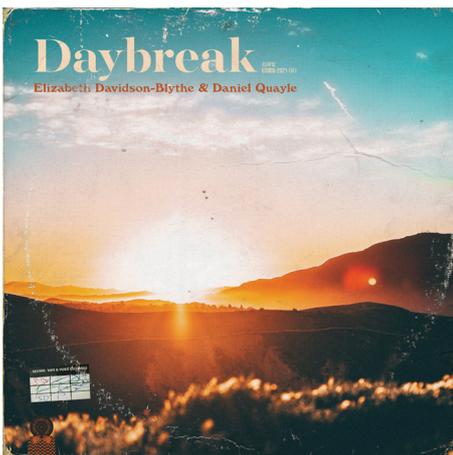
DOWNLOAD OR STREAM HERE:

Spotify: <https://tinyurl.com/rspmm452>

<https://edbdq.bandcamp.com/releases>

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/album/id1591635528?app=itunes>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Daybreak.../dp/B09K5FWWRS/>



Local classical composer Eleri Morgan, recently had her compositions 'Cliff's Edge' and 'Peaks' featured on Sean Rafferty's In Tune programme on BBC Radio 3 as part of BBC Introducing. Describing her work as orchestral compositions, neo-classical, and a fusion of electronic and orchestral, Eleri creates vast soundscapes, multi-textured and layered compositions to create ambience and timelessness.

LISTEN AGAIN:

www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0010gvs [1:18:40]

You can learn more about Eleri at <https://elerionline.wordpress.com/>

Record-breaking new song features Manx Gaelic!



"Viidhii Upadhyay has recently crooned, penned, written, and delivered a beautiful song titled 'We Are One'. The song evokes humanity at every point and has been widely appreciated in these tough pandemic times. She has more than 100 songs in global languages belonging to 250+ countries and islands to her credits".*

Mumbai singer and composer, Viidhii Upadhyay has made it into the India Book of Records for "Maximum Languages composed in a Song" and at around 5 mins, she includes the Manx Gaelic for "We are One", which is "Ta Shin Unnaneyssit".

WATCH/LISTEN HERE:

<https://youtu.be/JWwbPJShrOg>

* Full article in *The India Times*: <https://tinyurl.com/6adx4jcz>

CHRISTMAS ON THE RADIO!!

Presenter Christy De Haven is putting together a **Christmas Live Lounge** for Manx Radio and she's on the lookout for IOM musicians who have any original Festive numbers for possible inclusion on the show.

Ideally, she'd also like some interesting Christmas Covers too - it all adds to the festival feelz!!

If you have a song ready to contribute, or are interested in providing something, drop Christy an email at:

live@manxradio.com



MONA'S DELIGHTFUL MANX DANCE

The Manx Set - Mona's Delight (Traditional) and Manx Dance (Traditional with additional material by Frank Wood)

An Isolation Session mixed by Mark Blinkhorn, Concertinas, Harmonium, Guitar and Percussion - Ginny, Flute and Percussion - Mark, Harp - Frank the Harp

"We are a bunch of friends and sometime musicians for the Malkin Morris Dance Team based in the Northwest of England. The Isolation Session project arose as a means of staying sane during the coronavirus pandemic. The music here is intended to show what we do at a relaxed pub session after dance practise."

<https://isolationssession.bandcamp.com/track/monas-delightful-manx-dance>

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH THE COLLECTION!!

KMJ is 15 years old, and since October 2006 we have been including a 'Transcription of the Month' - sheet music for over 180 new and old Manx tunes and songs. The full list of titles and links can be found here...

https://manxmusic.com/news_story_400687.html

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



Inter-Gaelic collaboration Aon Teanga:Un Çhengey

re-united in Scotland last month to perform at the *St Andrews Voices* festival and film for Mary Ann Kennedy's series following her musical pilgrimage from Iona to St Andrews; **SAV Triall**.

Aon Teanga:Un Çhengey – whichever way you spell it, sounds the same & means the same - 'One Tongue'. The three singers celebrate the linguistic, musical and cultural connections of the three Gaelic nations, reuniting the Scottish (Mary

Ann Kennedy), Irish (Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin) and Manx (Ruth Keggín) Gaels as one voice.

Buy their CD here: <https://tinyurl.com/kssvptdb>

Produced for Colmcille 1500, SAV Triall follows the journey of St Columba, meeting musicians along the way. Aon Teanga:Un Çhengey perform in the final programme and also teach students to sing Manx song, Padjer Columb Killee, arranged by Caarjyn Coidjagh:

<https://youtu.be/PPb9wFWy8vk>

WATCH ALL: www.youtube.com/user/Watercolourfilms



Tickets are selling FAST for Mec Lir's *Celtic Connections* gig in St Luke's, Glasgow in January!

The Manx/Scottish band will be sharing the gig with the Kinnaris Quintet on Fri 28th January: <https://tinyurl.com/pjazaw3n>

Malcolm Stitt from the IOM will be playing with his band, Deaf Shepherd the following evening too! www.celticconnections.com/



Unity Irish Dance have done it again! Here is their new video featuring Mec Lir's track 'Earthbound' and dancers from Australasia!

<https://fb.watch/927AO3IX9J/>

www.facebook.com/unityirishdance/

Youtube corner

Did you know that English experimental singer-songwriter Patrick Wolf has written two songs inspired by Manx music?! Listen out for the call of the blackbird, Lhondhoo or "Chomreedhoo!" (2'30") in *Armistice*:

<https://youtu.be/pJnH1B-4zes>

NME article: <https://tinyurl.com/8j92s5nk>

And here, Patrick sings a version of Shiaull Ersooyl in "Vaeety Braeu!"

<https://youtu.be/8vn8F9ybdro>



Carol L Walker in the USA has a new mountain dulcimer displaying her love for the Isle of Man!

Carol performed an all-Manx medley at QuarantUNE 5.0 online festival to celebrate her new baritone dulcimer, specially designed by Richard Ash at Folkcraft in Woodburn, IN.

She said: "Of course I had to don the proper concert attire for this Manx event"!



www.musicladycarol.com



Breton-Manx outfit, Nnear Nesan had a wonderful mini-tour of Brittany last month, playing at a variety of venues <<

IOM fans will be able to hear the collaboration play tracks from their new album 'Beyond the Pier' here in the Isle of Man on Saturday 10th December in Onchan Parish Hall in a concert and Fest Noz organised in conjunction with Yn Chruinnaght.

<https://fb.me/e/1e7N8ZWGA>

www.ynchruinnaght.com



RESEARCH NEWS

Summer Entertainment on the Isle of Man 1961-65

A fond farewell to Ivy and Ronnie and the end of an era

by Maurice Powell

'If the fifties were in black and white, then the sixties were in technicolour'

The year 1961 marked the beginning of the decade when Britain truly changed. Young people in the sixties were significantly different to those of a decade earlier. A generation of young men were free from conscription for the first time since 1947. Music became a major factor in defining the age along with the mini skirt, the use of recreational drugs and young peoples' pursuit of peace and freedom. People increasingly owned colour televisions, and transistor radios were carried around in the streets as an essential accessory for the young. In 1963 the huge political scandal known as the Profumo affair undermined faith in politicians forever. The decade also witnessed the dawn of feminism, the acceptance of the contraceptive pill and, in July 1967, the Sexual Offences Act, which legalised consensual homosexual acts in private between men over the age of twenty-one, was passed.

On the Isle of Man, it was the decade that would witness the demise and demolition of the Palace Coliseum, the Derby Castle, the Crescent Pavilion and the Onchan Head Pavilion, the result of a fire. The Palais de Danse - previously a warehouse for Woolworths following a serious fire, and subsequently a market hall - was put up for auction by the Palace & Derby Castle Company and bought by the Maypole Dairy. Despite an extensive makeover, Douglas Holiday Camp, too, continued its long decline, hastened by increasing competition from ever more attractive and inexpensive family package and foreign holidays.



READ FULL ARTICLE: <https://tinyurl.com/a7tye247>

[pic - The Ivy Benson Band at the Villa Marina, iMuseum]

The others in the series by Maurice Powell are:

From Pleasure Isle to internment Island 1939-45

The Joe Loss Years part I, 1946-50

The Joe Loss Years part II, 1951-55

Ronnie, Ivy, Ken and Phil, 1956-60

Read them here: <https://tinyurl.com/25vju7hx>

“THE GUILD MANX COMPETITIONS AND CONCERT”
(1899)

[2a] The Manx Competitions and Concert in connection with the Isle of Man Fine Arts and Industrial Guild took place last Thursday evening in the Palace Opera House. This is the first year that the Guild Committee have introduced Manx recitation, reading, and singing contests, but either from slight public interest in the matter, or else owing to the threatened inclemency of the weather, the audience was only a moderately large one. Considerable interest (and not a little amusement) was shown in the singing competitions, but the Manx language section was somewhat wearisome and monotonous to most of those present. For the musical items the adjudicators were Miss M.L. Wood, A.R.C.O.; Miss McKnight, F.R.C.O.; and the Rev W.S. Isherwood of Douglas; while the judges for the Manx language were Dr. Clague of Castletown; and Messrs W. Kneen, Rushen; W. Quayle, Laxey; and John Costain of Colby. Practically all the music, both vocal and instrumental, rendered during the evening was of Manx origin; and the concert opened with a capital selection of Manx melodies by Mr Harry Wood's orchestra. This arrangement has often been heard during the season in Douglas, and the hearty applause which was accorded to it was ample proof that it is as popular as ever. The first Manx language competition, for the best vernacular recitation of the Twenty-third Psalm, was open to students in any of the existing Manx classes. Six juvenile competitors appeared in this section, and the first prize of 5s was awarded to Nellie Moore, of Laxey; the second prize of 2s 6d to Elsie Kee, of Peel; while the other competitors in order of merit were arranged as follows: 3. Thomas Corkan, Peel (a sturdy little fellow who quite took every body's fancy, and to whom the audience no doubt would have liked to award a prize); 4. John Comish, Peel; 5. Florence Killip, Douglas; 6. Fanny Palmer, Peel. After a capital orchestral suite of three Manx dances, the adult Reading and Translation competition was taken. Competitors were required to read at sight a passage from the Manx testament, chosen by the judges immediately before the competition, and then to translate it into English. The selected passage was taken from the first ten verses of the General Epistle of James. Only two candidates appeared in this section, the first prize of £1 (presented by Col. Anderson R.G.) being awarded to Mr Thomas Taggart, of Kerrowkiel, Malew; while the second prize of 10s was won by Mr J.J. Kneen of Douglas. The programme was here varied by an English version of an old Manx Song, "Hush, Little Darling" (from Gill's National Songs) which was rendered in a very pleasing manner by Miss B. Cregeen, A.V.C.M. The song has an exceedingly beautiful yet simple musical setting, and was sung in a highly creditable manner. For the Male Voice Solo Competition five competitors appeared, and in some cases there was a distinct flavour of originality, which was not without its accompaniment of humorous effect on the greater part of the audience. The songs were to be chosen by the competitors from any collection of Manx songs, and points were given by the adjudicators for both singing and pronunciation. The first prize of £1 was awarded to Mr Robert Bridson of Tromode, who sang "Kirree fo Niaghtey" (Moore's Edition); the second prize of 10s to Mr J.J. Kneen of Douglas, for "Mylecharaine" (Moore's Edition); and the third to Mr W. Christian of Peel, for "Mylecharaine" (Gill's Edition). For the excellence of the Manx pronunciation additional prizes were awarded to the other two Competitors; 10s to Mr Thomas Taggart, and 5s to Mr Charles Lace. From this part of the competition it would appear that Manx songs are particularly distinguished for the large number of verses they contain, and the endurance of the audience was taxed to the utmost during the hearing of them. Each competitor sang more than twice as much as was necessary; but Mr J.J. Kneen excelled the rest in managing to inflict upon his long-suffering hearers nearly a dozen verses of his monotonous "Mylecharaine," until all patience was well-nigh exhausted. If ever the competitions are repeated [2b] it is to be sincerely hoped, out of compassion for the audience that some restriction in this section will be placed by the Committee, for last Thursday evening the hearers had to endure a far greater ordeal than the singers! Probably the best item of the evening was the recitation of Clement Scott's well-known lifeboat poem "The Women of Mumble's Head," by Miss B. Cregeen. The admirable manner in which this was recited roused the audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm, and reflected the greatest credit on Miss Cregeen. In the Female Voice Solo competition, for the best rendering of a song in the Manx language, there were only two competitors. The first prize of £1 was won by Miss Maggie Radcliffe, of Andreas, for her finished rendering of "Mannin Veg Veen" (Moore's edition); and the second prize of 10s to Miss Ada Corrin, of Castletown, who sang "Kirree fo Niaghtey." Miss B. Cregeen was deservedly encored for her capital rendering of the well-known song "Fair Maids of Mann," and she responded with another native song. The programme concluded with Sullivan's musical arrangement of Rudyard Kipling's already famous patriotic poem, "The Absent-Minded Beggar," which was sung in good style by Mr Evan Kermode, the audience being requested to join in the chorus—a request with which only a

small proportion complied. Taken on the whole, this new departure of the Guild Committee in endeavouring to promote Manx singing and reading competitions can scarcely be termed a success, either from the public interest shewn, or from the number of competitors and the quality of their attainments. A noteworthy feature of the contest was that only two of the competing candidates came from Douglas, while five hailed from Peel. Judging from this, it would seem that but little interest is taken by the inhabitants of the chief city on the Island in the attempt to revive its already defunct national language.

“The Guild Manx Competitions and Concert.” *The Manxman* 16 December 1899: 2.

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“This is the first year that the Guild Committee have introduced Manx recitation, reading, and singing contests,” reported *The Manxman* in its issue of 16 December 1899. Whilst the review of the evening’s proceedings in the *Isle of Man Examiner* was a positive one, the paper under Sidney Broadbent being a firm supporter of the Manx Language Revival, an opposing view as seen above was also evident.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

which stands the village and church of St. John’s. The remains of a similar one exist at Baldwin, near to the site of the ancient church of *Keeihll Abbane*.* The chaplain, the Rev. Robert Airey, informs me that the Baldwin Benefit Society annually commemorate the event of the Tynwald having been held there.† The

* Now St. Luke’s.

† On their anniversary day they march to the hill, upon which the standard bearer plants his standard, whilst the band plays “Mylecharane,” “Kerrey-fo-Sniaghtey,” and other Manx airs.

<< *The Manx Society* journal of 1858 mentions the Baldwin Benefit Society band performing Mylecharane, Kerrey-fo-sniaghtey and other Manx airs at the old Tynwald site near St Luke’s:

<https://tinyurl.com/rm3cm2bk>

YN
CRUINNAGHT
 VANNINAGH ASHOONAGH
 IN
VILLA MARINA
 DOUGLAS
 THURSDAY, 20th NOV.
 1930.
MANX COMPETITIONS
 IN
 MUSIC, ELOCUTION, LITERARY, ART
 AND CRAFTS, CONFECTIONERY AND
 PRODUCE SECTIONS.
 From 10-30 a.m.
 Admission During Day — SIXPENCE.
ENTERTAINMENT
 IN EVENING at 7-30.
 SENIOR CHOIR COMPETITIONS.
 SELECTED PRIZE-WINNERS.
 PRESENTATION OF CRUINNAGHT
 TROPHIES AND MEDALS.
 SPECIAL SOLOIST:
MISS ELEANOR TOYE, A.R.C.M.
 PRICES OF ADMISSION:
 Orchestra Stalls 2/6; Centre Circle 2/6;
 Side Circle 1/6; Pit 1/6;
 (Seats in Stalls and Circle may be reserved
 at Blakemore’s, Douglas, without any
 extra charge).
 Ticket Holders admitted 7 p.m.
 Doors Open 7-15. Concert commences 7-30.
 NOTE—Late Buses leave for all parts at
 10-45 p.m. and Electric Car, 11 p.m.

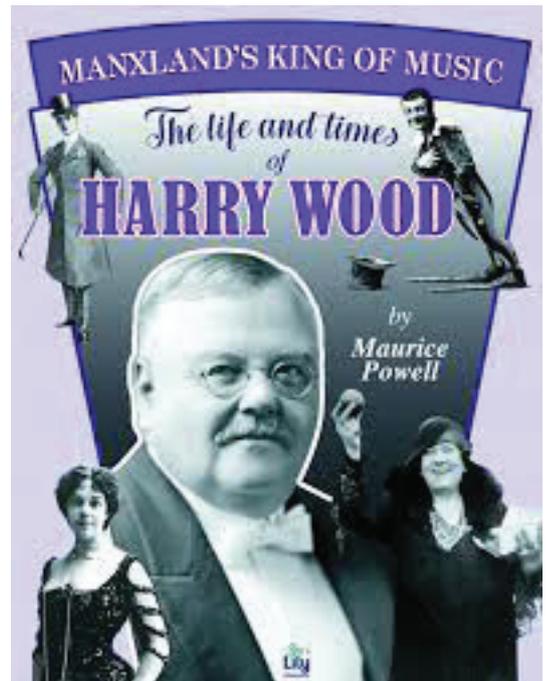
The Autumn 2021 issue of LIGHT AND LYRICAL, the quarterly magazine of the Light Music Society, includes an excellent review of MANXLAND’S KING OF MUSIC – THE LIFE & TIMES OF HARRY WOOD, and an interview with its author, Maurice Powell. The reviewer wrote:

‘... for the light music fan, this is a real must have!’

“This generous book, lavishly illustrated and at over 300 pages, traces the musician’s career in some quite astonishing detail... if Harry Wood was Manxland’s King of Music, Maurice Powell is the Prince!”

If you’re looking for an ideal Christmas present for all those interested in Manx culture during the heyday of the Island as a holiday venue, then you can buy the book from Culture Vannin, Museum bookshops, Lexicon Bookshop in Douglas and the Bridge Bookshops in Ramsey and Port Erin, priced £16.

<< IOM EXAMINER Fri 14 Nov 1930



The American March King Conquers Douglas.

John Philip Sousa on the Isle of Man

by Maurice Powell

The first indication that a series of extraordinary musical events were to take place in Douglas appeared in a brief notice in the Isle of Man Times on Saturday May 30th, 1903:

Sousa's great band, which is world famous, has been engaged to give a series of concerts at the Palace.

Six concerts, three matinees and three evening performances, were announced for July; further details appeared the same day in the Manx Sun:

One of the earliest engagements of the season will be that of Sousa's renowned band, the great American Bandmaster and Composer having undertaken to give two concerts daily on the 14th, 15th and 16th July at 3.00 pm and 8.00 pm.

The start of the summer season at the Palace had been delayed until 4th July as reconstruction work after the disastrous fire near the end of the 1902 summer season could not be completed on schedule. Sousa and his band arrived by a specially chartered steamer from Morecambe, The Duchess of Buccleuch, at 6.00 am on Tuesday 14th July on their first visit to the Island near the end of a seven-month whistle-stop European tour. The soloists accompanying the band included the great American violinist Maud Powell, the coloratura soprano Estelle Liebling and the 'phenomenal' trombonist Arthur Pryor, who was also Sousa's deputy conductor.

'There are many band conductors but only one Sousa'

Hailed as 'the event of a lifetime for thousands of our residents and visitors', a large crowd welcomed the band with 'quite an ovation and applause' when they appeared on the stage of the Palace Ballroom shortly before 3.00 pm the day of their arrival. The band consisted of the following musicians according to the report in the Isle of Man Times the following Saturday: 4 piccolos; 4 flutes; 2 oboes; 16 Bb clarinets; 1 E flat clarinet; 1 alto clarinet; 1 bass clarinet; 2 bassoons; 4 French horns; 4 cornets; 2 trumpets; 1 flugel horn; 3 trombones; 2 euphoniums; 3 tubas; 1 Sousaphone (the large American brass instrument with a forward pointing bell above the player's head, designed around 1893 by J. W. Pepper at Sousa's behest, that bears the band leader's name to this day.); tympani, side drum and bass drum. In all, an impressive line-up of fifty-four players, or fifty-seven if the two soloists and Sousa himself are included. The programme was as follows:

Overture Tannhäuser, Wagner; a trombone solo played by Arthur Pryor 'with an elaborate cadenza'; the suite Maiden's Three by Sousa; the vocal waltz The Voice of Spring by Strauss sung by Estelle Liebling; an extract from the Grail Music from Wagner's Parsifal; scenes from Sousa's operetta Chris the Wonderful Lamp which featured solos for the flugel horn, cornet, oboe, flute and piccolo; a 'quaint' oboe solo, the Sérénade Rococo by (Erik Meyer) Helmund; Sousa's march The Stars and Stripes Forever; the Faust Fantasy for violin by Wieniawski played by Maud Powell, and the Introduction to Act III of Wagner's Lohengrin. There were various extra pieces in response to the audiences demands for more including The Passing of the Rag with its references to sand dances, clog dances 'and other effects which distinguish the music of the States', and a medley, The Rose, Shamrock and Thistle, which included the popular songs The Soldiers of the Queen, the Minstrel Boy, the Blue Bells of Scotland, the aria For he is an Englishman from Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore, and a rousing rendition of Rule Britannia. The audience was considerably larger for the Tuesday evening concert and included members of the Legislature and the Manx Bar. The programme included the Kaiser Overture by (Wilhelm) Westmeyer based on Haydn's Emperor's Hymn, an aria from Giordano's Andrea Chenier, two movements from Mendelsohn's violin concerto, and several pieces by, or arranged by, Sousa himself.

Wednesday's concerts featured the overtures William Tell by Rossini and Carnival Romaine by Berlioz, arias from Thomas' Hamlet and Delibes' Lakme, Sarasate's Zigeunerweisen and Saint-Saëns Rondo Capriccioso for violin and the Largo from Dvorak's symphony From the New World. The evening concert was attended by the Speaker of the House of Keys, and 'members of the Island's leading families' for whom special trams and trains were laid on to bring them from all parts of the Island.

The programmes for the Thursday afternoon and evening concerts included a Festival Overture by (Eduard) Lassen, an Overture Symphonique by Wattge (?), a valse-song by Sousa and an aria by Handel; the Othello

Fantasy for violin by (Heinrich Wilhelm) Ernst, and solos for flugel horn, trombone and xylophone; dances and marches including Washington Post - which elicited ‘a storm of applause - a novelty piece entitled Sheridan’s Ride, which described in five scenes a notable event during the American Civil War, and a dramatic representation entitled The Destruction of Pompei and the Death of Nydia, both by Sousa. After the evening concert Sousa was presented to Lady Raglan, the wife of the Lieutenant Governor, in her box, and enjoyed a long conversation about music and art. Later that evening the band sailed to Belfast on the specially chartered steamer Logic to commence the final weeks of their European tour in Ireland, Wales and Blackpool.

The lengthy concert review concluded with a few words about Sousa’s conducting style: ‘quiet and gentle, and yet firm and precise’, although one correspondent to the Isle of Man Examiner referred to his ‘antics . . . the swaying of his body, his moods, his gestures, now languorous, then tumultuous . . . bounding with warlike fierceness’, the characteristics, he assumed, ‘of a distinct and strongly marked musical personality’. Sousa’s association with the United States Marine Band, of which he became conductor after his father retired in 1880, since which time the band had travelled over 330,000 miles and given 4,500 concerts in 630 towns and cities in Europe, was highlighted. Concerning his famous march Washington Post, Sousa revealed that as a young composer he sold the rights of the march to a music publisher for £7 along with the march High School Cadets which, despite their enduring popularity, was all he ever received! He also recalled his pride when he heard his march The Gladiator ‘ground out on a barrel organ’, an instrument which, according to the reviewer, ‘is invariably associated with Italians and monkeys’.

The week following Sousa’s departure, the Two Anartos, ‘speciality comedians’, appeared at the Derby Castle Theatre, Douglas, ‘with their wonderful imitation of Sousa’. One can only wonder . . .

Ramsey, September 2021

RUTH HERBERT LEWIS (1871–1946)



Ruth Herbert Lewis c.1910, at the outset of her collecting career

The name of Ruth Herbert Lewis will be unfamiliar here though she does figure as the author of a paper delivered at the Fourth Celtic Congress held in Douglas in July 1921. She was not present and it was read in her absence. By this date she was a well-known collector of Welsh folk songs, and ones in Welsh itself, a language she had learnt. She was also a pioneer of using the phonograph. If she would have been in the Island, then it would have been a homecoming of sorts, as she was the granddaughter of Hugh Stowell Brown (1823–86), the well-known minister of Myrtle Street Chapel in Liverpool, and he in his turn was the elder brother of T.E. Brown. For the 1921 paper, Ruth Herbert Lewis, “Welsh and Manx Folk Songs,” *Transactions of the Celtic Congress, 1921*, ed. D. Rhys Phillips (Swansea, 1923) 165–67. For further on Lewis, see E. Wyn James, “An ‘English’ lady among the Welsh folk: Ruth Herbert Lewis and the Welsh Folk-Song Society,” *Folk Song: Tradition, Revival, and Re-Creation*, eds. Ian Russell and David Atkinson (Aberdeen: The Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, 2004) 266–83; David R. Jones, “Lady Ruth Herbert Lewis (1871–1946): Indefatigable Collector of Flintshire’s Folk-Songs,” *Flintshire Historical Society Journal* 37 (2007), 106–67.

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MANX NATIONAL AIRS ~ THE LOST WORK OF DEEMSTER J.F. GILL AND DOCTOR JOHN CLAGUE by Stephen Miller RBV

<https://manxmusic.com/media//Newsletters/KMJ%20November%202012.pdf>

THE DANCES - Excerpt from '...while the others did some capers': the Manx Traditional Dance revival 1929 to 1960:

1. Rinkaghyn Vannin ~ 1.12 Car Juan Nan

The notes of this dance appear in Douglas' Folklore Notebook: Dances (MNHL 09545 Box 9). The notes are very detailed and represent the same dance as is danced today. It is worth noting that the final figure is compared to the dance Guilley Hesheree implying that this dance was also collected at a similar time. Stowell then verified the early completion of this dance as he states that this was one of the first learnt by the Albert Road dance team in 1928/9 (Bazin: 1998). A series of photographs of this team performing the dance in the grounds of Albert Road School are still extant in the Manx Museum library:



By kind permission of Manx National Heritage.

A1.12.1 The 'C' formation performed by Albert Road Dance Team c. 1935. (MNHL PG4960/2)

Further information, however, can be found in a miscellaneous fragment of handwritten notes found in Douglas' papers (MNHL 09545 Box 1). The dance is said to be performed to a typical fiddle tune and is named after Juan Nan who ran an illicit still in the East of the Island and had connections with 'the trade' or smuggling. He was also said to be the best fiddler, dancer and singer on the Isle of Man, his children all danced and his parties were reportedly famed throughout three parishes; he was said to use dancing and frivolity to distract any over interested policemen. This dance was his favourite, hence the name. Douglas also notes the similarities with 'Morpeth Rent', an English country-dance, but while the tune is similar the dance is very different. Douglas also notes that the dance is very difficult, although follows that up by stating that all the Manx dances are. In this fragment and another (MNHL 09545 Box 4) Douglas also relates this dance with the song 'Smugglers Lullaby'. This link seems a little unusual, as the song is, as the name would imply, a lullaby and so not really fast enough to dance a vigorous reel. This link may relate to Juan Nan's alleged connections with the trade, but there is no evidence to support either theory, merely asserting that the two are related.

In 1937 the dance is described as complete in Douglas' paper on the revival and notation of Manx dances. In her later papers, Douglas expands on the collection of the dances. In one paper (1958) Douglas states that she collected the dance from John Matt who remembered Jimmy Juan Nan from the Clarum as a famous singer, dancer and fiddler. John Matt demonstrated and described the dance to

her when she was only twelve years old. The dance was then published in *Seven Manx Folk Dances: Set II* in 1953 and the collection attributed to Douglas from informants J.M. Mylchreest and J.P. Kelly. In 1954 the dance was used in a film made to accompany a paper given by Nikolai Giovanelli in Brazil at the Seventh International Folk Music Conference. It is worth noting that the accompanying recording made to illustrate the paper includes a rendition of *Smuggler's Lullaby*, it is unknown if this is relevant to *Car Juan Nan* or purely coincidental.

The tune is included on the LP *Daunsey'n Theayagh Vannin* (1973) and the dance described as a 'difficult and spectacular eight-hand reel with a lift of the women to finish.' The dance notes were then re-published in *Rinkaghyn Vannin* in 1983.

It is worth noting here that the C formation in the first figure appears to have been part of the dance since its collection. Each set of notes mentions a joining up of the circle later and the photograph above certainly places the dancers in a C formation. Although only of interest to dancers, this point is worth making as it has been said that this C formation was an invention of a modern dance group because they could not move fast enough to make up a circle from a straight line and was given as evidence to Douglas' tendency to an over 'creative' attitude to Manx dances, as previously discussed in Chapter 6 (anecdotal evidence).

READ FULL THESIS:

www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MANX%20DANCE%20THESIS%20Cinzia%20Curtis%202006.pdf

Following up from last month's piece about the dance "Car ny Ferrishyn", Bob Carswell RBV shares his own memories of learning the dance.

In 'Manx Folk Dances – Their Notation and Revival' (1937) Mona writes :

"(6) Six Hand Reel, 'Car ny Ferrishyn' ('Fairy Reel'). Danced by two men and four women in the usual Manx reel step, with a crossed-hands swing. Two versions noted in different parts of the Island, both being danced to the same air."

At the Manx Folk Dance Society classes in Laxey Glen Pavilion in the 1970s given by Freda Moore and others, we learned Car ny Ferrishyn. It was one of the dances a group of us performed on the Kungsholm, a visiting cruise liner. I ended up at one point on the wrong side of the dance, but Phyllis Christian said, maintaining a rictus grin and with her best ventriloquist skills, that it didn't matter, the audience didn't know that I wasn't meant to be there, so just smile and get back over.

When some of us younger members of the MFDS started holding our own sessions to learn dances, we went back and looked at the dance notes for Car ny Ferrishyn in 'Seven Manx Folk Dances' (1953) and realised it was substantially different from the version taught by the MFDS, so we set to and tried to work it out. I remember Peg and I, Mike and Chris Hall and Joney Cowell and Brenda Williamson slogging away at it, probably with Brenda Bridson there as well, and others.

*After Bock Yuan Fannee got going, we decided to learn the dance as per the notations in the 'Seven Manx Folk Dances'. On one occasion, Bock Yuan Fannee attended one of the Manx Folk Dance Society's folk dance parties which was being held in Ballaquayle Infants School in Stoney Road, Douglas (now Scoill yn Jubilee), where Society member, Doreen Devereau, was head teacher. Bwoaie Doal played for dancing, and one of the dances performed was Car ny Ferrishyn. The members of the Manx Folk Dance Society performed the dance and had finished, but Bwoaie Doal carried on playing and Bock Yuan Fannee continued with their longer version. One of the members of the Society asked where on earth this dance came from. It was pointed out that this was as it appeared in *Seven Manx Folk Dances*, whereas the version danced by the Society was one of which notation had never been printed. Perhaps it was this version of the dance generally danced by the Society to which Mona's correspondence with Miss Griffiths refers in 1954. Leighton Leighton's 'How I Composed New Manx Dances'*

<https://tinyurl.com/n9bezama> mentioned that he constructed a version of the jig because he'd part-learned Cum y Shenn Oanrey Cheh, but had not got it all and did not have notes, so he put together what is now generally referred to as 'The Girl's Jig', but which Leighton set to the tune 'The Red Petticoat' that he collected from Mrs Watterson of Colby Level. Perhaps he'd part-learned the longer Car ny Ferrishyn and later constructed a version of it, which was what Mona was complaining of. If so, I wonder what was the other version to which Mona herself had referred to back in 1937.

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

The tune "Car my Chaarjyn" by Sharon Christian is used to accompany the MFDS dance "Harriers in the Heather", performed on this film by Rachel and Joshua (pic below).

Rachel Clarkson explains the origin of the dance: <https://tinyurl.com/hbw36eth>

Car my Chaarjyn

(tune to dance: Harriers in the Heather)

Sharon Christian
Isle of Man

Em Am Em D

Em Am G B Em

Em D

Em B Em



CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

4th - 7th Cooish Manx Language Festival
5th SnyP Cooish Ceili & Fireworks, British Legion, Port Erin, 6 - 9pm £11.50/free for kids
6th Cooish Cappan as Croo – Gaelic stalls and crafts, 11am - 4pm, free
6th Cruinnacht Vanninagh Ashoonagh – Manx Gaelic Eisteddfod, Peel Corrin Hall, 7pm, £5/£2
7th Perree Bane parent and child Manx dance classes, 6 - 6.30pm
18th Awards for Excellence >>
www.excellence-awards.im/
19th MNH Light hearted evening of Manx entertainment, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm.
20th IOM Wind Orchestra concert, Cathedral Isle of Man, 7.30pm free
21st IOM Symphony Orchestra Gala Concert, Villa Marina at 2.30pm
www.villagaiety.com

DECEMBER

5th Scran at the Finder's Keepers Christmas Market, Peel
10th Manannan's Winterfest, Gaiety Theatre, 7.30pm www.villagaiety.com

10th Lesh Shee as Graih, St Ninian's Church
11th Breton-Manx Concert & Fest Noz with Neear Nesan. Onchan Parish Hall, 7.30pm
13th The Sound of Christmas, schools concert, Villa Marina, £5 - £10
16th Nativity Live, Villiers Square, Douglas
19th Perree Bane Christmas ceilidh, Ballasalla

JANUARY 2022

28th Mec Lir at Celtic Connections



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 Trad Session at O'Donnell's, Douglas
THURS 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Trad session at the Colby Glen
Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiavull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
First **SUN** of month 12.30pm Trad session in Laxey Sailing Club
Third **SUN** of month 12.30pm Trad session in Ginger Hall, Sulby

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

~ SESSIONS ~

culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:
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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