



KINGS OF LORIENT

Well, what can we say?! The mighty King Chiaullee brought home the Trophée de musique celtique “Cidrerie des Terroirs” from Festival Interceltique de Lorient 2008, beating four other top bands from around Europe.

With a tough ten days of gigs as well as performances with Perree T, KC were either going to be well played in or absolutely shattered. Thankfully, by the time they got to the final, they were on fine form, French flowing, music captivating. As far as KMJ can establish, this is the first time that a Manx band has won the coveted trophy.



The selection process for the trophy takes place over the year leading up to the festival, focusing on CDs sent in by each of the Celtic nations. During the festival’s ten days, fifteen bands take turns to compete each night until four are selected for the final. This year, the competition was so strong that the judges actually chose *five* bands to compete in the final.

The trophy has 2500€ prize money in total, with the winning band receiving 1000€. The finalists were: Calan (Wales), Ceol Oidi (Ireland), Esquisse (Brittany), King Chiaullee (Isle of Man) and Linho do Cuco (Galicia).

Playing a twenty minute set to the panel of judges from countries including Scotland, Ireland and Brittany, King Chiaullee show-cased a selection of original compositions and traditional Manx tunes. The Manx contingent was out in force, Supermanx t-shirts in evidence, flags at the ready, cheering them on. After all five finalists had performed, the judges finally made their decision around 3am!

The lads raced on stage to be presented with the trophy, prize-money and a well-deserved magnum of cider from the trophy sponsors!

Perree T and King Chiaullee fly the flag in Lorient

If you look really closely at this photo of the world's largest (?) Manx dance workshop you'll spy Gráinne Joughin with a wireless mic telling lots and lots of Lorient festival goers how to do dances such as Return the Blow, The Mhellia and Flitter Dance. And the amazing thing is they actually worked!

In fact Perree T were much in demand, with performances at the huge Espace Marine and out at Lanester. As part of the 'Danses du Monde Celte' their finely choreographed sets were warmly received, ably backed by King Chiaullee and Jamie Smith.



King Chiaullee were also kept busy, taking on extra gigs throughout the 10 days of the festival, honing their French presentation skills as they went. From press conferences to radio and TV, from informal sessions at the Manx pavilion to sell-out gigs, the Manx performers

created a buzz at the festival which we aim to build on in the years to come. Mannin aboo!



Other Manx musicians and volunteers turned their hand to performing some songs, tunes and dances around the festival.



The IOM Philatelic Bureau successfully launched their Interceltique stamps at Lorient and received a great deal of media interest. If you still haven't picked up your own copy, check out their [website](#) before it's too late!

The Manx Heritage Foundation organised the Manx pavilion with funding from the Marketing Initiative's Fund. MHF is very grateful to the hard-working volunteers who made the Manx presence at the festival so strong. Thanks also to King Chiaullee and Perree T for having represented the Island so well!



Póg mo Cajón at Feile Iorras, Mayo

Feile Iorras was set up in 1996 as a result of an initiative by Mayo County Council Arts. The first festival was organized in conjunction with Duchas Cill Dara and was held at the end of August 1996. One of the main aims in setting up the Feile was to promote integration and understanding between the people of Erris and various communities throughout the world. This is done by inviting groups from around the world to take part in the festival and to maximize contact between the groups and the people of Erris during the Feile.



The festival encompasses all forms of Folk Arts including traditional dancing (with regional costumes), Piping, traditional music, (ranging from Andean to Cajun and Samba) exhibitions of arts and crafts, traditional music master classes as well as workshops in the visual arts and sculpture. <http://www.feileiorras.org/>

Representing the Isle of Man at this year's festival was Póg mo Cajón whose music is a balance of Manx traditional and original music in traditional style along with Manx Gaelic song and dance. Póg mo Cajón is the fusion of two bands from the Isle of Man – The Reeling Stones and Mactullagh Vannin, with dancing help from Hollie Jaques. The combination of established and younger traditional musicians went down really well. Póg mo Cajón played on Iniskea, at the Ionad Deirbhle, Eachleimvand and at the final event of Iorras 2008 in Paddy Lavelle's Corclough West.

NEW DUO WOWED AUDIENCE AT IOM GUITARFEST

As KMJ went to press, IOM Guitarfest goers had just experienced a top class gig with Clive Carroll, ably supported by Matt Kelly (of King Chiallee) and Paul Rogers (of Skeel and Tate). Looking forward to hearing more from you in the coming months, boys!



Perree Bane go down a storm at Sidmouth!

by Carol Hayes

I am always surprised at how well Manx dance and music are received at festivals abroad and Sidmouth was no exception. We were warmly welcomed everywhere we performed and a great deal of interest was shown in our culture from all sectors including serious scholars of folk dance as well as a whacky fan who had invented and performed for us a Manx Scallop Dance!

The three days were filled with performances at the main marquee, the market square in Sidmouth and in nearby Exeter. Our Manx Dance workshop was



very well received and because of requests from some of those attending, we taught the dances Eunyssagh Vona and Peter O'Tavy to a packed marquee. We also had an hour session called 'Meet the Group' where we had the opportunity to present our group and dances as part of our Manx folklore and heritage.



The high point for many of us was the final torchlight parade on the Friday night, which finished on the beach with all the participants dousing their torches in the sea and a magnificent firework display. It was truly magical and a fitting finale to a very tiring but successful trip.

Manx Folk Dance Society in Deutschland

At the time of writing, members of the MFDS were winging their way to Besse in Germany to make another dance exchange with [Volkstanzgruppe Besse](#). The groups have been in contact since the early 1990s. More news from the trip next month (with any luck).

Yn Chruinnaght featured in bilingual Irish-Manx article in Lá Nua

Talented linguist Natalie Nic Shim had such a good time at this year's Yn Chruinnaght that she penned a [bilingual feature](#) on the festival for Irish newspaper *Lá Nua*. Written in both Manx and Irish Gaelics, the original article featured wonderful colour photos of the Manx Folk Dance Society performing in sand-blasting conditions on Peel Shore (I told you Manx dancers come from hardy stock!) as well as images of John Kaneen as Manannan, dancing at the festival, and, of course, Peel Castle. *Shen obbyr niartal, Natalie!*

Lá Nua

Originally from Newcastle, 30 year old Claire was introduced to Irish music at an early age (in fact, she was taught by Manx resident Pat Knight when she was a nipper!) and she soon went on to win awards at the prestigious Fleadh Cheoil. At 18 she moved to Edinburgh to become a professional musician, where she recorded several albums and toured extensively with group Tabache and other top traditional musicians. She now performs as a soloist and tours with singer and bouzouki player Aaron Jones. Claire also regularly teaches at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and runs masterclasses at Newcastle University's Folkworks. This was Claire's first visit to the Isle of Man and she was delighted to hear some Manx music for the first time and meet our own talented musicians.



Claire Mann Summer School



Last weekend (23-24 Aug) saw another fantastic Adult Traditional Music Summer School organised by the Manx Heritage Foundation. A leading light in Irish and Scottish traditional music, multi-instrumentalist Claire Mann was invited over to teach masterclasses in whistle, flute and fiddle.

During the masterclasses, which welcomed newcomers and experienced traditional players alike, Claire taught tunes including 'The Little Diamond', 'The Mother and Child reel' and 'The Dusty Miller'. She then used these tunes to demonstrate instrumental techniques, stylistic interpretation and ornamentation.

On the Sunday evening, Claire wowed a packed audience at the Philip Christian Centre by performing on all three instruments (in turn!), with guitar and bouzouki accompaniment by Malcolm Stitt. Her performance included sets from her album, *Secret Orders*, which was recorded with partner Aaron Jones in 2005. Support was provided by the Joughin family group Staa, who performed beautiful songs and arrangements of Manx music on harp, viola and guitar.

www.clairemann.com

SESSIONS: WEDS 9pm Trad session (all musics welcome) O'Donnells, Douglas
THURS 9pm Singing in The Brit, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Tynwald Inn, St. Johns, **FRI 9pm** Irish in The Mitre, Ramsey
Last FRI of month 8.30pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
SAT 10pm Manx session at The White House, Peel

IOM Ceilidh Band in Tullamore

Congratulations to the IOM Ceilidh Band for having represented the Island so well in the All Ireland Ceili Band Competition at the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Tullamore last month. These pictures come from Wendy Hurst and Bob Fennell who had to get a special license to take them!

The IOM Ceilidh Band took part in the competitions in the Church of Assumption - a huge church which was absolutely packed out, making it was impossible to get any close-ups!



There were sixteen bands entered, and the IOM played next to last and got a very good reception. Afterwards loads of people said how good they were - including Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, who added that he was very pleased to see the Isle of Man entering the competitions for the first time in the long history of the Fleadh. The Taoiseach is pictured here with Russell Cowin and Beccy Hurst.

With any luck they'll be back again in 2009.

David Kilgallon was even persuaded to perform the men's solo jig at the Overseas Reception at the Tullamore Court Hotel on the Saturday night. The band had been asked to play at the concert - note the special t-shirts for the occasion - designed by John Ryan and Adam Rhodes!

The band was supported this year by the IOM Arts Council.



Transcription of the Month ~ see www.manxheritagemusic.org for more printable pieces of Manx music

This lively jig was penned by whistle player Cinzia Curtis, who is currently studying for her PhD in ethnomusicology at the University of Cardiff. The tune is named after the part of Cardiff where she lives.

The Road to Canton

by Cinzia Curtis
2008

If you have any songs or tunes which are copyright free or which you have composed yourself and would be happy to share with KMJ readers, then please send them (in any format – written down or as recorded audio) to Breesha at the address at the end of the newsletter.

CALENDAR



September

12th Cheese & Wine evening with entertainment from Caarjyn Coidjagh at St Mary's on the Harbour, Castletown, 7.30pm, tickets £8 on the door.

13th Bree youth music session at Greens, Douglas, 3-4.30pm

14th S'keel at the Manx Radio Manx Life Exhibition, Royal Hall, Villa Marina, Douglas, 1pm

17th Caarjyn Coidjagh at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin, 8pm

October

25th & 26th (or 1st & 2nd November) Bree Youth Music Weekend at Douglas Youth Centre, Kensington Road, Douglas – details tbc

FOR SALE – RY-CHRECK

Low whistle in good condition (from the description it's probably a Howard) £30 ono
Bodhran with case (no make) as new £30

Phone Verity 843357 after 6pm

manx heritage foundation undynys eiraght vannin

For info on Manx music & dance contact:

Breesha Maddrell: mhfmusic@mhf.org.im

Chloë Woolley: manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im

See: www.manxheritage.org or
www.manxheritagemusic.org

Call: 01624 695159

or write to: Centre for Manx Studies,
6 Kingswood Grove, Douglas,
Isle of Man, IM1 3LX