



## Scots Musician Impressed by Manx Talent



Last weekend [25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August] another successful Manx Traditional Summer School took place at the Philip Christian Centre in Peel. This year, the Manx Heritage Foundation brought over multi-talented instrumentalist Marc Duff from Scotland to present master classes on whistle, bodhrán, bouzouki and recorder to adult players. Marc was a founder member of Capercaillie until the mid 1990s and is now in great demand as a session musician, teacher and researcher.

The master classes were well attended by local musicians looking for tips on performance techniques and ornamentation as well as the opportunity to learn some new tunes. The series began with a 'harmonic inducing' whistle session on Saturday morning and was followed by bodhrán in the afternoon. The Sunday morning bouzouki workshop possibly broke a new Manx record with 4 bouzoukis all in one room, 50% of which were left-handed! And there was even a guitarist convert who may have been persuaded to introduce the instrument to Maccie V! The recorder workshop featured local players who normally perform Early and Baroque styles, but were introduced to a new style of Celtic playing and repertoire by Marc.

recorder and a light-hearted guitar/bouzouki

duet of Manx favourite, 'Smuggler's Lullaby'!

On the Sunday evening, Marc performed in a special concert with guitar accompaniment by Malcolm Stitt. Local band 'Sheear' began the evening with a blend of old and new Manx tunes, Swedish and Irish melodies and Gaelic song. Marc then wowed the audience with virtuosic performances on whistle and

Marc has recently completed a year as the Falkirk Musician in Residence where he was commissioned to research and collate traditional songs and tunes associated with the region. He hopes that the material will be reintroduced to the local people through new educational resources and publications. He was therefore very interested to learn about developments here in the Isle of Man such as the Manx Music Database [[www.manxheritagemusic.org](http://www.manxheritagemusic.org)] and educational resources produced for the schools.

Although it was a brief visit, Marc got to meet many Manx musicians and learn about the Island's musical culture. He commented on the wealth of talent amongst the local musicians and was delighted to return home with a selection of Manx tunes learnt at the Whitehouse session! An interview with Geraldine Jamieson will feature on Manx Radio in the near future.



**SESSIONS: TUES, 9pm Irish in The Rover's Return, Douglas,**  
**THURS. 9pm Singing in The Mitre, Ramsey,**  
**FRI, 8pm Tynwald Inn, St. John's, FRI, 9pm Irish in The Mitre, Ramsey,**  
**SAT, 9pm The White House, Peel**

# Rink

## Bock Yuan Fannee and Manx Folk Dance Society Visit to Norway

From Saturday 4th to Saturday 11th August 2007, 13 members of Bock Yuan Fannee and 12 members of the Manx Folk Dance Society paid a return visit to Gjesdalringen Folk Dance Group, based near Stavanger in the Rogaland district of Norway.

The groups performed in Kings Park, an amusement park, in Solaasheimen' Old People Home, at the Market Square in the centre of Stavanger, near the Harbour and at a Concert in Veveriet Hall, in Elgerd, where there were performances by the Manx guests, another local dance group *Bjerkreimringen*, the Gjesdalringen musicians, Gjesdalringen dancers, the Manx musicians, the Manx Singers (members of Bock Yuan Fannee) and a 'super band' of Norwegian and Manx Musicians!.

The Manx visitors had the chance to look around King's Park and to try some of the rides, they visited a beach near Orre for the brave ones to have a swim in the North Sea, after which a barbecue was held in a club house nearby, they visited the IVAR water treatment plant in Elgerd and were their guests for Lunch, they were the guests of Stavanger Council for a visit to the Maritime Museum in Stavanger with an English speaking Guide and after being treated to an excellent lunch at the Victoria Hotel, they were taken on a guided walk, in the rain, in the streets of the old part of Stavanger with its many wooden houses,



In the evenings there was a get together party in the Gjesdalringen leader's home, everybody gathered at another host's house for communal dancing outside, and on yet another evening they went to a host's farm about 60 km south of Stavanger, with views of the coast and sea. That evening saw a wonderful sunset and rainbow over the glowing rocks in the area.

One day a coach collected the Manx Dancers and their hosts to catch the Ferry from Stavanger for a trip up the Lysefjord to Lysebotn. This journey took 4 hours and once the coach had disembarked the ferry, a tortuous ride, rising 1000 metres, through a tunnel and round 28 hairpin bends took them for lunch at Xygardsstxl, the Eagle's Nest restaurant 'hanging' in the mountain. From there they continued over the hill tops to visit a candle factory and shop, as well as stopping to admire some of the fabulous views, before returning home in the early evening..

Then there was a day of challenges! with a walking (climbing) trip to the 'Pulpit Rock' overlooking the Lysefjord, one of the most famous mountain attractions in Norway, 600 metres above the fjord. After a packed lunch on the rock looking almost straight down at the fjord below, the Manx guests sang Ellan Vannin - much to the delight of the many other visitors to the Pulpit, who applauded their efforts. The few people, not able to walk for 4 hours in the mountains, went to a glass factory and shop, a summer cabin and to see Viking Rock Carvings. The last day was a free day and although some went shopping, others did some sight-seeing, a few visiting a Viking Village and the Hafrsfjord Swords Monument, near Stavanger.



Following the Concert on the final night, after a supper of (peel your own) shrimps with bread, salad and cakes, the rest of the evening was spent dancing both Manx and Norwegian Dances. Gjesdalringen were thanked for their hospitality and given gifts from the Manx Folk Dance Society and Bock Yuan Fannee, including a Three Legs of Man Clock.

On Saturday morning the Manx Folk Dance Society members flew home, while the members of Bock Yuan Fannee spent another free day with their hosts before some left that evening and the rest left the following morning for the Isle of Man.

A wonderful time was had by all and all enjoyed the experience of dancing together and sharing dances - both Norwegian and Manx!

# Manx Music Summer Season a Success

July and August 2007 saw the second and even more successful Isle of Man Arts Council Manx Music Summer Season. Organised in collaboration between the musicians themselves and the Isle of Man Arts Council, the concerts are every Thursday evening in the Colonnade Room, Villa Marina, Douglas and feature two or three bands every week.

This year the musicians and the AC met together to iron out some of the wrinkles discovered in 2006, and the new changes made the series even better. With full PA on hand and a sound man to boot, the concerts were an opportunity for bands to play a reasonable length spot with good sound

in a relaxed and intimate venue. The AC did their bit by substantially upping the anti with regard to advertising and this was reflected in the substantial audiences each week – averaging at roughly 60 each time. The majority of the audience members were visitors to the Island and enjoyed an opportunity to experience Manx traditional culture in a friendly and relaxed setting. It was lovely to see people popping in and settling down with a pint and the paper to listen to some good quality music.

The season also provides an opportunity for the groups to work together and plan their own evening. While the PA and venue are organised by the AC, it is up to the performers to decide who plays when and where and how long for and also to MC the event. This community feel to the events even resulted in bands swapping musicians!

The eight week series was a resounding success both for the audience and performers alike and we look forward to the Manx Music Summer Season 2008

## Library of Congress – An Exchange of Culture

This week, two employees from the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress visited the Isle of Man with the aim of learning about Manx music and locating resources to take back to Washington D.C. for their archives. Jennifer Cutting is an ethnomusicologist and composer who works as a reference specialist at the Center and Stephen Winick is a folklorist and journalist who writes and edits their quarterly publication. The couple explained that up until now they only had one Manx recording in their sound archive; a programme recorded by John Kaneen for Manx Radio in 1975 (though Big John can't actually recall sending it to them!) They were very keen to resolve this matter and take back as many recordings of Manx music as possible. After an exchange of CDs and publications, Jennifer and Stephen spoke at length with the Centre for Manx Studies and the Manx Heritage Foundation about promoting Manx music in the US and advised on setting up an accessible sound archive here in the Isle of Man.



Stephen also writes for a major US folk magazine called *Dirty Linen* and he plans to feature the Isle of Man in future publications. At an impromptu Manx music session on Wednesday night at the Central Pub in Peel, local musicians were invited to bring along

their own CDs, both for storage at the Library of Congress and to potentially feature in individual reviews and an article on Manx music in *Dirty Linen*. A good crowd turned out to meet Jennifer and Stephen and the session proved to be a fantastic night.



Jennifer is an award winning composer and musician, well known within the electro-folk genre. Information on her CD, *Ocean: Songs for the Night Sea Journey* recorded with Jennifer Cutting's Ocean Orchestra is available through her website: [www.jennifercutting.com](http://www.jennifercutting.com).

The couple had a thoroughly enjoyable stay in the Isle of Man and went back home with an impression of a healthy and unique musical culture. They hope to return to the Island in the future and promise to spread the word about Manx music throughout the United States.

For more information on the Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, see [www.loc.gov/folklife](http://www.loc.gov/folklife)

## Old Manx Tune

[Dorian Mode]

Loose sheet with  
single melody  
in J.F. Gill Collection  
MNHL MS 09702

Coll. by  
Dr. J. Clague



*Copied more than forty years ago from  
the singing of Mrs Clague, Ballanorris,  
by Clague*

# CALENDAR - SEPT 2007

### Afro Celtic Concert

**2 September, 8pm, Peel Centenary Centre. Original Afro Celtic band Baka Byond in concert. £15. [www.centenarycentre.com](http://www.centenarycentre.com)**

### Vin Garbutt in Concert

**7 September, 8pm, Peel Centenary Centre. Concert with BBCRadio2 folk award winner Vin Garbutt, with support by Katie Lawrence and friends. £15. [www.centenarycentre.com](http://www.centenarycentre.com)**

### Manx Organic Network Barbecue

**15 September, 4:30pm, Ballabrooie, Patrick. With entertainment by Manx band Skeal.**

### Caarjyn Coidjagh Concert

**19 September, 7:30pm, St Catherine's Church, Port Erin. Manx Gaelic Choir.**

### Bree

**22 September, 4:30pm, Java Lounge Café, Douglas. Monthly Youth session.**

### Manx Music @ The Bay

**28 September 8pm, The Bay Hotel, Port Erin. With Skeal and Pobble.**

## Manx in Brittany

Earlier in August Chloe Woolley and I, Cinzia, were invited by the organisers to attend the Festival Interceltique in Lorient, Brittany in lieu of any Manx representation for 2007. Representing both the Manx Heritage Foundation, Yn Chruinnaght and Manx musicians and dancers as a whole it was hoped that the visit would reforge the links between the festival and the Isle of Man. With an attendance of over 650,000 people the festival is one of the biggest of its kind and centres on spectacular piping events.

The festival organisers were dismayed that the Isle of Man was no longer represented, and in a meeting with the new Asturian Director of the festival, Lisardo Lombardier, we were assured that the organisers felt that the festival could not be a truly interceltic festival without the Isle of Man and that they would do their best to represent us in our absence, and looked forward to having full representation for 2008.

As well as a delegate from the folk community to ensure representation of musicians, dancers and the language, Lisardo is also planning to travel to the Isle of Man to meet with the Department of Tourism and Leisure, the Isle of Man Arts Council, the Manx Heritage Foundation and the Sayle Gallery to ensure all elements of Manx culture are represented fully and in the best possible light.

The festival is a wonderful opportunity for musicians and dancers to demonstrate their talents and also to gain recognition on an international stage, not to mention upping their CD sales substantially! Although the Isle of Man is not best known for its pipers there are plenty of opportunities within the festival for bands, singers and dancers alike. It is also a unique opportunity to promote Manx culture and the environment as a whole. As visitors to a Celtic festival the majority of those passing by the numerous information stands around the festival site would already have some interest in the Isle of Man and its culture and this would prove a perfect opportunity to remind them just how wonderful it is and advertise transport links and accommodation. With the potential for the promotion of Manx foods and beers, arts, language, recreational facilities and scenery the sky really is the limit. As it is related to the other large festivals, for 2008 at least, Yn Chruinnaght will act as the delegate to start the ball rolling and arrange representation both musically and otherwise.



# Manx Music Downloads to your Mobile!

Manx Telecom has been in discussion with the Manx Heritage Foundation to develop more products that can be downloaded to phones on the Isle of Man on the next generation handsets that receive broadband signals four times faster than home computer modems. Music, video and pictures can be downloaded incredibly quickly, and Manx Telecom have already signed a deal to allow a huge range of international artists to be downloaded, but they want some Manx content there as well.

The idea is for Manx music bands to make the tracks from their albums available to be downloaded from this site. The tracks would be purchased under terms to be agreed, but currently they are sold at £1 a track, though this is shared out between the telecoms provider and the band. A draft contract has been drawn up by MT for discussion.

Five local rock bands have already agreed to participate in this and it is hoped that the folk musicians will also show an interest.

If you'd like to be considered for this, then please contact Chloe Woolley for further details ([manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im](mailto:manxmusicspecialist@mhf.org.im)).

Manx Telecom's download website can be viewed at: <http://www.moda.im/eup/home>

## ...and its goodbye from me!

*Well, I'm sorry to say that this will be my last Newsletter as Manx Music Resource Coordinator. I do feel that I should be good enough at IT now to include here a scrolling montage of soft focus photos of the past four years, but alas, I'm not that good so you'll just have to imagine it. It seems strange to think that from being asked to list all of the Manx sources I ended up not only creating a database that was considerably larger and more complicated (not to mention costly!) than any of us had dreamed but also creating a position to promote Manx music and dance that is now so well respected and required that it will continue in my absence. The creation of the position of Manx Music Development Officer and the interest shown in the position is the greatest achievement of my time here.*

*I've had a wonderful few years and I will be very sad to go (if I make it through today without blubbing it will be a miracle). The opportunities I've had have been like no other. With all the events and workshops and concerts and festivals I have made innumerable friends and worked with some of the greatest traditional musicians around. I've been given the opportunity to 'make it so' as Jean-Luc would say and create events for musicians and dancers that they really wanted. Manx music and dance are wonderful things and to be given the opportunity to work with it day in day out, see it all, learn so much about it and still want to go home and play it is something for which I will always be eternally grateful. So thank you everyone for making the last four years so much fun, for supporting the work that we've been doing (even some of the more hair brained ideas) and for generally being good pals. I hope the Manx Music Development Officer will have as much fun as I have and I wish them the best of luck.*

*But don't panic, you're not getting rid of me entirely. I am going to hang around in London for a while (although have already got myself representing Manx music and culture at a number of events during my 'time off') and then will be embarking on a PhD in Ethnomusicology. For this I will be looking at all the early manuscripts of Manx music (early 1800s) that my work on the database gave me access to and such an interest in. So I'll be back regularly to spend even more time beavering away in the Manx Museum Library and speaking to people. Not to mention having to come back for gigs with Sheear and the ever popular Veih'n Chree! So although I may not be here everyday, I'm still working on getting Manx music and dance known all over the world and making sure Manx performers get the respect they deserve.*

*Hee'm shiu ooilley*

**Cinzia**



**manx heritage foundation**  
**undinys eiraght vannin**

For more information on Manx music and dance contact:

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See: [www.manxheritage.com](http://www.manxheritage.com) or  
[www.manxheritagemusic.org](http://www.manxheritagemusic.org)  
Call: 01624 695159  
or write to: Centre for Manx Studies, 6 Kingswood Grove,  
Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3LX

## Call for Manx Music in Oz!

The Station Librarian (as well as a Presenter) at 100.7 Highlands FM, a Community Radio Station (Not For Profit) based in Central Victoria Australia wants to gather as many Celtic CDs for a new program (as well as running/rotating those numbers on generic programs too) and wants to include Manx material. If you would like to donate a CD to be played alongside their other Celtic/Gaelic material please contact: Tony Bates, Station Librarian, 100.7 Highlands FM C/- 29 Franklin Street, MALDON, Victoria 3463, Australia

[www.highlandsfm.org.au](http://www.highlandsfm.org.au)