



# TRADITIONAL MUSIC WORKSHOPS: REPORT

A full week of workshops proved enlightening and often gruelling for Manx adult musicians. The first week of its kind, the Manx Heritage Foundation decided that it was high time that Manx adult musicians got a bit of attention, and so organised for professional musicians Maire Breatnach and Cormac de Barra to visit the Island. In conjunction with newly resident guitarist, Malcolm Stitt, a week of workshops ensued including fiddle, voice, harp, guitar, stage craft, arranging and sound technology for musicians.

As ever, venues were not as simple as they could have been and, although advertised as all taking place at the Department of Education Music Centre on Lord Street, the first workshop for fiddle players was moved at the last minute to the recently vacated Arts Council Office in the Villa Marina arcade. With around a dozen fiddle players taking part Maire successfully taught the group two hornpipes, two jigs and a reel and used these to demonstrate ornamentation techniques. Tuesday saw a return to the Music Centre, eventually, for a vocal workshop with Maire. After a good session of warm ups the group as a whole were taught a song in Irish Gaelic, before being split up into groups. While some groups sing together in choirs, others were brought together on the day and pieces were prepared with advice by Maire, to perform to the assembled masses at the end of the workshop.



Wednesday saw the arrival of Cormac de Barra, harp player, and Maire and he conducted the third workshop on performance skills and stagecraft, covering subjects such as lighting issues, speaking on stage, how to take applause, set lists and how to hide lyrics on your instruments! A surgery was then held with assembled groups and solo performers on their current techniques and ideas given on seating orders, eye contact and how to take a proper bow.

That evening saw an opportunity for musicians to see all this put into practice with a fabulous

concert at the Peel Centenary Centre. Malcolm Stitt opened with a rare solo performance with guest appearances from Adam Rhodes and Matt Kelly. It was amazing to see the guitar used as a melody instrument,

particularly when giving renewed life to old favourites such as 'Smugglers Lullaby'. Cormac and Maire then performed as a duo with an hour long set of music and Gaelic song described by one listener as 'like musical silk.' The evening closed with Malcolm, Adam and Matt invited once again to the stage and all five performers playing a well known set of Irish tunes.

Thursday morning gave two lucky harpers an opportunity for an intimate harp master-class and Thursday afternoon saw a quiet if fruitful arranging workshop run by Maire and Cormac together. Beginning with a slow four part Irish tune, unlike most Manx tunes, the need for aural skills in traditional music was highlighted. The visitors were then challenged with arranging Manx tune 'Jem as Nancy' and the group as whole composed a B tune and experimented with call and response and textural variations. Sadly Cormac and Maire said farewell to the Isle of Man after being given an opportunity to see Manx music and dance performances in action at the Villa Marina.



On Friday came Malcolm Stitt's turn to reveal some of the secrets of his guitar skills. A mirror may have been useful to allow right handed players to work see his nifty left handed finger work, but the tired and perplexed faces of those taking part as they left showed that it has been an informative and fruitful afternoon with many discussions on types of 'A' chord being heard as they departed. Saturday was the final day of the week's workshops. With the typical venue problems yet again making themselves known, it was evident that the weather had put off many musicians. However, the small numbers spent an informative and useful afternoon going through stage plans, problem frequencies, how to set up a simple PA and microphone pick up patterns. The end of the afternoon was then spent with a question and answer session on all aspects of PA.

The Manx Heritage Foundation hopes to make this a regular event. If you have any feedback or thoughts please do not hesitate to contact us.

# Kirsty & Katie: CD Launch

Tuesday 28 August saw a fantastic evening of music and recitation at the Peel Centenary Centre. Sisters Kirsty and Katie Lawrence organised the event to launch their new album **Tree Baatyn Beggey**. Sadly, the CDs did not arrive in time due to a mix up with the printing. However, this small blip didn't detract from a wonderful evening of music and recitation. Kirsty and Katie opened the evening with pieces from their upcoming album. Best known for their whistle and fiddle skills respectively, it was wonderful to see Kirsty putting more emphasis on the 'cello and Katie regularly swapping to piano. With guest appearances from Malcolm Stitt on guitar, Russell Cowin on Bodhran, Adam Rhodes on Fiddle and of course Al Lawrence on Guitar it was amazing the variety that the duo achieved.



The evening then continued with a moving dialect recitation from the girls' 'Uncle Laurence' Kermode and finished with a rousing performance from the well loved duo Mike and Al. Mike had travelled to the Island specially for the event and the hall was filled with fans of the duo. With a mixture of well known folk ballads and Manx National Songbook favourites the pair moved seamlessly between delicate and moving ballads to the slightly more risqué and tongue in cheek.

For more details on Kirsty and Katie's album and how to order your copy please contact us at [mhfmusic@mhf.org.im](mailto:mhfmusic@mhf.org.im).

## CALENDAR - SEPT 2006

### GIENSE Y FOUYIR - AUTUMN FAIR

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2- 5pm

Thie ny Gaelgey, Old School, St. Judes

Organised by YN CHESHAGHT GHAILCKAGH

Performances by Cliogaree Twoaie and Bock

Yuan Fannee

Afternoon Tea, Entertainment, Produce, Stalls,

Raffle, Bouncy Castle

Cum seose y Ghaelg



## Rink

Once again there is not much to report on Manx dance at the moment – so get writing.

I will be travelling to Cornwall this weekend to give a paper on the Manx dance revival at conference titled '21<sup>st</sup> Century Celts'. The paper will be on the attitude of modern scholars to the Manx dance revival and whether or not these attitudes are founded in fact. Other papers at the conference will include a paper given by Breesha Maddrell and 'Troyl and Tribulations' but Merv Davey on the Cornish Dance revival. See next month's Kiaull Manninagh Jiu for a full review.

## BULLETIN BOARD

This section is an opportunity for you to post notes, requests, information, questions etc. to the rest of the music/dance community.

### Guitar Lessons

Greg Joughin is offering guitar lessons in Peel. £15 for half an hour, Saturdays and Wednesday. Call 843318 for details.

## Arrane Son Mannin

Sponsored by the Manx Heritage Foundation and with a prize of £200 the Song for Mann competition will be held at this year's **Cooish** festival in November 2006. The prize-winning group will go to the **Pan-Celtic Festival** from 10 – 14 April in **Letterkenny, Donegal** to perform the song in the International Song Competition on Thursday 12 April.

To enter your song must be in Manx Gaelic with instrumental accompaniment. It can be rock, pop, folk, traditional – any type, as long as it's in Manx. Both lyrics and tune must be a new composition in 2006 and not performed previously in public competition in the Isle of Man. Live group performance of three to eight persons with no previously recorded music or effect is required, although the composer does not also have to be a performer.

The song will be judged 30% on the lyrics, 30% on the music and 40% on the presentation. The winning group will undertake to perform at the Pan-Celtic and a proportion of travelling and accommodation expenses will be paid up to a set maximum.

If you have a good song but don't speak Manx email Adrian Cain at [greinneyder@mhf.org.im](mailto:greinneyder@mhf.org.im) for help to find a translator. More information is available from Fiona McArdle on 454120 or [fmc Ardle@manx.net](mailto:fmc Ardle@manx.net). Entry forms must be in Friday 29 September and complete lyrics and music by the end of October.

**SESSIONS: TUES, 9PM IRISH IN TRAFF, DOUGLAS,  
FRI, 8PM TYNWALD INN, ST. JOHN'S, FRI, 9PM IRISH IN THE MITRE, RAMSEY,  
SAT, 9PM THE WHITE HOUSE, PEEL. SUN. 3PM CLINCH'S, DOUGLAS.**

# King Chiallee to Play in America - Eventually!

Manx boy-band King Chiallee are now, fingers crossed, set to travel to America to play at the Chicago Celtic Festival and Bethlehem Celtic Classic. According to previous attendees the Manx contingent at the Chicago festival has previously fitted into a small family tent, so this is a definitely a good sign for Manx music. However, with the political climate as it has been the lads have found it incredibly difficult to obtain visas to gain entry to the country. Although they are not technically working the visa is the same and, if all has gone well, the lads will be in London as this is being written going through the interview process. So fingers crossed for them.

They also hope to have their new album 'Nish' in time for the trip away and plan to launch it on the Island some time in October. For those of you who noticed their absence during most of Yn Chruinnaght festival week this was because they had travelled to Devon to record their third album (a record for a Manx group?). With some glimpses of tracks on the album at various performances this album looks to be even better than the last. Best of luck with it all lads!



## Summer Season Comes to a Close

Thursday evening (31 August) saw the final Isle of Man Arts Council summer season of Manx music and dance. In place of one of the three weekly brass band concerts, between the performing groups and the Arts Council a full programme of Manx performances was arranged for the Colonnade room of the Villa Marina, starting each Thursday at 8pm. Although the first few were relocated to the larger Promenade room, and others had to battle with the sound of the cabaret, the events were an overall success.

Old favourites such as Mactullagh Vannin, Phynnodderee and King Chiallee were a common feature, but the events gave a platform for new young groups, such as the Ramsey Grammar School Folk Group and QEII High school based group Reeling Stones. Dance groups Manx Folk Dance Society, Bock Yuan Fannee Ny Fennee and Perree Bane also performed and Manx Folk Dance Society even brought along their Swedish visitors to perform. Other performers over the summer included Moot, the Mollag Band, Skeeal, Clogaree Twoaie, Staa and Caarjyn Coojdjagh. The Thursday evening that fell in Yn Chruinnaght week was hijacked by the committee and saw performances from Dawnsywyr Sir Conwy and Dawnsywyr Delyn (Wales), Kirsty and Katie and Manx trad. rock band Shenn Scoill.

Although it was agreed that in future it would be useful to have a full PA set up in situ each week, the season was an overall success. Audiences were varied depending on other events, but included both locals and visitors alike and with more publicity the season could become an integral part of the Manx cultural calendar. The performances were all of a high standard and gave the groups an opportunity to come together and to play in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. A meeting will be held to discuss the event for next year.

## Carval Corner Church Crawl Success

*Singers from across the British Isles travelled to the Isle of Man last weekend for the launch of Francis Roads' new book of Manx West Gallery Music, 'Ye Boundless Realms' and three parish church crawl For a full report see next month's Kiaull Manninagh Jiu.*



manx heritage foundation  
undinys eiraght vannin

For more information on Manx music and dance contact:

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See: www.manxheritage.com or  
www.manxheritagemusic.org  
01624 673074  
Call:  
or write to: Centre for Manx Studies, 6 Kingswood Grove,  
Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3LX.

## BREE - a Manx feis

As part of the continuing Manx Heritage Foundation's music policy a course for young people enthusiastic about Manx music, dance and language will be run later this year. Working on the same basis as the Scottish 'feis' system a short two day course will be held at the end of this October offering tuition for secondary school pupils in melody and accompanying instruments, song, dance, Manx and group playing. The Manx version will be called Bree, meaning vitality.

As part of this project Cinzia Curtis and Chloe Woolley recently attended a short course for Feis tutors in teaching methods and child protection and met with many of the feis organisers to discuss Bree and its structure. Full details of Bree will be published in next month's Kiaull Manninagh Jiu.



# Arrane son Mannin – Song for Mann 2006

## Ferrym Entreil – Competition Entry Form

Shaightin 27 Jerrey Fouyir – Week of 27 November 2006  
Purt ny hInshey – Peel

**LEEDEILAGH/ CONTACT**

**ENNYM/ NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ENMYS/ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**POSSAN/GROUP** \_\_\_\_\_

(ENNYM/NAME)

**ENNYM YN ARRANE/  
TITLE OF SONG** \_\_\_\_\_

**FOCKLEYN LIORISH/  
WORDS BY** \_\_\_\_\_

**KIAULL LIORISH/  
MUSIC BY** \_\_\_\_\_

Cur-jee coip hym, Fiona McArdle, jeh ny fockleyn ayns Gaelg as ayns Baarle, as coip jeh'n chiaull neesht, roish 31 Jerrey Fouyir, my sailliu.

*Please send a copy of the lyrics in Manx, with an English translation, and a copy of the music to me, Fiona McArdle, by 31<sup>st</sup> October.*

Ta mee/ shin ayns cordailys dy vel ny fockleyn as kiaull crooit dy noa as bunneydagh as ta mee/ shin soiaghey jeh reillyn yn cho-hirrey.

*I/we agree that the music and lyrics are newly composed and original and accept the rules of the competition.*

**Ennym/signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

My enmys/ my address: Cooil Beg, Douglas Road, KIRK MICHAEL IM61AR  
Post L/ E-mail: fmcardle@manx.net Chell./ Tel.: 454120

Ferrym Entreil roish 29 Mean Fouyir/ Entry Form by 29<sup>th</sup> September