

KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

Mee ny Nollick 2024 December

MANX MUSIC TODAY

Calling all budding song writers and musicians!

Entries are now open for the Arrane son Mannin competition

Winners will go to the Pan-Celtic Festival in Ireland in April to represent the Isle of Man.

Songs must be written in Manx but translation assistance is available.

Deadline for entries is 20th December and song lyrics and music should be submitted by 5th January.

The Arrane son Mannin competition will take place at 7.30pm on Saturday 18th January 2025 in Peel Masonic Hall.

Scan the QR code or click the link for the entry forms and more information.

ARRANE SON MANNIN

COMPETITION FOR AN ORIGINAL SONG IN MANX

18 JANUARY / JERREY-GEUREE 2025

WINNER TO BE ENTERED INTO THE PAN CELTIC FESTIVAL IN CARLOW, IRELAND 22ND- 26TH APRIL 2025



CUR STIAGH ROISH:
20 MEE NY NOLICK 2024



ENTRY DEADLINE:
20TH DECEMBER 2024

Halley ny Masoonee, Purt ny h-Inshey | Dorryssyn 7pm | Entreilys nastea
Masonic Hall, Peel | Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start | Free Entry

<https://tinyurl.com/4x9vr8zh>

In this month's edition...

- Lorient 2025 seeking two young Manx trad musicians!
- NEW BOOK RELEASE - A Band for All Seasons
- Hunt the Wren - song lyrics for dancing

Culture VANNIN

FINAL CHANCE TO NOMINATE THE NEXT RBV RECIPIENT

Winners of the RBV, the Isle of Man's highest award for contributions to Manx culture, from 2008 to 2024



Pictured here are: Adrian Corkhill RBV, Fiona McArdle RBV, Nigel Crowe RBV, Peter Kelly RBV, Stephen Miller RBV, John Kaneen RBV, Phil Kelly RBV, The Michael Players RBV, John Kennaugh RBV & Bernard Caine RBV [not pictured, as it was awarded posthumously], William Cain RBV, Clare Kilgallon RBV, Robert Corteen Carswell RBV, the Manx Folk Dance Society RBV, Dr Fenella Bazin RBV, Joan Cain RBV, Robert Farrer RBV, and Dr Brian Stowell RBV.

Much of the cultural landscape of the Isle of Man as we know it today come to us thanks to the work of these people, in fields such as history, music, architecture, folklore, language, theatre, nature, dance, archaeology and more.

But who will be the winner for 2025?

... Well, that depends on YOU, and who you nominate for the judges to choose from!

<https://tinyurl.com/2syd7cmk>

Nollick Ghennal as Blein Vie Noa – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year **Manx music and dance at Christmas**

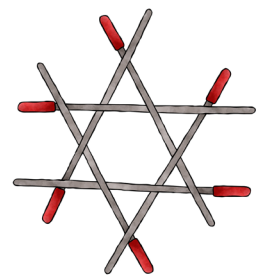
'At Christmas play and make good cheer, For Christmas comes but once a year.'

In the Isle of Man, a key element of Christmas in past-times was taking a break from routine. This holiday from the usual hard and relentless routine was called the 'Foolish Fortnight' or in Manx Gaelic, 'Yn Kegeesh Ommidjagh', and this began on the shortest day, Black Thomas' Eve (now 21st December) and ended on Twelfth Night (6th January or Old Christmas Day).

Much like today, 'Foolish Fortnight' was a time of socialising and revelry. Very little work was done; the time instead spent singing, dancing, eating, drinking, dancing, sports, games and visiting. Fiddlers were hired during Christmas to play for dancing and their fee was known as 'Yn Unnysup' – a word thought to be linked to Wanderer's cup or Wandescop and which features in several tune titles. And before carol-singing from house to house became part of Christmas, there was the 'Mollag Band' – a motley crew of men dressed in disguise who took to the streets singing loudly, banging drums and generally making a nuisance of themselves until they were paid to go away! The 'mollag' was the inflated sheep's bladder which was fastened to the end of a stick and used to threaten those who wouldn't pay!

White Boys Play

A tradition associated with Christmas in the Isle of Man and elsewhere in the British Isles was the the White Boys mummers' play. Referring to local topics and current affairs, the folk drama features St. George who fights various opponents who are then brought back to life by the Doctor! Usually performed by men, the characters were dressed in white dresses decorated with ribbons, beads and tinsel and high hats decorated with evergreens. The performance also included the White Boys Carol and the impressive White Boys Dance where blunt-edged swords were interlinked into a 6 pointed star performed to the tune, "Creg Willy Syl".



Ny Guillyn Baney

WATCH IT THIS YEAR: www.manxmusic.com/whatson/events/event_880783.html

Carvals at the Oie'l Verrey



Carval

Another tradition peculiar to the Isle of Man was the singing of Carvals on the Oie'l Verrey (Eve of the Feast of Mary or Christmas Eve). When the evening service was over and the vicar had gone home, the Parish Clerk and congregation stayed in the church to perform or listen to carvals (carols) in Manx Gaelic. These carvals rarely referred to the nativity, but instead to matters of Christian duty, judgment, salvation, redemption, the joys of heaven and the terrors of hell! They were usually performed unaccompanied by a male singer and the duration was determined either by the length of time taken to walk and sing from the back of church to the altar, or the length of time a lit taper lasted until the flame went out. Some carvals were 320 verses long! Friendly rivalry was part of the evening as the congregation would shout encouragement at the end of each verse, or the women would fling parched peas at their bachelor

friends! Afterwards, all retired to nearest tavern for hot spiced ale and they ended the evening in the small hours by singing 'Arrane Oie Vie' – the Goodnight song or Parting Song.

A.W. Moore published a collection of carval text manuscripts in Carvalyn Ghailckagh (1891) and many of the melodies were taken down by Dr Clague and the Gill Brothers in the 1890s. e.g. "Carval ny Drogh Vraane".

Christmas Day

Early on Christmas morning, fiddlers called on households to wake everyone up to receive their gifts!

Hunt the Wren – Shelg yn Drean

Another music and dance tradition that has been continuous in the Isle of Man is Hunt the Wren or Shelg yn Drean which is performed on St. Stephen's Day. In the past, people would beat the bushes to catch a wren and kill it, before parading the bird in a bush decorated with evergreens and ribbon. The traditional circle dance is performed around the bush to a lively song. Similar to the legends found in surrounding islands, one story behind the tradition is that a wren betrayed St. Stephen by alerting Roman soldiers to the bush where he was hiding. Another tells of a beautiful siren who lured Manx men into the sea to their deaths. When one attempted to catch her, she turned into a wren and escaped, so each year since, men and boys tried to catch the bird. A feather from a hunted-down wren was considered very lucky as it gave protection against shipwrecks and witchcraft. Hunt the Wren revellry must be finished by midday, when it then customary to gather on Tynwald Fairfield for the annual cammag match between the North and South; a dangerous stick and ball game similar to hurling and shinty!



Shelg yn Drean

JOIN IN WITH HUNT THE WREN:

https://www.manxmusic.com/whatson/events/event_880755.html

HUNT THE WREN SONG, MUSIC & DANCE:

There's a new version of the lyrics at the back of KMJ this month which could be used for dancing! And lots of online resources here to help!

SONG: www.manxmusic.com/learn/songs/hunt-the-wren/

MUSIC: www.manxmusic.com/learn/tunes/hunt-the-wren/

DANCE: www.manxmusic.com/learn/dances/hunt-the-wren/

The party is over!

Twelfth Night marked the end of Kegeesh Ommidjagh (foolish fortnight), and this was known as Laa Giense, a feast day when young people were paired off. Just in time for back to work!

Enjoy a mix of Manx Christmas music on this playlist:

<https://soundcloud.com/culture-vannin/sets/manx-christmas>

Calling Young Traditional Folk Musicians!

The Festival Interceltique de Lorient is excited to announce the return of our Interceltic Music Project for 2025! After the success of the project in 2024, featuring talented musicians Owen Williams and Mera Royle, the festival are eager to bring together fresh talent to celebrate Celtic culture through music.

The festival are looking for two musicians between 18-24 years old to join the project:

- One male musician
- One female musician

These selected musicians will be part of a collaborative music project, working alongside other young musicians from across the Celtic nations. Over the course of two weeks (from 27th July to 10th August 2025), you'll practice and perform together twice a day during the festival!



Festival Delegate for the Isle

of Man, Grainney Sheard said: "The aim of the residency has been to promote collaborative creativity between the interceltic nations. The two [2024] groups have been working so hard together to create beautiful music which celebrates the interconnectivity of the Celtic nations."

Mera Royle said: "I've really enjoyed my time of making music this week, and it has been a brilliant opportunity to learn about the different styles and rhythms in the Celtic nations. My favourite part has been all the people we've met and making good pals."

Owen Williams said: "It's been a great week of really hard work, but really worthwhile results. Even though we didn't know each other as a band prior to the project, we all became good pals very quickly - we have lots in common but also lots of interesting differences in our music which has been a very fun challenge."

What's involved:

- Two groups will be formed, each practicing together and performing throughout the festival.
- A chance to showcase your skills to an international audience.
- A chance to cultivate connection with peers from other Celtic nations.
- All travel, accommodation, food and a performer fee will be provided by the festival.



The deadline to submit your application is Friday 20th December in order that the festival can make their selections in January 2025, so don't miss out!

How to Apply: Please send proposals to the Isle of Man Delegate email:

mannin@festival-interceltique.bzh with your musical background, experience, and any relevant audio/video materials of you performing.

For more details about the festival, visit

<https://www.festival-interceltique.bzh>

We can't wait to hear from you and to see the next generation of Manx musicians shine on the big stage!



ISLE OF MAN NEWSPAPERS AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE 2024

MOYLLEY AS SOYLLEY!

Congratulations to composer & musician David Kilgallon representing **Hello Little People** in partnership with **Manx Wildlife Trust** who won the category of *Nurturing our Arts, Culture and Heritage*.

Scran, the youth band mentored by David, were also finalists in the same category and they provided the pre-awards entertainment for guests at the Sefton Hotel, Douglas.

<https://afe.im/2024-winners/>



SCOTTISH & MANX SONG & MUSIC AT COOISH 2024

Last month Culture Vannin organised a series of Scottish song and music workshops with visiting singer Joy Dunlop and guitarist/fiddle player Ron Jappy during the Cooish Manx Language Festival (6th – 9th November).

Joy collaborated with Manx Gaelic choir Un Chorraa to perform in a concert organised by Yn Chruinnaght in the Centenary Centre in Peel (8th Nov), and she also visited schools and led singing & language workshops alongside Ruth Keggin.



Meanwhile, Ron worked with young band Scran, then led tune workshops for adult instrumentalists and Bree students, and taught guitar accompaniment skills to adult players in Thie dy Vea in Peel.

All events were very well received.



READ ARTICLE:

1,700 people take part in annual Cooish Manx language festival

<https://tinyurl.com/376y969v>

The festival featured 27 different events across four days earlier this month...

www.joydunlop.com

<http://ronjappy.com>

<https://www.ruthkeggin.com>

PTO for more photos >>



Joy Dunlop collaborated with Manx choir Un Chorraa in a concert organised by Yn Chruinnaght. Culture Vannin organised music workshops with Ron Jappy for adults and children. [Photos: Val Caine & Chloe W]



Young Manx Instrumentalist competition

Many of the winners of the Young Instrumentalist Competition [Peel Centenary Centre, 17th November] organised by Mannin Music performed Manx or Celtic music, which obviously impressed adjudicator, Sarah Watts!

Pictured top clockwise are:

Willow Kelly Brown - Most Promising (intermediate); Amelie Kerruish - Best String Player - plucked (intermediate); Sophie Wood - Most Promising (juniors); River Kelly Brown - Best String Player - bowed (intermediate); Cara Rowles - Best String Player (juniors) & Frank Joughin - Manx Young Instrumentalist (senior).

JEANT DY MIE! WELL DONE!

Other winners:

www.facebook.com/share/p/1B8tpe6Mio/

YOUNG SINGER OF MANN

- + JUNIORS (7-12 YEARS)
- + SENIORS (13-18 YEARS)
- + PRIZES £150 / £100 / £50

ERIN ARTS CENTRE
SAT 25TH - SUN 26TH
JANUARY 2025

APPLICATIONS OPEN IN SEPTEMBER 2024

CALL 835858 OR EMAIL HELLO@ERINARTSCENTRE.COM FOR MORE INFO



The background of the poster is a photograph of a stage performance. In the center, a woman in a red sequined dress stands at a microphone. Behind her, a band in red uniforms plays brass instruments. To the right, a woman plays a harp and a man plays a keyboard. The stage is lit with blue and white lights, and there are snowflake decorations.

Manannan's Winterfest



No 7

A Magical Manx Christmas!

MUSIC & SONG FROM
ALEXANDRA SLATER
DOT TILBURY
DOUGLAS TOWN BAND
GENA'S DANCE ACADEMY
SCRAN
SING UP
THE DEEMSTERS
ZOE CANNELL

YOUNG SINGERS OF MANN:
ORRY WILSON
AALISH KILGALLON

SHEFFIELD PLATE WINNER:
BREESHA KELSEY

AND FEATURING
DOT TILBURY
DAVID KILGALLON &
MANANNAN'S HOUSE BAND

12th & 13th
DECEMBER 2024
GAIETY THEATRE

photo by DK Photography Ltd
* artists shown performed in the 2021/22 shows



**Culture
VANNIN**

CALL: 600555 | VILLAGAIETY.COM

**THE
FYNODEREE**
DISTILLERY

SHENNAGHYS JIU

MANX CELTIC FESTIVAL

ACOUSTIC NIGHT

Featuring:

NY CLARSEYRYN TWOAIE

MARK LAWRENCE

FRANK JOUGHIN & FRASER McKENNA

SUE COYLE & MARY MOLLOY

SEMI SKIMMEES

**FRIDAY 29th
NOVEMBER**

**7.00 -
ADMISSION FREE**

**THE MITRE HOTEL,
RAMSEY**



Market Stalls from 12 noon
Peel Clothworkers Community Choir
Mulled wine
Santa's sleigh
Skeddan Jiarg
Crosby Silver Band
Peel Carnival Princess
Gobbag Groove
Cathedral Choir
Peel Pantaloons

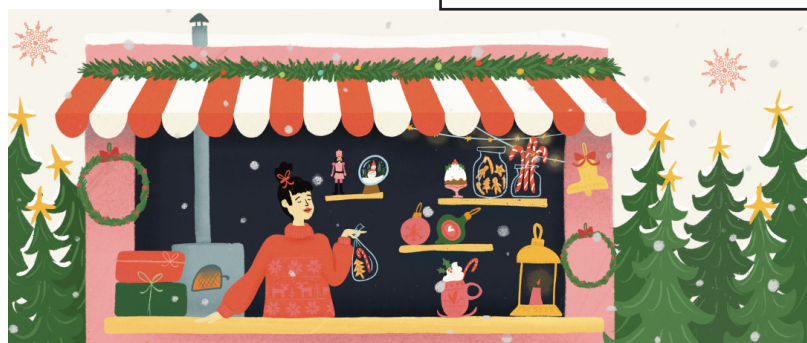
Saturday 25th November

Live music and
dancing from
2:30pm.
Santa arrives
3pm.
Switch on at
4:15pm.



Bree will be busking at Tynwald Mills late night shopping on Tuesday 10th December. Come along to support the kids or join in with some songs and tunes!

All proceeds will go to Isle Listen



BUNSCOILL GHAELGAGH

YN MARGEY NOLICK

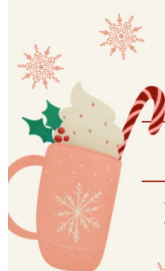
MEE NY
NOLICK

06

18:00-20:00

TAR GYS Y VARGEY

BEE, JOUGH, KIAULL, DAUNSE, SHAPPAL.



Caarjyn Cooidjagh Choir performances

30 November

Caarjyn @ Taste of Christmas
St James's Church Dalby
7.30pm (SOLD OUT)

7 December

Caarjyn carols at Tynwald Mills
2pm In aid of Motor Neurone
Disease

8 December

Caarjyn at Kirk Christ Malew
Carol service 2.30pm

CLIOGAREE TWOAIE
will be singing Carols
ayns Gaelg...
Ramsey
Saturday 14 Decembar
Meet at Tesco
1.45pm

COOL YULE TWO
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
LUNATRAKTORS ° CLASH VOOR ° TIME FLIES
TICKETS £12
CELTIC GOLD etickets.im/cc OMA RAMSEY
Peel Friday
Centenary December
Centre 27th, 7:30pm

Oie'll Verree

AN OLD MANX CHRISTMAS



arbory parish hall, ballabeg
sat 4 jan 7.30pm
music, songs, supper, raffle and fun!
Tickets £10



Order your tickets now
mooinjerveggy.org.im/pop-up-shapp,
admin@mooinjerveggy.org.im



SHENNAGHYS JIU PRESENTS...

OIE'LL VERREE

FYN BAR, RAMSEY

An Evening of Manx Music

FRI 3RD
JANUARY

19.00-23.00



Scan the QR code for Tickets
Price - £20 which includes:
Artisan buffet platter
Arrival drink



www.shennaghysjiu.com | @Shennaghysjiu

Music session to finish - don't forget to
bring along your instruments

THE
FYNODEREE
DISTILLERY



ARRANE

SON MANNIN

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20 MEE NY NOLICK 2024



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Halley ny Mascoonee, Purt ny h-Inshey | Dorryssyn 7pm | Entrellys nastee
Masonic Hall, Peel | Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start | Free Entry

kiaul1 noa

CROTEAU

JUNKY-EP



CROTEAU JUNKY-EP

NEW YORK CITY JUNK

"A sick junky has no escape from external time,
no place to go. He can only wait" - Burroughs

PIGS

"The creatures outside looked from pig to man,
and from man to pig... already it was impossible
to say which was which" - Orwell

RICH & FAMOUS/MFTF

"What they upbraid the bourgeoisie with is not so much that it creates a
proletariat, as that it creates a revolutionary proletariat" - Marx

ULTERIOR

"We were wreathed in spirals of dark blue smoke
bursting with crimson flashes" - Crowley

SAY THE WORD

"I had been damned by the rainbow. Happiness was my fatality,
my remorse, my worm: my life would always be too
vast to be devoted to strength and beauty" - Rimbaud

RECORDED & PRODUCED BY PHIL REYNOLDS

JENNI SMITH - EXTRA VOCALS (ON PIGS)



COVER DESIGN - JAKE

THIS EP HAS BEEN
BLESSSED BY
JESUS H. CHRIST

ALI ALISTAIR - GUITAR, VOCALS

JAKE NEWTON - BASS, VOCALS, GUITAR

DAVEY DOYLE - DRUMS, GLOCKENSPIEL,
TAMBOURINE, EXTRA VOCALS, "TOY RUN"



Young Manx punk band & winners of the Battle of the Bands IOM 2024, **Croteau** have released their first EP! Listen on Bandcamp: <https://croteau.bandcamp.com/>
Or on Youtube: https://youtu.be/ilqX3KAFVkw?si=vPkyHx5T39iS_XW

Spotify Manx Music Playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4FuL5heugMH5ua8zzxxQIM?si=81fbdb6a8724e34>

The DESC Manx Folk Awards syllabus will be out soon with an overall theme of 'farming & the Manx countryside'.

In the meantime, save the dates...

Thursday 20th - Tuesday 24th
March 2025 (exc. Saturday)
St Johns & Douglas

Manx Music Festival /
Guild 2025 syllabus is
now available

in various places inc.

Culture Vannin

<https://www.manxmusicfestival.org/>

Youtube corner

A medley of 'Wren' tunes from
the Celtic nations performed by Dick
Glasgow from County Antrim,
including the Manx dance tune:

<https://youtu.be/U6Qxqinizcg>



Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



**GOOD LUCK TO MANX/
SCOTTISH BANDS MEC LIR,
HEISK AND FIDDLE PLAYER
TOM CALLISTER IN MG ALB NA
TRADS ON SATURDAY NIGHT!!**

TUNE IN LIVE:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0025pzy>
BBC ALBA - Na Trads, 2024, 30/11/2024

Celtic Connections 2025

The line up has been released for Scotland's top winter music festival, Celtic Connections in Glasgow.

Mec Lir, TRIP and Imar (all with Manx links) are on the bill, as are Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe and Daniel Quayle.

The duo will be performing at The National Piping Centre on January 25th at 7:30pm. They are being supported by Danny Kyle Stage Winners (2024), Eleanor Dunsdon & Gregor Black!

www.celticconnections.com

Elizabeth & Daniel are also booked to appear at Shetland Folk Festival on the 1st-4th of May (alongside Mec Lir) and Between the Trees in Wales on the 23rd of August!

Kevin Kelly from the USA has been in touch to tell KMJ that his chamber singers will be performing Manx songs "Arrane ny Ferrishyn" and "Tra va ruggit Creest" in their Yuletide programme, along with songs from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Cornwall.

Spinning Wheel are a Celtic band from Austria, led by Bernhart and Danika Ruso. They have recorded a lovely version of Manx song Ushag Veg Ruy - Little Red Bird, and they give special thanks to Annie Kissack, the 5th Manx bard, for her helpful pronunciation guide. Listen here: <https://tinyurl.com/37z7dr87>

Ushag Veg Ruy with Annie's pronunciation guide:
<https://tinyurl.com/yc5fty65>





The Manx Dancers of Brisbane recently performed at the Brisbane Celtic Festival, where they met up with the Queensland Manx Society. The dance group have been booked to perform for the Society in December, and are planning an afternoon of Manx dancing next year.

Well done to Dr Heather Blasdale Clarke and members of 'Australian Historical Dance' for promoting Manx dance in Australia!

Manx dances included Yellow Flowers by Lowenna Joughin & Return the Blow.

www.facebook.com/AustralianHistoricalDance



RESEARCH NEWS

An article for *The Manx Independent* (Thursday 14th November 2024) written by Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music Development Officer at Culture Vannin. <https://tinyurl.com/2n2wcjer>

Arrane Oie Vie - the Manx traditional good night song

“Arrane Oie Vie” or The Goodnight Song is the Isle of Man’s traditional parting song – equivalent to “Auld Lang Syne” or “The Parting Glass” from Scotland and Ireland. Sung with a final ‘Jough-y-dorrys’ (drink of the door) in hand, it is still considered the proper way to draw to a close a good Manx gathering: “T’eh tra a goll thie as goll dy lhie” – It’s time to go home and go to bed.

Particularly fitting for this time of year, when social gatherings still bring friends together around a roaring log fire, the song captures the essence of the darkening night and the fading glow of the “chiollagh” — the hearth’s warm light slowly turning to black.

The song is often mentioned in descriptions of the traditional Oie’ll Verree.

The Oie’ll Verree on Christmas Eve would follow a regular church service in the chapel, once the vicar had gone home. Freed from formalities, solo singers would take turns to perform long Manx Gaelic carvals by candlelight in the aisles. This could continue for hours, and often grew lively as the bored young people would throw peas at each other! After this, the revellers headed to the local tavern, where they would sip ale spiced with pepper. The evening would finally end with a rendition of “Arrane Oie Vie”, sung in Manx.

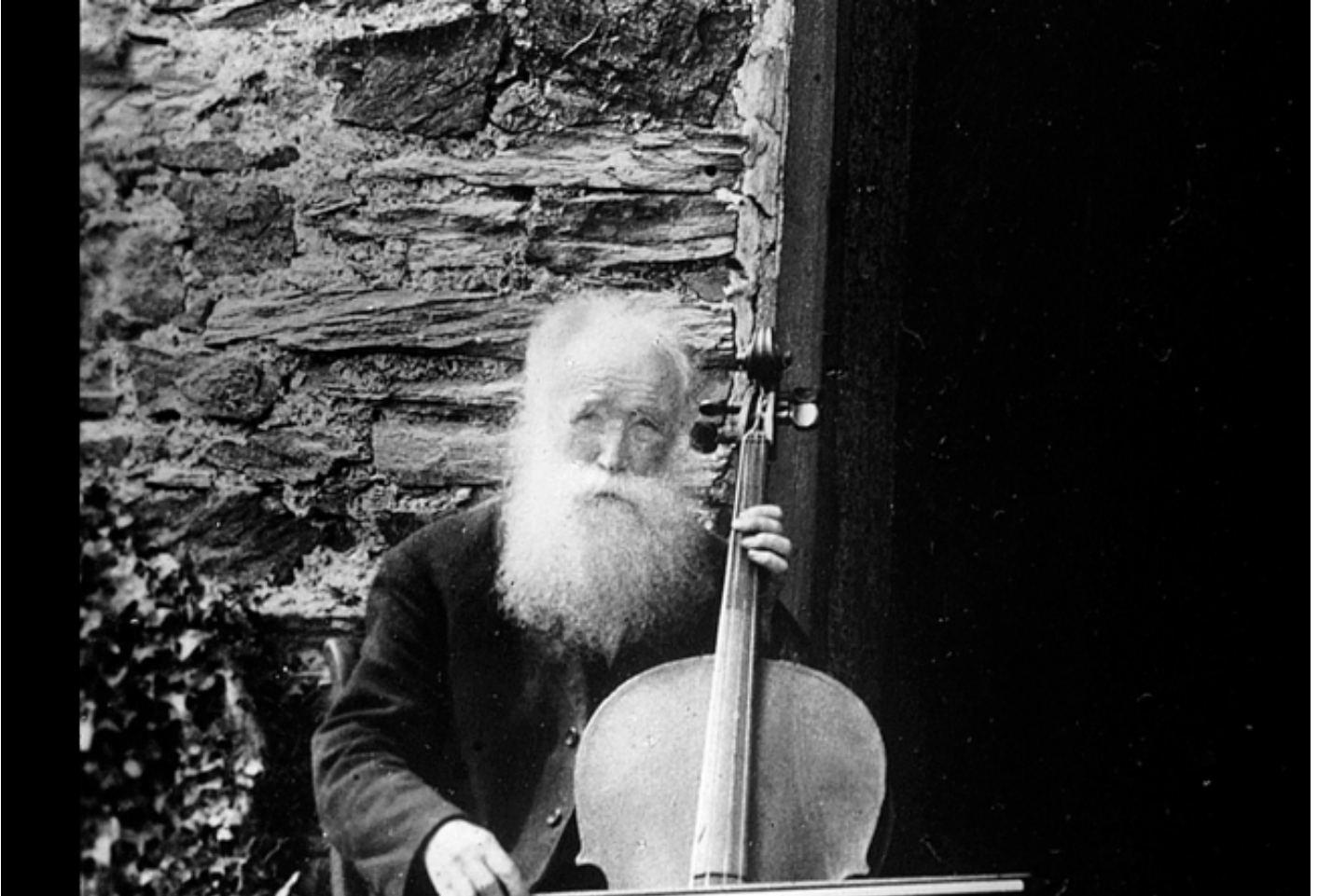
“Time to go home and go to bed,
The chair under me urges me to go.
We must make a move.
‘Tis drawing to time for bed.
Darkness has come, we must go home;
Black grows the hearth’s warm light;
That is our sign to go to rest.
It’s almost time to say, ‘good night.’”

Maughold inventor, explorer and poet, William Kennish describes the scene in his poem of 1844; “The Manx Ilvary”:

“After the parting verse was sung,
And jough y dorrys drank,
And the large Christmas candle had
Within the socket sank,
They of the host of Brumish Veg
Then took a parting leave,
And thus the merry rustics all
Closed that auspicious eve.”

Kennish's poem also reveals that the young men would then walk the young women home, where they might be invited in to stay the night by the fireside, in close contact, as the parents slept above!

Known Island-wide, "Arrane Oie Vie" was also collected from Edward Corteen from Glen Mona in Maughold, Margaret Cowley from The Rheast in Bride, and Thomas Taggart from Grenaby. Tom Taggart was well known for playing the cello, referred to as 'The Fiddle' or 'Himself', with which he led the hymns in Kerrowkeill Chapel on the slopes of South Barrule.



It has been recorded prolifically over the years too, by The Lhon Dhoo and Lhon Vane choirs in the 1950s, then Manx language champion Brian Stowell, singer Emma Christian, electro-acoustic band Moot, and young band The Reeling Stones. More recently, American musician Carol Walker produced a version for mountain dulcimer, and it features on albums by Ruth Keggin and Rachel Hair, Kate Dowman and Mec Lir, who are currently in the running for 'Live Act of the Year' in the Scots Trad Music Awards!

You can learn "Arrane Oie Vie" from Manx Gaelic singer Phil Gawne, who has produced a video tutorial for Culture Vannin:

www.manxmusic.com/learn/songs/arrane-oie-vie/

Photo credit: Tom Taggart with his 'fiddle', Grenaby, Isle of Man c. 1900
iMuseum PGN 02138 Manx National Heritage

NEW BOOK BY MAURICE POWELL

A BAND FOR ALL SEASONS

The Story of Ramsey Town Band



Maurice Powell

The story of Ramsey Town Band is the story of countless brass bands all over Britain, replete with the ups and downs, and trials and tribulations familiar to those associated with the brass band world. The origins of the band can be traced back to the 1840s when the brass band movement as we know it today was just getting into its stride. There would be many changes of fortune and conductors, a constant effort to maintain suitable practice facilities, endless battles with the Town Commissioners over the acquisition and maintenance of band instruments and uniforms, the highs and lows associated with brass band competitions, the ability of the band to fulfil its civic engagements ranging from huge Friendly Society Demonstrations, concerts in the park and carols in the town at Christmas, and the endless struggle to attract new young bandsmen and retain older experienced players.

Ramsey Town Band has enjoyed the benefit of retaining two long standing musical directors, from the time of World War I up to the early 1960s, and since 1992 when the present bandmaster, Robert Quane, took up the baton. From the 1980s, when the band

reformed after a twenty-year hiatus, a series of thoroughly committed and energetic committee members have ensured that the band was put onto a sure financial footing and has thus been able to fulfil the time-honoured civic and other obligations demanded

of a band in the 21st century. The Island's brass band movement continues to flourish as one of Manxland's enduring cultural successes, cherished by all those who love the Island, and preserved as a living, breathing and colourful part of Manx musical culture.

A Band for All Seasons is £10.00 available to purchase from the band:

www.facebook.com/RamseyTownBand



BROADCASTERS: On B.B.C. Television children's hour on Monday, Pat Shimmin, singing in Manx, and young violinist Colin Callow.

Catch up on all of the KMJ articles by Stephen Miller RBV here:

<https://chiollaghbooks.com/kmj/>

<< On BBC Television Children's Hour on Monday, Pat Shimmin, singing in Manx, and young violinist, Colin Callow
21st August 1958 *Isle of Man Examiner*

with thanks to Stephen Miller RBV

THE MINORCA CHAPEL BLUE RIBBON ARMY (1883)

(1)

Shadows of coming events are visible on the walls and in the shop windows of Lonan in the shape of numerous announcements of Anniversaries to be held shortly at various dissenting chapels in the district and of an important demonstration, tea-party, and public meeting, in Captain Rowe's warehouse, on behalf of the Minorca chapel Blue Ribbon Army and other advocates of teetotalism.

(2)

The members and friends of the Minorca Chapel Blue Ribbon Army, falsely called "The Gospel Temperance Mission," held a public demonstration on Saturday evening last, and headed by "Happy Jim," and the Laxey Brass Band walked in procession up the glen and along the New-road to the Queen's Hotel, from thence returning to the mines, up the Ramsey-road, and down Minorca to Capt. Rowe's warehouse, where a substantial teetotal tea was provided; the trays being laudably presided over by the Misses Fargher, A. Fargher, Sayle, Callow, Boyce, Killey, Duggan, Starkey, Armstrong, and Bateman. After tea an adjournment was made to one of the upper rooms, and a miscellaneous concert was given, the opening hymn being "Boston," by the choir. The Rev J. Kewley followed with prayer, after which the Rev T. Dickinson, P.M., who occupied the post of honour, addressed the meeting on the work and prospects of the corps, remarking that though it had only been formed a few months, some 200 persons had already joined it, and he expected good results would follow in due course. The band then gave a selection, after which Mr H. Jane sang "The Pilgrim of Love"; the glee, "See our ranks," was next sung by the choir; and Mr H. Cubbon followed with a speech in that style which is peculiarly his own. The duet, "Come o'er the moonlit sea," was nicely rendered by Misses Bateman and Kewley, as was also the song, "The White Squall," by Mr Sam Orr. A dialogue entitled "That nasty pipe," was next recited by Miss Emms and Messrs Kelly and Fargher, and no wonder if they gave it their "blessings," for a nasty pipe is an abomination but a clean pipe is a very different thing. The nasty pipe should have been washed in the "Crystal Fountain," which was next sung by the choir. After this James the happy made a speech, and was followed by an overture from the band. The remainder of the programme comprised the song "I wonder why he comes not home," sung by Miss Killip; recitation by Mr Robert McCaa; song, "The old sexton," by Mr J.R. Kelly; duet, "The minute gun at sea," by Messrs Orr and Jane; speech by the Rev J. Kewley, P.M.; song, "Little green leaf in our Bible," by Miss Bateman, and finally the National Anthem, by the band.—Owing to the day being "pay-Saturday," the entertainment was well attended, and proved a decided success.

The importance of Methodism cannot be overstated in the Island, nor that twin force of Teetotalism. Here we see Minorca Chapel in Laxey forming its own Temperance body, namely the Blue Ribbon Army, and aided in its effort by the Laxey Brass Band. Music making was an integral part of Manx life in the period and few events passed without it occurring.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

For the newspapers pieces, see (1) "[Laxey] Shadows of coming" *Manx Sun* 2 June 1883: 4d; (2) "[Laxey] Teetotalism." *Manx Sun* 9 June 1883: 4e.

"ROSE TO THE OCCASION AND LED THE CONGREGATIONAL SINGING" (1952)

When the electricity supply failed on Sunday morning and the lights went out in the Waterloo Road Church the organ, dependent on an electric blower, also faded out. The officiating minister (Rev. W.S. Baker) rose to the occasion and led the congregational singing and thereafter raised the tunes of all the remaining hymns, one of which included the words:

Let your lamps be bright
And trim the golden flame.

Basing his sermon on the single-word text "Preaching," the occasion being Local Preachers' Sunday, the reverend gentleman said there were 4,650 ministers in the Methodist Church, and 22,500 lay preachers. In that circuit of 25 places of worship he was grateful for the services given willingly and sacrificially by the local preachers though he was often at his wits' end to find 25 preachers on Sunday. There were only two whole-time ministers who could not be everywhere. They stood in need of the services of more local preachers in the circuit and, indeed, throughout Methodism.

"Often at His Wits' End. Supt. Minister's Problem—Filling Pulpits." *Ramsey Courier* 8 February 1952: 4g.

It was the Rev. W.S. Baker who "rose to the occasion and led the congregational singing" by raising the tunes of the hymns to be sung due to the failure of the organ. This was a return to the common practice in church and chapel before the advent of the harmonium and the organ.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV



A conversation with **Cristl Jerry** about her central involvement in some of the most important moments in Manx music, language & politics over the past four decades.

Learning Manx at a time when fights could start in a pub for speaking it, the meeting at Mona Douglas' house that started Yn Chruinnaght, guiding the start of the Manx music scene as we know it today through the Kiaull yn Theay books and the Central session, running first official visit of the Manx to Festival Interceltique de Lorient (and the subsequent 20 years!), campaigning on topics like the Chronicles of Mann or military presence in the Isle of Man through Mec Vannin and the Celtic League, and so much more.

Spread across three interviews, these three hours of conversation offer an insight into one of the most important periods of Manx cultural history, from someone centrally involved in so much of it.

Listen here & see more photos:

<https://tinyurl.com/uhbupde6>



The Jerry family, 1976

A promotional photograph for the Manx at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient in 1976.

Kate, Colin, Patrick, Cristl and Bridget Jerry, in their back garden, in a photograph taken by Ian Coulson.

Cavalcade of Music

by Harry Wood

transcribed and annotated

by Maurice Powell

1893

The magnificent new **Grand Opera House** at the **Palace** was opened on July 8th 1893 for the season.¹

The programme (artistes) included:

Tiller's Little Champions, Rainbow Troupe, Little Troubadours and Little Forget-me-Nots'; Miss Bessie (Betsy?) Cohen. Miss Maggie Rimmer who sang *Mama's Babee*, and the famous Tiller Troupe in a screamingly funny farcical and picturesque sketch entitled: *The Fancy Dress Ball*, a Romantic, elegant and humorous sketch *An Elopement*, and *Fun on the Sands*, or *Strange Ways in Douglas*.

During this season, and for several others, these artistes appeared at the Opera House: ²

Wilkie Bard sang and *That's where she sits all day* and *Put me on the Island where the girls are few*; *Sticky Backs*; ³. *O, O, Capital O*; *She Sells Sea Shells*; *I want to be in Opera*; *Hurrah for the Rolling Seas*.

Miss Vesta Victoria sang *Daddy Wouldn't Buy Me a Bow-Wow*; *Waiting at the Church* and *Poor John*.

Gertie Gitana sang *Nellie Dean*.

Ernest Shand sang *What Would the Congregation say?*

George Formby (Sr) sang *John Willie, Come On*.

Derby Castle

Early this season, in 1893, Mr David Day, a founder of the firm Francis, Day & Hunter, publishers of songs for variety artistes particularly, brought Mr Tom Barrett, who uses the *nom-de-plume* 'Leslie Stuart', to Douglas on a visit. ⁴ Mr Day asked the manager of the Derby Castle and myself to supper in order to meet Mr Barrett, who had brought four new songs of his which were in manuscript. Each of these songs proved immensely popular. They were: *The Soldiers of the Queen*, now (1938) known as *The Soldiers of the King*; *Sweetheart May*; *The Willow Pattern* and I believe *Little Dolly Daydream*. I asked Mr Barrett if he would allow me to put the chorus of *The Soldiers of the Queen* in the fifth figure (section) of my *Lancers* which I had arranged for this season, and he very kindly allowed me to do so.

The next season Miss Vesta Tilley sang (Leslie Stuart's) *Sweetheart May* and *By the Sea Waves*.

In the fifth figure of the lancers I arrange for each season I put all the popular choruses sung each week, and this helps to make them more popular. If possible I try to get two choruses which will go together. This year I was fortunate in finding that the choruses of *The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo*⁶ went well with the chorus of *The Seventh Royal Fusiliers*. We (later) had the good fortune to find that the was songs *Tipperary* and *Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kitbag* did the same.

This year the Blue Hungarian Band came to the Derby Castle. The popular tunes they played were the march *Fene Leany Spanyol Indule* (the leader kindly wrote out the parts for me which are now in my library), ⁷ and the valse *Carlotta* (from the operetta *Gasparone*) by (Carl) Millöcker.

Dance Music at the Palace and Derby Castle:

Valse: *Christmas Roses* (*Roses de Noël*, op. 230) by Waldteufel; *Santiago Waltz* by (A.) Corbin; *Katie Connor* arr, W. Williams; *Happy Thoughts* by (Edwin H.) Prout; Epigram by (Josef) Gung'l; *Carnavals Botschafter* (op. 270) by Johann Strauss (II); *Love's Old Sweet Song* by J.L. Molloy (an unidentified arrangement of the famous parlour song); *El Suspiro* by Robert Fells (?); *In the Moonlight* by Edward de Jong.⁸

Polka: *Farfadet* by (Philipp) Fahrbach; *La Piquante* by (H.) Elliot (Lath).

Schottische: 'appy 'amstead (Barn Dance) by George Le Brunn.

Lancers: (themes from) *HMS Pinafore* by Arthur Sullivan (arr. Harry Wood?); *Derby Castle Lancers* by Harry Wood.

Concert programme played at the Palace and Derby Castle:

Overture *Mignon* by A (mbrosie) Thomas.

Selection from *La Fille de Regiment* by Donizetti.

Cornet solo: *I'll Sing Thee Songs of Araby* (and *Tales of Fair Kashmir*) by (Frederick) Clay.

Piccolo solo *Les Echos de Bois* by (Eugene) Demaré. (Soloist probably Daniel Wood.)

Serenade *Salome* by W. Lorraine (?)

Dance *Bambula* by Urich (?)

Pizzicato from Delibe's Ballet *Sylvia*.

Suite *Peer Gynt* by Grieg.

Notes

1. The old opera house still stands as the Palace Cinema. As a variety theatre it soon proved to be too small for the huge numbers of people crowding into the shows, and was superseded by the Palace Coliseum, which was opened by Vesta Tilley on 21st July 1913.

2. Harry Wood's chronology is misleading. Vesta Victoria first appeared in Douglas in 1897, Wilkie Bard in 1901 and Gertie Gitana in 1911.

3. See *A Forgotten Isle of Man Song*, Maurice Powell, manxmusic.com.
4. See *Leslie Stuart on the Isle of Man*, Maurice Powell, manxmusic.com.
5. Vesta Tilley did not appear in Douglas in 1894 but returned in 1895 and appeared at the Falcon Cliff Pavilion.
6. Said to have been inspired by the exploits of Charles Wells, written by Fred Gilbert and published in 1891, this fine music hall song was popularised by Charles Coborn.
7. It has not been possible to identify this march. Harry Wood's music library, maintained for years by Harry and his sister Adeline at their house at number 1 Osborne Terrace, Douglas, consisted of several thousand pieces of music, band and orchestral parts, and several valuable musical instruments, disappeared sometime in 1939 and no trace of it has been found since.
8. Edward de Jong was a Dutch-born flute and piccolo virtuoso, composer and conductor of the Saturday Popular Concerts in Manchester's Free Trade Hall, who engaged Harry Wood as 'first violin' at the Derby Castle from May-September 1888. He may also have given Harry Wood's younger brother Daniel flute lessons during the summer seasons in Douglas.

20 YEARS AT CULTURE VANNIN

A conversation with Dr Chloë Woolley on the 20th anniversary of her starting her job at Culture Vannin working to support Manx music and dance in the community.

Oral history interview & photos here:

<https://culturevannin.im/watchlisten/oralhistory/chloe-woolley-879278/>

Also, read about Chloë's childhood growing up in a cottage with no electricity or running water!

www.facebook.com/share/p/18DcPCUQjv/

Meanwhile, little sister Maeve Woolley [now Delph] is pictured below acting as the fiddler in Ny Fennee's performance of Mylecharane's March at Yn Chruinnaght in Ramsey (1990s).



TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Hunt the Wren

A suggested version of the words to accompany the dance. Adapted from various traditional Manx sources and modern performances. Other variations are possible and are encouraged.

1. We'll hunt the wren, says Robin the Bobbin,
We'll hunt the wren, says Richard the Robin,
We'll hunt the wren, says Jack of the Land,
We'll hunt the wren, says everyone.

*Where, oh, where, says Robin the Bobbin,
Where, oh, where, says Richard the Robin,
Where, oh, where, says Jack of the Land,
Where, oh, where, says everyone.*

In yonder green bush, says Robin the Bobbin,
In yonder green bush, says Richard the Robin,
In yonder green bush, says Jack of the Land,
In yonder green bush, says everyone.

2. I see him, I see him, says Robin the Bobbin, etc.
Where, oh, where, says Robin the Bobbin, etc.
How'll we get him down, says Robin to Bobbin, etc.

3. With sticks and stones, says Robin to Bobbin, etc.
Where, oh, where, says Robin the Bobbin, etc.
How'll we get him eat? says Robin the Bobbin, etc.

4. With knives and forks, says Robin the Bobbin, etc.
Where, oh, where, says Robin the Bobbin, etc.
Who'll dine at dinner? says Robin the Bobbin, etc.

5. The King and the Queen, says Robin the Bobbin, etc.
Where, oh, where, says Robin the Bobbin, etc.
He's e't, he's e't, says Robin to Bobbin, etc.

6. The eyes for the blind, says Robin the Bobbin,
The legs for the lame, says Richard the Robin,
The pluck for the poor, says Jack of the Land,
The bones for the dogs, says everyone.

Where, oh, where, says Robin the Bobbin, etc.

The wren, the wren, the king of all birds,
Was caught, St. Stephen's Day, in the furze,
Although he is little, his family's great,
We pray you, good dame, to give us a treat.

Full list of Transcriptions of the Month!
www.manxmusic.com/learn/tunes/kmj-transcriptions---manx-songs-and-tunes/

kiavull manninagh jiu 12/24 culture vannin

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

29 Shennaghys Jiu Acoustic Night, Mitre Hotel, Ramsey, 7pm, free

30 November Caarjyn @ Taste of Christmas St James's Church Dalby 7.30pm (SOLD OUT)

30 St Andrew's Day Gala Ball, Ramsey Park Hotel, 6.30pm

30 Peel Christmas Lights Switch On with Manx dancing from Skeddan Jiarg at 2.30pm

DECEMBER

6 Yn Margey Nolluck, Bunscoill Ghaelagh, St Johns 6pm

7 December Caarjyn carols at Tynwald Mills 2pm In aid of Motor Neurone Disease

8 December Caarjyn at Kirk Christ Malew Carol service 2.30pm

10 Bree busking at Tynwald Mills, 5.30pm

12-13 Manannan's Winterfest, www.villagaiety.com

14 Cliogaree Twoaie carol singing, Ramsey Tesco, 1.45pm

21 White Boys – various venues all day

22 December Clash Vooar at Black Dog 7pm

26 Hunt the Wren – Island-wide!

27 Cool Yule Two, Clash Vooar Lunatraktors and Time Flies, Centenary Centre, Peel, 7.30pm

£12 <https://www.etickets.im/cc/>

JANUARY 2025

3 Shennaghys Jiu presents Oie'll Verree, Fyn Bar Ramsey 7pm

4 Oie'll Verrey, Arbory Parish Hall, 7.30pm, £10

18 Arrane song Mannin, Peel Masonic, 7.30pm, free

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

www.manxmusic.com & keep in touch at

www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance

~ SESSIONS ~

MON 8pm Trad session at The George Hotel, Castletown

TUES 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas

WED 8.30pm Trad Session at O'Donnell's, Douglas

THURS 8pm Singing session at R.A.O.B. (Buffs) Club, Ramsey

FRI 8.30pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey

Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary

Each **SUN** 12.30-4 Trad session:

1st Sunday of Month Laxey Sailing Club

2nd Sunday – Douglas Venue

3rd Sunday – Blackdog Oven, Peel

4th Sunday Woodbourne Pub, Douglas – Slow session 4pm – 6pm

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

~ SESSIONS ~

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Written and edited by Chloë Woolley for Culture Vannin

The Editor welcomes submissions but reserves the right to edit for style and space

PRESS: please feel free to pick up articles without named authors to spread the word about Manx culture

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