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Luanistyn 2021 August

MANX MUSIC TODAY

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Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering 2021

Celtic culture fans enjoyed a warm welcome, glorious weather and an amazing array of music, dance, poetry, language, arts and local produce at the 44th Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering last week (19th – 25th July). Organisers of the Isle of Man's oldest Celtic festival were kept on their toes though, as covid-related challenges were thrown their way on a daily basis and tweaks had to be made to the programme.

Supported by RL360, Noa Markethall in Douglas provided the base for five lunchtime sessions, where the Celtic countries were all represented by local musicians, such as in the Irish session https://fb.watch/73EPyRa3v0/ and this Welsh session featuring visiting fiddle player, Sel Edwards: https://fb.watch/73DiF9LE-A/

Sunset Lakes was also a stunning venue for a lunchtime concert of popular folk songs with Juan and Jo Callister, plus an outdoor ceili and music workshop for toddlers from Mini Musicians. Meanwhile, Manx harpist Mera Royle visited some Island primary schools to perform for students. For this year's lan O'Leary Lecture, Joan Cowell gave a fascinating talk about the 70 year history of the Manx Folk Dance Society, including the development of the costumes and highlights from their international exchanges. Afterwards, Joan and audience members were treated to a surprise birthday cake!

Another landmark this year was the 30th birthday of The Mollag Band, whose first album, *Songs from a Broken Land* was released in 1991. After a set from young musicians from Scran and a first half of Mollag Band favourites, the band were presented with a cake with their first album cover on, but also to a surprise performance of their song, "Mr Mole" by a group of young singers and musicians who dressed up as the band members and called themselves the Mini-Mollags!



In this month's edition...

- Photos from Tynwald Day dance displays
- Mylecharaine the tune and song... and dance!
- Mec Lir are back together in person!



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Friday night's concert with Christine Collister and friends was also stunning, and fans who were not able to be there in person could instead tune in via live stream. Christine began with Manx Gaelic song, Sea Invocation: [starts 14'20"] https://fb.watch/73Dl01oNpQ/ and 2nd half:

https://fb.watch/73DpMbnPxn/

On the same evening, dance fans enjoyed a Welsh Twmpath in Peel Masonic Hall with Jamie Smith, Sel Edwards and Frank Joughin, plus new Manx music from Owen Williams, James McNulty and Sarah James, and a rousing singalong with the Lockdown Lovelies! The theme was 1950s dress, in honour of the Manx Folk Dance Society's 70th anniversary.

Due to unavailability of some of the performers, it was decided that the Saturday night Mega Manx Ceili in the Villa Marina be postponed until 2022, with the committee restaging some of the acts elsewhere. After all that practice, the show had to go on! The top-class Mega Manx Ceili house-band performed outdoors in the Royal Hotel garden instead, and the Manx dance groups were invited to perform at the outdoor venues over the weekend.

Thankfully the sun continued to shine all weekend, and there was a very pleasant afternoon of performances in Peel Cathedral and gardens and an artisan craft fair in the Corrin Hall on the Saturday. Three Gaelic choirs performed; Cliogaree Twoaie, Caarjyn Cooidjagh and Un Choraa, plus dance groups Scoill Daunse Yernagh Irish dancers, the Manx Folk Dance Society and Perree Bane. Although only half of the members





were able to attend, the Manx Fiddle Orchestra gave a polished premiere of three sets of Manx melodies specially arranged by their conductor, Katie Lawrence in Peel Cathedral. Watch a clip: https://fb.watch/73Dvq5wmxf/ There were also performances from Ellan Vannin Pipes & Drums, harpist Mera Royle, guitarist Mark Lawrence, young harpist Resa Brown, and poetry from the Manx Bard, Zoe Cannell and former bard, John Dog Callister. Event Management Solutions and Festival Interceltique de Lorient delegate Sarah Hendy joined forces with ManninBreizh Creperie to stage a 'Taste of Lorient' with stage and seating area for festival goers to watch performers while they tucked into tasty crepes, gallettes and Manx queenies! That same afternoon, down by Peel harbour, Adam Horne and Juan Callister took part in the Peel Traditional Boat Weekend's competition, coming 4th in the race in their self-built SS Yn Chruinnaght!



Sunday saw another relaxed afternoon of music, dance and crafts at Sunset Lakes in Peel. Skeddan Jiarg and Perree Bane gave Manx dance displays, the Ellan Vannin Pipes & Drums played and there was an informal Inter-Celtic tunes workshop.

And that evening in Peel Centenary Centre, the team behind Manannan's Winterfest presented a wonderful variety concert. The house band featured musical director David Kilgallon on fiddle and keys, Jamie Smith on accordian, Malcolm Stitt on bouzouki (and vocals on his self-penned song!), Kirsty Lawrence on cello and Gareth Moore on piano, and during the evening they were joined by guest artists: harpist Mera Royle, singers Aalish Kilgallon, Mae Challis and Mandy Griffin, and Irish concertina player, Mary Molloy, who starred in the closing numbers and encore.

Thornton Associated Chartered Planners kindly sponsored this final festival concert, and you can check it out for yourself here: https://fb.watch/73DAFFg9CU/ and https://fb.watch/73DO_gv25R/

The committee would like to thank Culture Vannin for their support, as well as Digital Group, Shoprite, DESC and the Isle of Man Arts Council.

Follow Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering on Facebook and through

www.ynchruinnaght.com/ or www.celticgathering.im

Next year's dates: 25th - 31st July 2022 with the Mega Manx Ceili rescheduled for 29th July.



Photos - thanks to Jiri Podobsky, Valerie Caine, Jo Callister, Grainne Joughin & Chloe Woolley





Joan Cowell gave a very interesting talk about the history of the MFDS at Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering and it is now available to listen to online:

https://soundcloud.com/culture-vannin/70-years-of-the-manx-folk-dance-society-a-talk-by-joan-cowell

www.culturevannin.im/watchlisten/audioarchive/70-years-of-the-manx-folk-dance-society-a-talk-by-joan-cowell/
Interview with Joan Cowell on Isle of Man TV:

www.islandlife.im/community-pages/manx-folk-dance-society.php





Thanks to Val Caine & Jo Callister for photos











There was plenty of folk dance on Tynwald Day (5 July)!!

GMA Jiri Podobsky

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MANX DANCE GROUPS 2021



Perree Bane at Sunset Lakes, 25th July 2021



Ny Fennee dancing at a member's wedding



Skeddan Jiarg at the Governor's Garden Party, 4th July 2021



The Manx Folk Dance Society on Tynwald Day, 5th July 2021

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

Concert Series 2021

Hartes Ease & The Tallis Consort



Wednesday 11th August St. German's Cathedral, Peel

Free Admission 7.30pm www.cathedralmusic.im







The St German'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





PEEL CATHEDRAL CONCERT SERIES 2021 TALLIS CONSORT AND HARTES EASE

Two early music groups, Tallis Consort and Hartes Ease will once again join forces to present a programme of a capella, instrumental and accompanied vocal music celebrating more than two centuries of music. This will be the first time both groups have performed together in Peel Cathedral's Concert series, although both groups have shared a platform at various Island venues over the years. They are very much looking forward to featuring a wide and varied selection of lovely pieces by composers of at least eight different European countries. There is a piece from the 17th Century so called "New World", thought to be the first ever polyphonic work to be printed in Peru. It is processional hymn to the Virgin Mary in the Quechua language. opportunity to enjoy some of the wide range and variety of beautiful music both sacred and secular of previous centuries.

Wednesday 11th August 7.30pm, followed by refreshments and retiring collection.



Message from the Erin Arts Centre:

We are disappointed to announce that this week's 'Long Weekend' festival at the Erin Arts Centre is postponed until further notice. Initial concerns about the well-being of artists, staff and audience members in a confined, busy space have been compounded by the reality of several of our scheduled performers testing positive for Covid. This situation is changing daily and rather than running a compromised programme to an apprehensive audience, we feel that this is the best decision for all concerned. Apologies to everyone who has bought tickets, helped with the organisation, or prepared a show- we haven't taken this lightly.

Full refunds will be given on all tickets and you will be invited to rebook at a later date. We know a lot of people were excited about this event, but we'd much rather run it when everyone is able to perform and happy to attend. Thank you for your understanding and a big 'get well soon' to everyone affected.



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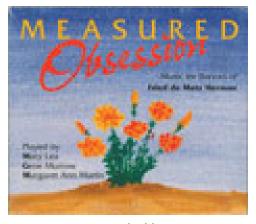
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MYLECHARANE - DANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Mylecharane (1996, Fried de Metz Herman) duple minor longways, waltz time

- A1 6 All R-hand star halfway in 2 waltz steps
 - 6 Move the star one place further in 2 single steps: step-close, step-close (women above, men below)
 - 12 Men R shoulder (clockwise) dance around partner above
- B1 L-shoulder chevron:
 - 1st woman & 2nd man (in 1st corner places) change places L shoulder & turn your back on neighbor along the line
 - 1st woman & 2nd man fall back along the line **while** 1st man & 2nd woman cast R shoulder into neighbor's place (home)
 - Women L shoulder (counterclockwise) dance around partner
- B2 6 2s lead up the center & join both hands
 - 6 2s, keeping hands, set to partner
 - 6 2s lead down to place
 - 6 2s cast up while 1s lead down

Dance Directions for the 34th Annual New York Playford Ball presented by Country Dance * New York April 8, 2017 https://tinyurl.com/38zzsdbt

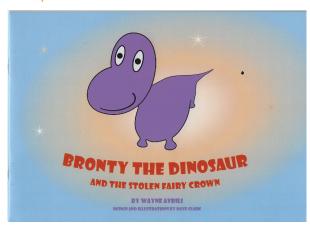


Music recorded by Mary Lea:

https://dancefiddler.com/various2.htm



- Watch the Mylecharane dance as choreographed
 - in 1996 by Fried de Metz Herman to the Manx
 - melody, Mylecharane (or Mylecharaine): •
 - It spotlights two of Fried's signature moves: the
 - single step in waltz time and the chevron.
 - https://youtu.be/a_Hgcnztjogn and
 - https://youtu.be/-XdLZd_1W6A
 - See TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH for a version of the tune



Bronty the Dinosaur and the Stolen Fairy Crown

London-based singer-songwriter (and regular busker in Convent Garden) Wayne Avrili has produced an illustrated story book for children based on the Manx folklore of his ancestors.

You can hear some of Wayne's songs on his Youtube channel:

https://tinyurl.com/yu32fd83

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea



Mec Lir Live in Session Travelling Folk

Mec Lir reunited in person and played a live session in Aberdeen for BBC Radio Scotland's Travelling Folk last night. The band played tracks from their new album *Livewire* and chatted to Bruce MacGregor about the past year. LISTEN AGAIN:

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000y72h

Viljandi Folk Music Festival

Husband and wife duo, Daniel Quayle and Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe entertained crowds with some Manx tunes at the Viljandi Folk Music Festival in Estonia last week!

Photo credit: Henri-Kristian Kirsip





Neear Nesan at Festival Interceltique de Lorient

Breton-Manx collaboration, Neear Nesin, will be performing at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient next month. David Kilgallon and Mera Royle will be the only Manx representation this year, but back home, the Isle of Man has instead produced something special for the festival to celebrate its 50th anniversary - A Love Letter to Lorient.

Watch this space... www.culturevannin.im www.facebook.com/manxlorient



RESEARCH NEWS

Further extracts from 'Haydn Wood and the Isle of Man', a chronology from the Manx newspapers, selected and annotated by Maurice Powell.

Isle of Man Examiner, 5th January: 'A Manx Rhapsody' to be broadcast on Sunday 7th played by the Wireless Military Band and relayed via the London, Scottish, West, Northern and Belfast transmitters. Note: 'A Manx Rhapsody' (1931) was the first of the composer's orchestral works based on traditional Manx melodies; it was followed by 'Mylecharane', 'Mannin Veen' and King Orry'. His other works Manx inspired works by the Manx countryside include 'Two Manx Countryside Sketches' and the 'Manx Overture'.

Ramsey Courier, 29th June: The Palace Coliseum. Sunday 1st July: a broadcast concert of Manx Music from 9-5 o'clock on the Northern Regional Programme, organised by Charles Fox at the invitation of the BBC. Harry Wood's Orchestra conducted by Harry Wood (the brother of Haydn Wood, Musical Director of the Palace & Derby Castle Company), Haydn Wood and the Manx composer and conductor John Edward. Quayle. Local vocalists including Margaret Minay, Ada Mylchreest, John Christian and J. W. Kelly together with the Cushag Ladies Choir. The programme to include 'Mannin Veen' and the 'Manx Rhapsody. 'Probably the finest Manx concert ever heard . . .'

Ramsey Courier, 7th September: Haydn Wood has collaborated with Mr. Philip W. Caine of Douglas in a Manx 'spiritual' entitled 'The End of the World', published by Messrs Ascherberg, Hopwood & Crew Ltd at 2 shillings. Note: Philip Wilby Caine, the Manx poet and antiquarian, and close friend of Haydn Wood, described by one of his contemporaries as '. . . indeed a most distinguished Manxman, who servedhis generation and the land he loved so well and has left an honoured memory of a life well spent'.

The Mona's Herald, 11th September: 'Heaven's! this terrible kid again!' An anecdote about the young violin prodigy Haydn Wood being engaged in Douglas for a second week during a summer season much to the displeasure of one female member of the audience. 'But', as the article concluded', 'The terrible kid' grew up and has written some 200 songs and 100 orchestral works'.

Isle of Man Times, 1st December: The Huddersfield Examiner is 'loud in its praises' of Haydn Wood, the Manx violinist and composer – it seems that even the West Yorkshire newspaper now regarded him as Manx! – who gave a concert of his own music in Slaithwaite Town Hall – the town of his birth – with the Slaithwaite Philharmonic Society. 'Pride of place must go to 'A Manx Rhapsody'. Note: The Slaithwaite Philharmonic Orchestra still flourishes today and performed at the Villa Marina in December 2014 at a joint concert with the Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra in a programme of Manx inspired music and Holst's suite 'The Planets'.



Here are the bandsmen from Surby. They are: Back row (left to right)—Messrs. Edward Clague, Billy Cregeen, N. Gandey, Walter Watter son, John Hudgeon; Centre—Messrs. John Quilliam, Tom Carine, Bob Bridson, Jim Crebbin, Jack Maddrell, Frank Duggan, Howard Ronan, Front—Messrs. Jack Clague, Thomas Clague, Dick Preston, Ernest Broadbent, Cyril Taggart and Maurice Duggan (the conductor).

<< Surby Band (now Rushen Silver Band) 1949 08 12 Isle of Man Examiner

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A NEW TEXT OF MYLECHARANE

in the tury bogs of Jerby from his long we learn so conley you left me alone there live an old and ent Call d Inclly crass and So lonley you left me alone,

- 1 in the turf bogs of Jirby from his tory we learn so lonley you left me alone there liv^d an old anc[i]ent Call^d Molly cran And So lonley you left me alone
- 5 2 o[ne] night a Kind neibour did visit his cot So lonley you left me alone And for to dis course with old Molly were 「bent」 And So lonley you left me alone 3 Oh molly carane where got you your wife
- I got her in Jirby and married, for life
 And So lonley you left me alone
 4 O molly Carane where got you your store
 So lonly you left me alone
- 'Twas found in the turf bogs as i walked 「one And so lonly you left me alone
 O molly Charane where found you your stocks: So lonly you left me alone
 'Twas down in the turf bogs betwixt 2 old 「Clocks In the Stock In the Stock
- And so lonley you left me alone
 6 it was 2 pair of Stockings and one pair of Shoes
 So lonley you left me alone
 for 14 long years all Molly did use
 And So lonly you left me alone—
- 7 with a black and white sandle to markets whould lgoJ
 So lonley you left me alone to church on a Sund ay to Service also
 And So lonley you left me alone
 8 his Daughters [unreadable word] him they were So ashame
- So lonley you left me alone he were Such [a] miser they did him much bla^rme¹
 And so lonley you left me alone
 9 but molli[e overwritten y] he announced his Girls with a sm^rile¹
 So lonley you left me alone
- for you i have saved much gold by hard toil
 And so lonly you left me alone
 10 Old molly we^rre¹ humble he never Knew pride
 So lonley you left me alone
 he never wore top boots nor coaches to ride
- 40 And So lonley you left me alone

11 too thousand bright Guines as history tells
So lonly you left me alone
three hundred the Boys, and 4 hund red the Girls
And So lonly you left me alone
12 but molly is gone & hath left all his gains
So lonley you left me alone
he lies now in Girby, his fame still remains
And So lonley you left me alone

*

This hitherto unknown version of Mylecharane is in private hands and was seen as a photocopy of the original. The handwriting dates it to the late 18th/early 19th century, and whilst the hand is a clear one, there are a number of irregular spellings in the text, such as Jirby and Girby for Jurby, amongst others. The manuscript as such is a fair copy, with a number of words inter and sublined. As regards the song itself, it is presented in twelve stanzas, with a refrain to be sung every second line. Removing the refrains leads then to a text of twenty-four lines presented here following as a clear text.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

MYLECHARANE

- In the turf bogs of Jurby from history we learn
 There lived an old ancient called Mylecharane
 One night a kind neighbour did visit his cot
 And for to discourse with old Mylecharane were bent
- Oh Mylecharane where got you your wife
 I got her in Jurby and married for life
 O Mylecharane where got you your store
 'Twas found in the turf bogs as I walked one
 O Mylecharane where found you your stocks
- Twas down in the turf bogs betwixt two old clocks
 It was two pairs of stockings and one pair of shoes
 For fourteen long years all Mylecharane did use
 With a black and white sandal to markets would go
 To church on a Sunday to Service also
- His daughters [unreadable word] him they were so ashamed He were such a miser they did him much blame But Mylecharane he announced his girls with a smile For you I have saved much gold by hard toil Old Mylecharane were humble he never knew pride
- He never wore top boots nor coaches to ride
 Two thousand bright guineas as history tells
 Three hundred the boys, and four hundred the girls
 But Mylecharane is gone and hath left all his gains
 He lies now in Jurby his fame still remains

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

1. Rinkaghyn Vannin ~ 1.9 Jem as Nancy

There is very little information given on this dance and it is rarely discussed or performed. However, according to Douglas' Folklore Notebook: Dances the dance was collected from P Kelly of Baldrine. The dance was reportedly 'danced in the pubs when the fleet came home and also at Mheilleas and similar gatherings.' The notes to the dance are then given very much as danced today, with a couple of exceptions. Firstly there is a whole figure that Douglas later notes is, according to Kelly, not part of this dance. The second is a note added at a later date that Mrs Callow says that the last figure Kelly has given Douglas is wrong, and so she has given Douglas the proper ending, by demonstrating it with children. It is this ending that is used today. This is evidence that Douglas did not just write down what she was told, but then cross referenced information with other informants and added or altered the collected notes when more information was gained.

This process had evidently finished for the dance by 1937 as this is another of the dances described as complete in Douglas' paper of the same year on the revival and notation of Manx dances. In this paper the dance is called Jemmy as Nancy or Jimmy and Nancy and it is pointed out that the dance uses an English set and turn single as opposed to a balance and spin seen in other Manx dances. Typed notes without dates appear in Douglas' and Stowell's papers and the tune is on the LP Daunseyn Theayagh Vannin (1973). The final dance is published in Rinkaghyn Vannin in 1983 and noted as collected by Mona Douglas.

READ FULL THESIS:

www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MANX%20DANCE%20THESIS%20Cinzia%20Curtis%202006.pdf **WATCH VIDEO** of Perree Bane Aeg performing Jem as Nancy at the Manx Folk Awards: https://youtu.be/xeSjaKlso3k

LEARN THE TUNE: https://thesession.org/tunes/12873



Leighton Stowell dancers 1949 08 12 Isle of Man Examiner

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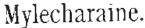
TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

A minor version of the song, Mylecharaine, which tells of the a miser who lived in the Curragh of Jurby. He was the first Manxman who gave a fortune to a daughter.

This version is from the 1896 publication, Manx Ballads and Music by AW Moore:

https://tinyurl.com/jtvuxtn8 It is the melody used by Fried Herman in her English country dance: https://youtu.be/a_Hgcnztjog and https://youtu.be/-XdLZd_1W6A





CALENDAR

AUGUST

7th Summerland Memorial Concert, Centenary Centre, Peel, 7.30pm, £10 8th Peel Carnival

11th Hartes Ease & Tallis Consort, Peel Cathedral, 7.30pm, free

21st Culture Festival, The Nunnery, Douglas 29th Caarjyn Cooidjagh at the Manx Bard Event, Moorhouse Farm, 3pm

29th Balleycashtal Beats, Castletown festival, inc. Clash Vooar and other bands

SEPTEMBER OCTOBER

24th - 25th Big Bree Workshop Weekend, St Johns Methodist Hall manxmusic.com 31st HOP TU NAA!!

NOVEMBER

4th - 7th Cooish Manx Language Festival

For updates & news, follow

www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance

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

www.manxmusic.com



<< Ny Fennee harpists playing at a wedding last month

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, Kiaull 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

culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:

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www.manxmusic.com

Call: Chloë: 01624 694758 (answerphone)

or write to: Culture Vannin, PO Box 1986, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1SR

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