



Music and Dance Strategy

Introduction

Manx music and dance offer important and immediate ways of celebrating national cultural identity, with musicians and dancers acting as an integral part of community and national events on the Island, as well as representing the Isle of Man all over the world. Increased interest in the Isle of Man's culture sees performers in demand at festivals, which motivates wider participation as well as the production of new source materials and educational products.

Through the work of the Manx Music Development Officer, this strategy is designed to support and strengthen the work of the Manx music and dance community, to widen accessibility to and knowledge of Manx music and dance and to encourage them to take their place internationally.

This strategy is framed by Culture Vannin's over-arching policy to support and promote Manx culture and the key ambitions of the *National Development Strategy for Culture and the Arts in the Isle of Man 2017-2027*.

Objective: to continue to encourage and develop the study, performance and experience of the music and dance of the Isle of Man and to support these areas through four key areas:

1. Developing skills

Inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy our culture and the arts.

- **Working with young people**

- 1.1 to support Manx music and dance in the school curriculum, through workshops, the Manx Folk Awards and extra-curricular activities, providing expertise and teaching.
- 1.2 to develop schemes of work and resources in conjunction with the Department of Education, Sports and Culture (DESC) and the Isle of Man Music Service.
- 1.3 to develop the Bree traditional youth movement through workshop weekends, music sessions, recording and performance opportunities.
- 1.4 to facilitate monthly Manx harp lessons for young students.

- **Working with adults**

- 1.5 to support and inspire adult performers and learners through the provision of workshops, sessions, outreach projects and performance opportunities.

2. Developing resources

Invest in the Island's creative community for success and sustainability.

- 2.1 to continue to publish and re-issue music editions, and to release new and archive recordings.
- 2.2 to encourage the development of new material – both arrangements and new compositions – in a Manx style for both music and dance, with commissions where appropriate.

3. Promotion and support

Promote our unique Manx culture and distinctiveness as central to the Island's image, nationally and internationally. Champion the arts and culture as fundamental to our wellbeing and sense of place.

- 3.1 to raise the profile of Manx music and dance and to encourage usage in a range of contexts.
- 3.2 to develop a wide range of 'access points' to Manx music and dance for as many people as possible, including through community events and the development of the Manx music and dance website: www.manxmusic.com
- 3.3 to support festivals such as Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering, Shennaghys Jiu, Manx Folk Awards, the Manx branch of the Celtic Congress and the Cooish.
- 3.4 to support the inclusion of Manx music and dance in festivals and events both on-Island and throughout the world, such as Festival Interceltique de Lorient and the Pan-Celtic festival, acting as a facilitator to match appropriate performers with events.
- 3.5 to support the use of Manx Gaelic within Manx music, working with the Manx Language Development Officer and other organisations where appropriate.
- 3.6 to promote a sense of community and connectivity at the same time as making a record of Manx music and dance activities through the publication of a regular e-newsletter, dedicated website and social media channels, and maintain a good relationship with local radio and print media.
- 3.7 to explore the possibilities for extending performance opportunities and promoting Manx music and dance through showcases at festivals and educational institutions.
- 3.8 to answer enquiries relating to Manx music and dance and deliver occasional lectures and talks in order to promote good practice, interact with the community and extend the knowledge base.

4. Collection and research

Inspire and enable people to explore new horizons through innovation, media and technology, and provide a secure basis for the development and understanding of Manx music and dance.

- 4.1 to document events and stories audio-visually and make them accessible online, where appropriate.
- 4.2 to continue the identification and copying of existing manuscripts, printed and recorded material.
- 4.3 to encourage or commission discrete research projects into aspects of Manx music and dance and to support the dissemination of findings through performance and publication on and off the Island.
- 4.4 to deliver Manx music and dance history modules for schools and higher education programmes, when appropriate, and help organise seminars, conferences and workshops in collaboration with other bodies.
- 4.5 to develop the Manx Music Database in ways to make it more accessible.

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