

SHENN SCOILL SCOOP ARRANE SON MANNIN PRIZE AGAIN!!

ARRANE SON MANNIN WINNER

Composed by Laura and Dave Rowles, the 2015 Arrane son Mannin song is "My Lomarcán Dy Feer" (I'm Truly Alone). Performed by Michelle Jamieson (lead vocals), David Rowles (guitar, vocals), Laura Rowles (fiddle, keyboard), and Fraser Grant (guitar), Shenn Scoill (trans. old school) were awarded £300 from Culture Vannin and will go on to represent the Island in the Pan-Celtic song contest in Derry, competing for 1500 euros.

Pan-Celtic Award for a New Song in Traditional Style £50 prize

"Arrane Cadlee" (Lullaby) was composed by Sharon Christian and performed by Clare Kilgallon.

Pan-Celtic Award for a New Song in Traditional Style runner-up £25 prize

"Mainshter Frank" was composed by Liz Marshall and performed by nautical vocal quartet Marlene Hendy, Esther Kilgallon, John Kilgallon and David Kilgallon. It was inspired by 'Master Frank', a boat built in Ramsey in 1894.

Adjudicators were James Harrison (of Manx Radio's 'Jamys Jeheiney' programme), Dot Saunders (who sings with Caarjyn Coidjagh choir) and Dr Chloë Woolley (Culture Vannin).

Arrane son Mannin organiser Fiona McArdle asks: *Can Shenn Scoill do it again at this year's Pan-Celtic competitions?*

After the concert and Arrane son Mannin competition, the evening was rounded off with an enjoyable ceili for Bock Yuan Fannee Manx Dance Group's 40th birthday with Tarroo Marroo Band and energetic audience participation. *More photos inside KMJ!*

[Thanks to Jiri Podobsky for the fantastic photographs]



In this month's edition...

- Manx Folk Awards 2015
- Bock Yuan Fannee photos
- Sing "The Foxdale Miner"



BYF 40th anniversary

Bock Yuan Fannee celebrated their 40th birthday with friends new and old at Douglas Masonic Hall last month. Organised by Fiona McArdle and compered by founding member, David Fisher, the concert and ceili evening blended performances from the dance team itself, Men's Stick Dance from John Kilgallon, songs from choir Cliogaree Twoaie, Ruth Keggan and Shenn Scoill, with the Arrane son Mannin competition.



David recalled the formation of the iconic dance group in 1975, when a group of young men got together to perform "The White Boys play" and "Mylecharaine's March". They rehearsed in the Kipper Yard in Peel and performed in ordinary work clothes rather than traditional costume. Founding members of Bock Yuan Fannee [which roughly translates as Shank's Pony] included Bob Carswell, David Fisher, Stewart Bennett, Greg Joughin, George Broderick, Colin Jerry, Simon Capelan and Ross Jellicoe. Women were invited to join the following year, and the group went on to perform at local events and in the Pan-Celtic festival in Ireland, Festival Interceltique Lorient and Lowender Peran in Cornwall.

BYF dancer Nicola Tooms from Manx National Heritage had gathered archive photos of the dance group from the past four decades, which were passed around the audience, and Jonee Fisher presented a 40th birthday cake to the dance group. The concert was followed by a lively ceili with Tarroo Marroo, whose line-up also includes early members of Bock Yuan Fannee from the 1970s; Sue Ling Jaques and David Collister (pictured below with an archive photo of himself). [Photos by Jiri Podobsky & CW]



Aundyryn Kiaull-Theay Vannin - Manx Folk Awards



The MFA 2015 is being held from Monday 23rd to Wednesday 25th March at the Youth Arts Centre in Douglas.

Jointly organised by the Department of Education and Children, Culture Vannin and Manx National Heritage, the Manx Folk Awards competitions are informal and friendly and new schools are always encouraged to take part for the first time - assistance is available to help select songs, dances and poems to perform. Many of the categories enable schools to use the same material that they are preparing for the Guild [Manx Music Festival] a few weeks later.

KS1 & KS2 classes will take place during the daytime at YAC and Rosemount Trinity Church, but the KS3-5 [secondary] comps will be on the Tuesday evening at YAC.

NEW composing competitions – there is now a class for a new song (or new lyrics to a Manx trad tune) or new poem in Manx or English.

Syllabus: https://wiki1.sch.im/wiki/pages/P1R9g3k1v/Manx_Folk_Awards_2014.html

Closing date for entries: 20th Feb 2015

Folk music & dance in the Manx Music Festival [Guild]

24th April - 2nd May

There are quite a few classes in the Guild for Manx Gaelic song, language, folk music and dance:

- * Manx Gaelic solos M1-4
- * Gaelic Choirs JC6 (junior) & C5
- * Folk song solos F1 – 3
- * Folk dancing FD1-5

The lovely "A Brown Bird Singing" by Manx composer Haydn Wood has also been set for JS9 Girls' solo song (years 9 to 10).

Get your entries in before Sat 7th Feb!

PLUS...

Composition Competition

A1 – To maintain a link with our cultural heritage, the challenge is to compose with the following criteria:

- A new song for one or more voices, the lyrics being from the works of T.E. Brown.
- An original composition of Manx character for an instrumental ensemble (duration between 5 and 15 minutes)

All compositions must be submitted with the Entry Form on Saturday 7th February 2015.

Syllabus/form: http://manxmusicfestival.org/2015_Manx_Music_Festival_Syllabus.pdf

Mananan Festival

21st June – 2nd July

This annual music & arts festival based at the Erin Arts Centre in Port Erin has an fantastic must-see Celtic duo coming over this summer!

Fraser Fifield & Graeme Stephen

THURSDAY 25TH JUNE

Fraser Fifield (Low Whistle, Sax, Border Pipes, Kaval & Cajon) and Graeme Stephen (Guitar) are well known in folk and jazz circles in their native Scotland as musicians with a unique sound and approach. A mix of tradition, composition, improvisation with subtle live electronics and instrumental virtuosity. From Baku to Bilbao to Banchory, the duo have been fortunate to perform their music far and wide.

They celebrate 17 years of musical adventures with the release of their first duo album *Esotero*. Their performances take audiences on a journey particular to the day, blending influences from Scottish traditional music, jazz, and a host of other-worldly sounds to make their own truly unique music. £15

See the Mananan Festival programme:

http://erinart9.wix.com/events#!mananan_festival/c1a4e

Michael Heritage Trust Provides Another Winner with Oie'll Verree Concert

Report by Valerie Caine

The annual Oie'll Verree, held at the Ebenezer Hall in Kirk Michael, lifted the spirits of a packed house, as they enjoyed a concert which conveyed much about Manx rural life, providing humour, musicianship, dance and recitation.



With an extensive programme to get through, compère George Davison skilfully guided the audience through a selection of artistes, with the assistance of Marilyn Cannell at the piano and an army of background helpers.

The event stuck to a tried and tested format, but it soon became apparent that the backbone of this popular event was the commitment of a number of families, who came along to entertain the many people who flocked to the village hall.

Organised by Michael Heritage Trust, the concert was kicked off by the Stout sisters who combined their talents to provide two Manx dancers from Ny Fennee together with some inspirational harp playing.

The family theme was reflected time and again as the audience enjoyed the musical contributions of two brother/sister duets (Tom and Isla Callister/John and Hannah Kaighin) and the local Fields' brothers accompanied by their father.

A natural break during the concert allowed the presentation of the annual award Yn Gligyr, which this year was handed to the Secretary of Michael Heritage Trust, James Kennaugh, by the Chairman of Michael Commissioners John Barron.

Manx recitation too has always been an important part of the Oie'll Verree, which this year was provided by the impressive Aimee Corlett.

With the retirement of the two main stalwarts of Michael Players last year after an unprecedented commitment to the hugely popular dialect plays, it was decided to use two Manx dialect sketches which proved worthy successors.

It was also an opportunity to introduce a number of new actors, including some younger members of the community who showed an exuberant flair for their roles and a positive future for the much loved Manx dialect plays, which at one time were popular at many venues across the Island.

This year's sketches were A Trip in a Double Decker by Miss E. Kneen and Buggane Bait by J.E.Q. Cooil.

At the close of the concert everyone was treated to the usual, tasty home-made supper, provided by local villagers, before heading home, safe in the knowledge that the future of the Oie'll Verree was in good hands.

Valerie Caine © January 2015

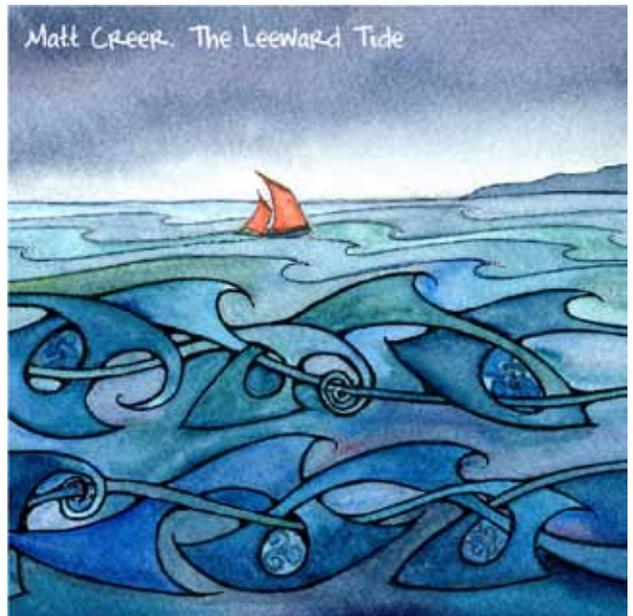
[photos by Valerie Caine - Isla Callister and Ny Fennee]



new album **Matt Creer ~
The Leeward Tide**

Local singer-songwriter Matt Creer's new album of original songs will be released soon. The album features a plethora of talented musos from the Island, including folkies such as Ruth Keggin, Katie Lawrence and Malcolm Stitt.

Former student of the Royal College of Music in London, Matt Creer has established himself as an exciting emerging voice on the UK music scene. The Manx singer songwriter's music merges folk traditions, with warm, rich layered arrangements that has created a sound of his own. Local artist Nicola Dixon provides a beautiful album cover.



Here's a video of the opening track "North Northwest": <http://youtu.be/gko7E1h2ZAA>

Listen to the song and pre-order your copy of the album here:
<http://mattcreer.bandcamp.com/album/the-leeward-tide>

And read this pre-release interview with Matt: <http://chimeo.com/article/Matt-Creer-North-Northwest-Interview>

MATT CREER ~ FORTHCOMING GIGS:

Fri 6th February, Laxey Working Men's Institute., 7.30pm

Matt Creer followed by the Rushen Players performing 'Knot Guilty' (a one act play with adult themes). £4 entry on the door. More info: 231223

Sat 21 February, Port St Mary Town Hall., 7.30pm

Matt Creer and Chris Gray

Soft drinks and light refreshments available or BYOB. Tickets £5 on the door or in advance 833025. Hosted by Southern Befrienders

NEW ARTS COUNCIL MEMBERS

Congratulations to Manx musicians Matt Creer and Dr Laura Rowles who have been appointed members of the Isle of Man Arts Council:
https://www2.sch.im/groups/decnews/wiki/e6f9f/Minister_speaks_of_economic_benefits_of_the_arts.html



ABOVE: Matt Creer
BELOW: Dr Laura Rowles.



Manx Sound Exchange 2015

Read about other new music album releases on the Island here:
www.iomtoday.co.im/what-s-on/manx-entertainment-news/a-look-forward-to-the-manx-music-scene-for-2015-1-7039484

Steve Leach brings the latest rumblings, murmurings, news and views on forthcoming events in and around the island's music scene.

If you have any Manx music-related news for inclusion in the *Manx Sound Exchange*, email leachsteve@hotmail.com

Eisteddfod returns to St Johns

After last year's absence, a traditional Eisteddfod will take place in St John's Methodist Church Hall on Friday 6th February.

Children's classes start at 6.30pm and will be followed by competitions for adults in Hymn Raising, solo singing, recitation, stump speech and many other classes. All the cups from the Cronky Eisteddfod have been passed on to St Johns. Well-known local accompanist Marilyn Cannell will be on the piano, the Chairman for the night is John Kennaugh and he will be joined by adjudicators Dot Tilbury and Alan Wilcocks.

Admission is £5 including supper and everyone is welcome.

St Johns Eisteddfod

Friday 6th February 2015

St Johns Methodist Hall

At 7.30pm

Admission £5
(Including Supper)

Everyone Welcome



Manx singer Ruth Keggins is involved in a very exciting project called Aon Teanga with Gaelic cousins Mary Ann Kennedy [Scotland] & Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin [Ireland].

Aon Teanga is a bold, new, and unequivocally unique project, reuniting the song traditions of the Gaelic nations: Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man. Their debut album is nearly finished and the trio will be touring this summer!

Keep in the loop: www.facebook.com/aonteanga?fref=ts

And find out more: <http://watercolourmusic.co.uk/Aon%20Teanga.html>



27th – 30th March

The Ramsey Celtic youth festival has revealed some of the visiting acts appearing this year – There will be Cornish ceili dancing and workshops from *Splann* and Scottish ceili band *Spootiskerry*.

<http://shennaghysjiu.com/>

An Introduction to Manx music and its Celtic Style - featuring Bree

Dr Chloë Woolley, Manx Music specialist from Culture Vannin, will be giving an illustrated talk about Manx Music and its Celtic roots. Featuring young talent from Manx group Bree, this event promises to inspire and delight. Combine the free lecture with the last chance to see the popular Celtic Style exhibition at the House of Manannan.

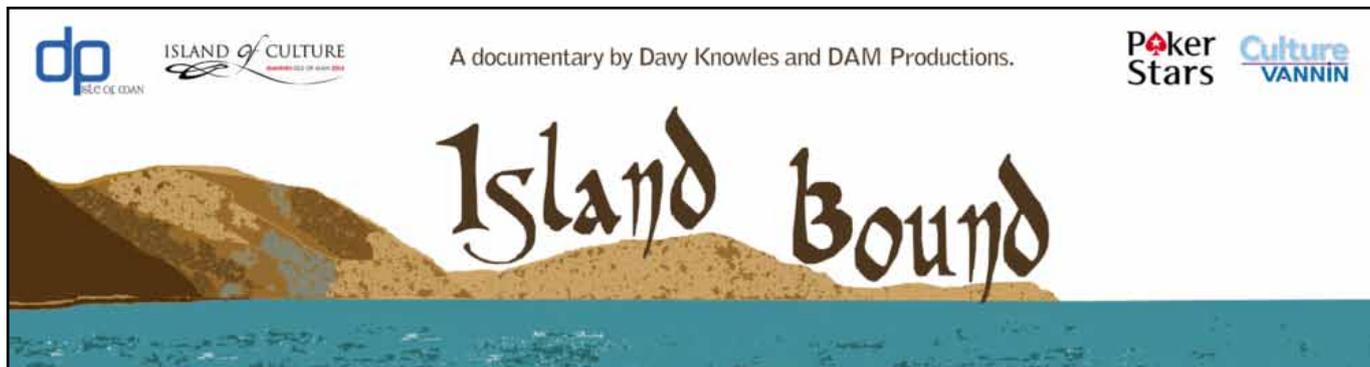
2pm, Sat 7th February, House of Manannan, Peel.

See more at: www.manxnationalheritage.im/whats-on/detail/an-introduction-to-manx-music-and-its-celtic-style-featuring-bree/

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

Queensland Manx Society celebrates 100th anniversary

A Manx festival was held as part of the centenary of one of the oldest ethnic organisations in Queensland, Australia. As well as showcasing genealogy and memorabilia from the past 100 years, the festival also included lots of Manx music. Manx tunes and songs were performed by the Moreton Celtic Fiddlers' Club, Whisky Mac, Lockyer Valley Celtic Pipe Band and Brisbane duet Elan Sopranos.



DAM productions recorded loads of material for Island Bound - the new film about the Manx blues guitarist Davy Knowles, who is now based in Chicago. They couldn't fit it all into the forthcoming documentary, so they are sharing some of the extra footage online.



CLIP ONE is an interview with Manx musician, Greg Joughin from 'The Mollag Band'. Davy joins him to perform Greg's song "Lemuel": <https://vimeo.com/116201677>

CLIP TWO sees Chloe & Breesha from Culture Vannin challenge Davy to learn Manx tune "Creg Willy Syl": <https://vimeo.com/118070457>

'Island Bound' will be released on DVD very soon... Follow: www.davyknowles.com @davyknowles (Twitter) and @damisleofman (twitter) for updates.

FESTIVAL BURSARIES

Culture Vannin's Music Development Team is offering a limited number of travel & accommodation bursaries (up to £500) for Manx music bands who secure a prestigious performance opportunity or a place at a high level festival such as Celtic Connections, WOMAD, Cambridge Folk Festival, etc.

Bursaries are on a first come, first served basis... contact us if an exciting opportunity comes up and we will consider your application:

manxmusic@culturevannin.im

TAILLESS TUNES

Carol E Walker's website now has a recording of New York's Masterwork Chorus performing Manx song "The Mother's Carol". Have a listen: www.musicladycarol.com/mothers-carol.html

Mountain dulcimer player Carol has been performing some Manx tunes at a Pennsylvania dulcimer festival, and there is an ever-growing number of dulcimer clubs now playing Manx music thanks to her *Tailless Tunes* books - Connecticut, Wisconsin, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Indiana, Washington, to mention just a few!

Youtube/video corner

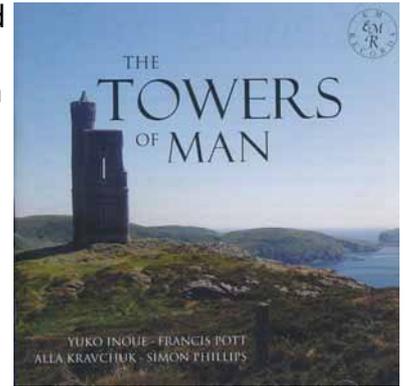
- Here's a clip of Spanish musicians **Gan Ainn**, performing Manx tunes at a festival in Cacaes recently.
- They learnt the tunes from Manx musicians David and Rosie Speers. *Excelente!*

<http://youtu.be/hCEDPd8YHfA>

Isle of Man inspired piece for viola and piano by London College of Music's Professor of Composition

A new CD of compositions by Professor Francis Pott has been released worldwide this month on the EM Records label. This contains world première recordings of Pott's Sonata for viola and piano, completed in August 2013, and a nine-movement song cycle written in 2010.

Entitled *The Towers of Man*, the album takes its collective name from the Sonata, which Pott composed after visiting the Isle of Man Arts Festival in 2009 for a performance of his earlier 'Cello Sonata. Subtitled *Tooryn Vannin* (Manx for 'The Towers of Man'), the Viola Sonata is paired on disc with *Einzigste Tage* ('Unrepeatable Days'), a cycle of songs setting German translations of original Russian poems by Boris Pasternak and Anna Akhmatova.



Pott says that he was inspired initially by the mysterious Milner Tower guarding Bradda Head, above the small town of Port Erin on the Isle of Man. The sonata is a sweepingly romantic half-hour work embodying the composer's response to the dramatic South-Western coastline of the island.

The Japanese-born, London-based violist Yuko Inoue performs the Sonata, a piece which she asked Pott to write for her some years ago while visiting the London College of Music (LCM) to present a recital and master class. The Ukrainian soprano Alla Kravchuk and British pianist Simon Phillips are featured in the song cycle.

Pott is Professor of Composition at LCM, part of the University of West London, which he joined in September 2001. His music has been performed in concert and on radio in over 40 countries worldwide and released extensively on CD. Winner of four national and two international composition awards, Pott began composing at the age of 10, while a boy chorister at New College, Oxford. *The Towers of Man* is released by EM Records.

Buy the CD here: www.discovery-records.com/product-ST81797/francis-pott/-einzigste-tage/the-towers-of-man-viola-sonata-nine-settingsandhellip;.htm

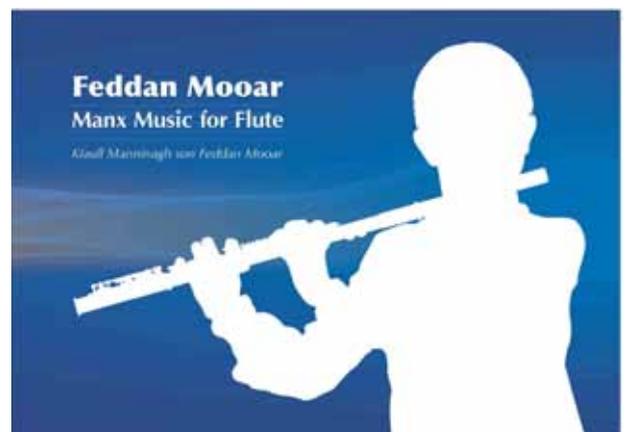
Original article: www.uwl.ac.uk/news-events/news/london-college-music%E2%80%99s-professor-composition-releases-major-new-disc-chamber-works

Feddan Mooar ~ NEW flute book for schools

A new Manx music resource for flute students has been produced by Dr Breesha Maddrell for the IOM music service.

Developed in coordination with Elaine Hind, peripatetic flute teacher for the IOM DEC Music Service, the resource is an introduction to Manx music for the flute, and contains solo pieces, duets and pieces for groups. Graded from beginner, through red and blue badges and up to Grade 3, it also contains pieces which can be played in the IOM music service graded exams.

Flute students will receive a copy of the little book, which can be played along with the teacher's accompanying piano accompaniments, mainly composed by Breesha. The resource follows the educational series developed by Culture Vannin, which also includes Fiddyl, Feddan and Coraa. A brass student book called Prash will follow in the near future.



RESEARCH NEWS

DID DEEMSTER GILL EVER PHOTOGRAPH MANX FOLK SINGERS?

In December 1895, W.H. Gill wrote to his brother Deemster J.F. Gill about having recently attended “a capital lecture on Irish Music by Dr Annie Patterson (Mus Doc)” at the Irish Literary Society. Gill was impressed by both the occasion and the setting: “It was held in the rooms of the Soc[iety] of Arts—a large & very handsome Hall which was filled to overflowing by a most enthusiastic audience—mostly Irish of course.” His letter carries on, “[n]ow this reminds me (I think I told you of it) of their invitation to me to lecture on Manx Music.” Gill had earlier lectured before the Royal Musical Association, though not he felt with success—“My last attempt at the Mus[ical] Assoc[iation] was evidently thought of too popular a character for the occasion. Next time I will try to be still more popular.”

On that occasion he had lectured for two and a half hours but he was now going to trim it to the two hours mark. There would be (as before) “lantern slides of Manx Scenery as a background and plenty of music.” Both, however, were to be ramped up. As regards the latter, “[w]ould have instrum[en]ts as before + a variety of soloists of repute, a small chorus, and a harp!” As regards the former, a favour was required from his brother—“I am telling you all this because I want you to help me.” And what was to be the nature of that help? W.H. Gill went on to elaborate about what was he was after his brother to do:

I have set me heart first & foremost on having portraits of the “Last of the Minstrels”—our old friends the singers.

I feel every day may bring news of the death of some of them.

I wish therefore you would arrange for photographs to be taken of all of them at my expense.

Separately, I suppose, it must be in the first instance, and afterwards in groups of say 5 or 6.

Nothing more is ever mentioned in the letters and so the scheme seems never to have come to fruition.

At this distance from the 1890s, it is difficult not to feel uncomfortable at the thought of the singers being herded into groups to be photographed as if they were the last specimens of a dying tribe or vanishing race—that said, it is all too cheap and easy as here to accuse figures such as the Gill brothers of an exploitative stance. When W.H. Gill on one occasion writes of “our old friends the singers” one could argue that he was being warm towards them rather than being patronising. The Gill brothers at least recorded the names of their singers and so enabling us to find out what is now more than one century later just who were their “old friends the singers.” Sadly, they were not to be photographed so it just their names that we have to hand.

Stephen Miller, Vienna



Not stretching quite as far back as Gill's minstrels, but here is a lovely photos from ca. 1959 of Peel Clothworkers School Country Dancing in the grounds of Peel Castle. Another Facebook gem!

Manx dances to be taught in Paris

MADMOISELLE

Cecile Laye, a professional dance teacher and actress from Paris, has been on the Island this week to learn Manx Folk dances which she will teach to her pupils. Her hosts are the Manx Folk Dance Society and she has been learning the dances from them and from the Perree Bane dance group.

Cecile had her introduction to Manx dancing when she attended a course at Burton Manor in Chester and was taught the dances by her tutor, Ethel Anderson who has since retired. So impressed was she with the style, which she finds lighter and more flowing than that of other Celtic countries, that she came over to the Island two years ago and studied traditional dances and those of Leighton Stowell with former teacher Miss Doris Larsen.

Back home in Paris

where she runs a drama company and holds weekend courses concentrating on early dance, the Manx country dances proved very popular with her students. She determined to return to the island to learn more, hence her current visit.

On Sunday evening Cecile was the special guest at Perree Bane's third birthday celebrations in Crosby Hall which took the form of a Ceilidh with home-made supper. A beautiful cake made by Hazel Hannan representing a pair of dancers dressed in Perree Bane costume was brought in to the strains of Chris Sheard's bagpipes!

Cecile has now returned to Paris to begin rehearsals for two shows of dancing, theatre and singing, which her troupe is presenting on the Paris stage at the end of the month.

RESEARCH POST FOR DR CINZIA YATES

Manx musician and ethnomusicologist Dr Cinzia Yates has started work for the University of Sheffield as the Research Associate for the AHRC-funded project called *Digital Folk: Digital Media in Folk Arts Participation*.

Working with Dr Simon Keegan-Phipps, Cinzia, brings with her a wealth of specialist knowledge and experience in the areas of British Isles folk arts, as both a researcher and a practising musician and dancer.

She will be working on the two-year project with Simon and David Gauntlett (University of Westminster), researching the ways in which digital media and technology are shaping participation in the folk arts in England.

<http://cinziayates.com/>

*Cinzia used to work for Culture Vannin (Manx Heritage Foundation) as the Manx music development officer, and luckily for us all, created this monthly e-newsletter *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* which is still going strong!!*

Best wishes with the new job Cinzia!

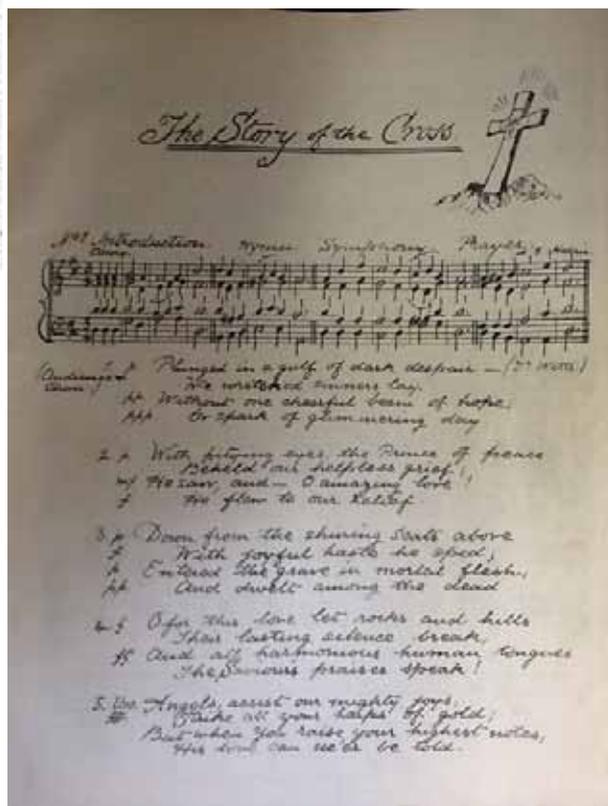
Gura mie ayd to Cathy Clucas who sent in this interesting snippet from *The Manx Star* 06/09/1985 [above]

Mr Craine's Oratorio

research article by Maurice Powell

This is the story of a musical curiosity: the first Manx Oratorio, *The Story of the Cross*, composed by the veteran advocate, journalist and church musician, John Craine of Ramsey, during 1894, and completed on Christmas Day that year. [see pic on right] Read the full article here:

http://manxmusic.com/news_story_356219.html



TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

Newly transcribed is "The Foxdale Miner" by Stuart Slack. The song [v. 1] has been set for infant choirs in this year's Manx Folk Awards. Slack (1935-1988) wrote lots of popular Manx folk songs, including "The Laxey Wheel"; and the Mannin Folk were particularly well known for performing them in the 1960s and '70s. Listen to the Mannin Folk singing it here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=DL1aM9f7Xro

As performed
by the Mannin Folk

The Foxdale Miner

Stuart Slack

Chorus

I'm a mi-ner (I'm) work-ing at Fox-dale where the mines are so
damp and so cold. From break-fast to bed we go dig-gin' for
lead but I'd ra-ther be dig-gin' for gold.
1. Some-times I work at Glen Rush en Some-times I work at Cross Vane.
Some-times I find that down in the mine is do-ing some-thing to my brain.
Some times I work at Cor-nel-ly But Beck-with's the shaft that I dread, As the
dust I de-spise fills my nose and my eyes, I think I would rath-er be dead.

Chorus

2. And when we got paid on a Saturday
It was down into Peel that we went,
It was there, without fail, we'd drink porter and ale
Until all our money was spent.
Sometimes we'd meet the Peel 'govags'
Maybe we'd join in a fight,
Then we'd shuffle our way back to Foxdale
And wait for next Saturday night.

Chorus

3. If I was just forty years younger,
I wouldn't be hangin' around.
There'd be no more pay at four-pence a day
But I'd be California bound.
There would I soon make my fortune,
And return to my Island again
And I'd open an alehouse in Foxdale,
And welcome the miners my friends.

Chorus

Manx National Anthem for voices, brass quintet & organ - **FREE DOWNLOAD**

Jonathan King has arranged "O Land of my Birth" for the annual Tynwald Carol Service, and has kindly let us share the sheet music with Manx music fans.

Download & print here: http://manxmusic.com/learn_page_358562.html

