

# KIAULL MANNINAGH JIU

MANX MUSIC TODAY

*Jerrey Souree 2022 July*

MANX MUSIC TODAY

## Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering 25 - 31 July 2022



Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering has been celebrating Manx, Irish, Cornish, Welsh, Scottish and Breton culture for nearly 45 years. Now based in Peel, a fishing town on the beautiful west coast of the Isle of Man, the festival presents six days of music and dance concerts, family friendly ceilis, talks & workshops, Celtic language & literature, delicious food 'n' folk sessions, an artisan craft fair and lots of free community events. The 2022 line-up includes an exclusive reunion gig with Scottish band Deaf Shepherd, Irish fiddle maestro Frankie Gavin accompanied by Catherine McHugh, and one of the hottest bands on the Celtic scene today, Mec Lir. There'll be Manx music and dance galore, with the Mega Manx Ceili and the premiere of a new musical work by young Manx fiddle player Isla Callister. Festival-goers will also enjoy sea shanties from Bryher's Boys from Cornwall, and colourful dance displays from Welsh team Dawnsywyr Gwerin Pen-y-Fai.

See the full programme and book tickets: [www.ynchruinnaght.com](http://www.ynchruinnaght.com) or [www.celticgathering.im](http://www.celticgathering.im)

***In this month's edition...***

- *Make Music Day in pictures*
- *40th Anniversary stamps for Culture Vannin*
- *IOM Wind Orchestra premiere*





The entertainment on Tynwald Day before and after the Ceremony is always a focal point for friends and family. The entertainment starts at 9am with all day activities including happening in Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, the Arboretum, Cooil y Ree as well as the stallholders on the back Fairfield.

Lots of locations around the main fairfield offer activities for everyone to join in for free. Outdoors on the Tynwald Green and the Royal Chapel there will be traditional Manx dancing, including the Grand Manx Dance, and live music from local silver bands, orchestra and choirs scheduled throughout the day.

The fairfield will also host music and dancing from local groups and don't forget the stage down in the Global Village in the Arboretum. Hosted by the One World Centre from 10am the Global Village offers food and entertainment from around the world.

Tynwald's roots lie in the Viking customs of those who settled in the Island in the tenth century and the Viking Village in Cooil y Ree offers a glimpse into what life was like a thousand years ago.

The TynwaldFest tent will be the focus for children's entertainment with a family craft workshop running from 10am with theatre and dance performances in the afternoon. The deckchairs will be out and we welcome everyone to stay for the dancing part of the evening. From 5pm there will be local food and drink available and the live music starts - perfect for all the family. The activities on Tynwald Day are brought to a close at 10pm by the magnificent Ellan Vannin Pipes and Drums performing the Manx Anthem on Tynwald Hill.

# Concert with Claasagh

The Manx Harp Ensemble  
with Rachel Hair



RE-SCHEDULED DATE:  
Saturday 16th July

6pm

Lezayre Church & Arts Centre  
Churchtown, nr. Ramsey

ENTRY BY DONATION  
TO LEZAYRE CHURCH

**Culture  
VANNIN**

Sat 16 & Sun 17

**JULY** 2022



Manx Wildlife Trust's  
Marine Life mega  
Tanks & activities



# PORT ERIN FESTIVAL OF THE BEACH AND SEA

Fireworks  
courtesy of  
Haven Homes

- Music on the beach stage •
- Sand Castle Competition •
- Mascots race •
- Giant Water Slide •
- Scruffs Dog Show •
- Kite Flying Competition •
- Traders & food stalls •
- Bouncy Castles & Rides •
- Open water Bay Swim •
- Park and Ride •



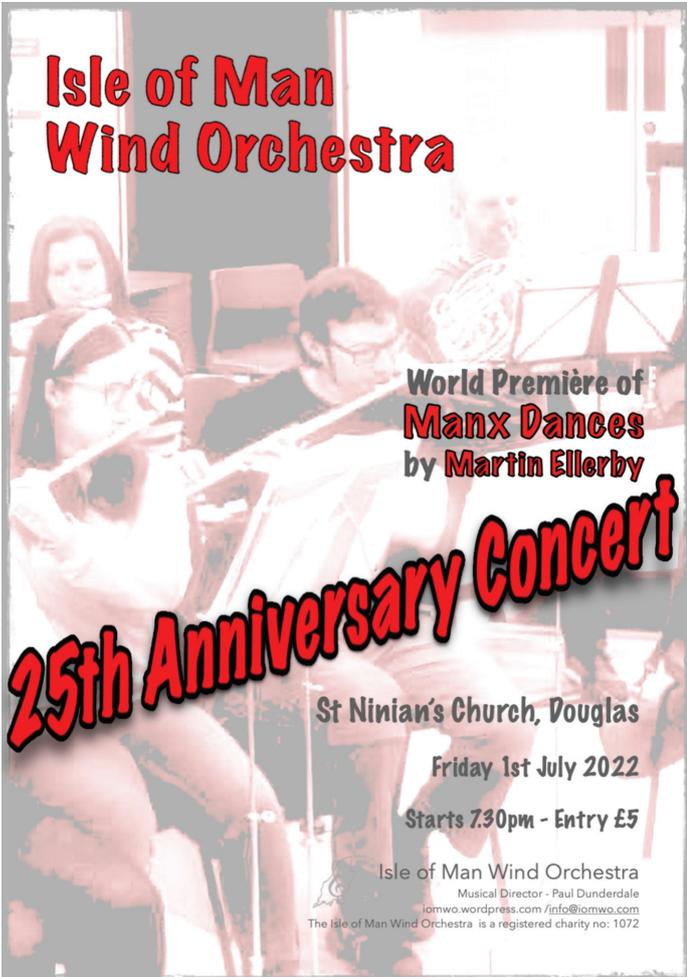
COLAS

PORT  
ERIN PETS

**Bushy's**  
ALE of MAN



# Isle of Man Wind Orchestra



World Premiere of  
**Manx Dances**  
by Martin Ellerby

# 25th Anniversary Concert

St Ninian's Church, Douglas

Friday 1st July 2022

Starts 7.30pm - Entry £5

Isle of Man Wind Orchestra

Musical Director - Paul Dunderdale  
iomwo.wordpress.com/info@iomwo.com  
The Isle of Man Wind Orchestra is a registered charity no: 1072

# Once

31 Aug - 3 Sep 2022  
GAIETY THEATRE • (01624) 600555  
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ACADEMY, GRAMMY, OLIVIER AND TONY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL

Performances:

- 31st Aug & 1st Sep 7:30pm
- 2nd & 3rd 5:30pm & 9:30pm

Sponsored by:





## BRETON-MANX COLLABORATION CONTINUES

Near Nesañ - the Breton and Manx musical band were reunited and able to launch their album, *Beyond the Pier*, in the Isle of Man at last!

Singer Lors Landat and accordionist Thomas Moisson joined Manx harpist Mera Royle and singer/fiddle player/pianist David Kilgallon for a long weekend of music-making.

After more travel disruption, Lors and Thomas finally arrived and they took part in the 'Kiaull as Gaelg' session at the Albert Pub in Port St Mary on Friday 17th June.

The whole band then performed tracks from their album in Onchan Parish Hall (Sat 18th) in a concert and fest noz organised in connection with Yn Chruinnaght. Thomas had an extended stay, so he visited Culture Vannin to explore the music library and work on new creations with David and Mera.

Then it was Make Music Day on the 21st June, or Fête de la Musique as it is known in Brittany, and Thomas and Dave got thoroughly involved in the day's activities (see below).

Near Nesañ will be performing at Festival Interceltique de Lorient.

<< photos on previous page

Find out more: [www.facebook.com/neearnesan](https://www.facebook.com/neearnesan)



## MAKE MUSIC DAY 2022

The Isle of Man joined the rest of the world in celebrating the 40th anniversary celebration of 'Make Music Day' or 'Laa Jannoo Kiaull' on June 21st. Launched in 1982 in France as Fête de la Musique, Make Music Day is held in more than 120 countries.

As part of the international "The Global Folk Challenge", Manx youth group Bree met in the Henry Bloom Noble Library in Douglas to film a German song called "Nun will der Lenz uns grüßen":

<https://youtu.be/ByyG-6WmHm0> The challenge of learning the Manx Gaelic song, "S'mie Lhiam Cappan dy Hey", was taken up by mother and son Amanda and Myles from Massachusetts, USA: [https://youtu.be/chdV\\_V5npMs](https://youtu.be/chdV_V5npMs)

Here is Bree also singing "S'mie Lhiam Cappan dy Hey": [https://youtu.be/ir\\_rucxRyJE](https://youtu.be/ir_rucxRyJE)

Also on the day itself, Dr Chloe Woolley from Culture Vannin took visiting Breton accordion Thomas Moisson and Manx musician David Kilgallon to perform for several schools, before playing live on Manx Radio and then outside the Breizh Vannin Creperie in Douglas.

Some Manx musicians decided to try Make Music Day's 'On Location' theme, where they were tasked with performing a song or tune at an iconic or interesting location. Mine's a Shanty chose to perform "Roll Down" and "Chicken on a Raft" next to the pirate-themed dolphin sculpture at Douglas Head, and Tiffany Kerruish & Peddyr Cubberley performed a couple of original tunes by Peddyr; "The Buzy Dizzy / Tiffy Troailtagh" in the iconic Barrel Room of the Fynoderee Distillery in Ramsey. Sravanti Mazumdar released her version of 'Ellan Vannin' to celebrate the day too:

<https://youtu.be/R9Q20TdPsV0> Un Chorraa Manx Gaelic choir, which consists of children and parents from the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh chose to stage a flash-mob performance at the start of school day, Ruby Biskee Taylor sang in Strand Street and The Mannic Ukes joined the Jukulelians at Jurby Community Centre to all perform together!

Find out more: [www.facebook.com/makemusicdayIOM](https://www.facebook.com/makemusicdayIOM)

PTO PHOTOS >>







It's been a busy time in the island's primary schools as many have explored and celebrated the Isle of Man's UNESCO Biosphere status with a special week of activities.

Pupils from Sulby and St Mary's primary schools took part in workshops, delivered by Dr Chloe Woolley of Culture Vannin and Jo Callister of Department of Education, Sport and Culture, undertaking selected activities from Culture Vannin's #40manxthings challenge. Dr Chloe Woolley, Manx Music development officer said, "Our intangible cultural heritage is an important part of why we were chosen to be a Biosphere reserve. The workshops were a fun way for the children to prepare for Tynwald Day by learning some Manx phrases and a folk dance; listening to some Manx music and an old fairy tale, and having a go at singing in Manx. The children completed nine of the #40manxthings challenges in just one workshop. We hope that they now have the tools and the confidence to complete some more of the challenges within their school or at home."

Launched earlier this year as part of Culture Vannin's 40th anniversary celebrations, #40manxthings presents an opportunity to get involved, try something new, and have some fun with Manx culture.

With 40 activities to pick from, featuring everything from spotting Manx place names through to visiting a glen you've never been to before, you can choose if you just try one or two, or get stuck into completing the whole set. Whatever you do, you're sure to have a great time! You can let Culture Vannin and the wider Manx community know how you get on by sharing a photo or story using the hashtag #40manxthings

Jo Callister, Advisory Teacher for the Manx Curriculum & Climate Change said, "The week was chosen as it falls before the Isle of Man's national week and as such schools have not only be learning about sustainability and environmental issues, they were also focusing on our local traditions and Manx language and culture through a host of special lessons, speakers, trips out, crafts and creativity."

[www.biosphere.im](http://www.biosphere.im)

[www.culturevannin.im](http://www.culturevannin.im)

Pictured: pupils from Sulby Primary School at their workshop alongside Dr Chloe Woolley, Culture Vannin and Jo Callister, Department of Education, Sport and Culture

## JOHN KANEEN RETIRES FROM THE FOLK SHOW

**It's the end of an era on Manx Radio, as last Tuesday's *Folk Show* was the last presented by John Kaneen.**

John has fronted the show with his unique wit and incredible knowledge of the folk scene for some 45 years. However, he's decided the time is now right to hang up his microphone.

Sadly, John's health hasn't been too good of late and this final programme, like the last few weeks, will be a repeat of a show from recent years.

The programme will take a break over the next few months and will return in the autumn with a new presenter chosen by John... more to follow!

Listen again to the final show:

[www.manxradio.com/radioplayer/od/items/the-folk-show-28th-june/](http://www.manxradio.com/radioplayer/od/items/the-folk-show-28th-june/)



Pictured: Minister Chris Thomas presenting John with his RBV award in 2019

YN CHRUINNAGHT  
FØILT ERRIU  
ØLL WELCOME!

# Celtic

GATHERING 2022

25 - 31 JULY | JERREY SOUREE 2022

**CELTIC MUSIC, SONG & DANCE FESTIVAL**  
CONCERTS | WORKSHOPS | CEILIS | CRAFT FAIR

**PEEL & DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN**

- MEC LIR • FRANKIE GAVIN • DEAF SHEPHERD •
- BRYHER'S BOYS • PEN Y FØI WELSH DANCERS •
- ISLØ CØLLISTER • THE MEGØ MØNX CEILI! •

SUPPORTED BY  
CULTURE VANNIN | IOM ARTS COUNCIL | IFGL | VISIT ISLE OF MAN  
DIGITAL GROUP | THORNTON CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS | CULTURE IRELAND |  
IOM STEAM PACKET | SOUNDCHECK CHARITY  
MALCOLM SCOTT DICKINSON CHARITABLE TRUST



WWW.CELTICGATHERING.IM TEL. 07624 302200

Look out for YC printed programmes on Tynwald Day (Manx Tent) and other outlets soon...

YN CHRUINNAGHT  
NASTEE! FREE!  
Take one!

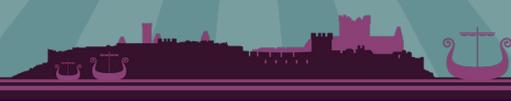
# Celtic

GATHERING 2022



**PROGRAMME**

JELUNE 25 - JEDOONEE 31 JERREY SOUREE  
MONDAY 25 - SUNDAY 31 JULY



**John Dowling from Perree Bane tells us that the dance group has a busy time ahead;**

"Tynwald Day, then a trip to visit friends in Ulverston for the Furness Tradition Music and Dance Festival on 8th to 10th July. Then it's St Mark's Fair, Yn Chruinnaght with the Perree Bane 40th birthday party, lots of ceilis and the Southern Agricultural Show to round off the month. Dance shoes will need some polishing!"



Manx dancers Skeddan Jiarg, Gaelic band Clash Vooar and the Ellan Vannin Pipes & Drums entertained bikers and locals alike in Peel at this year's TT.

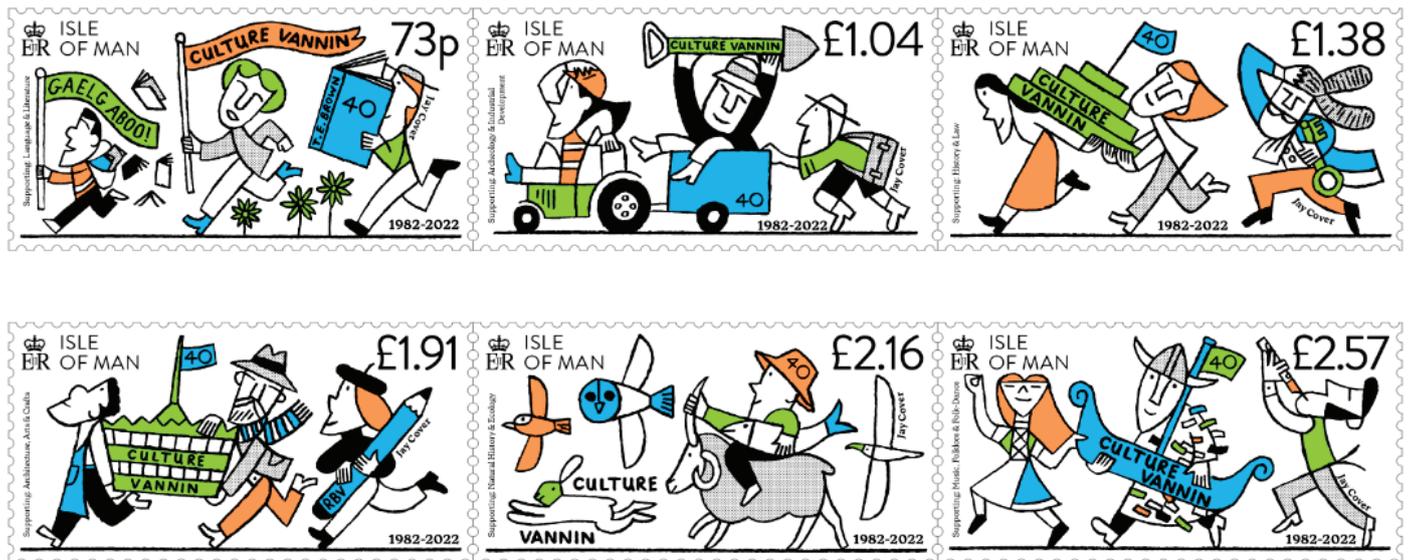


# Press Release

Date: 29 June 2022

## Isle of Man Post Office Commemorates Culture Vannin's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### 40 Years at the Heart of Manx Culture Celebrated on a Set of Six Stamps



Isle of Man Post office is proud to present this set of six stamps designed by Jay Cover in commemoration of Culture Vannin's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

This stamp issue celebrates the substantial and proud history of Culture Vannin's support and promotion of Manx Culture and the Arts. Their work has been paramount in the revival of the Manx language and culture, working closely with up and coming and established artists in the past 40 years.

The six stamps represent the six core pillars of Manx culture, superbly illustrated by Manx-born artist Jay Cover entailing archaeology, industrial development, architecture, arts and crafts, history and law, language and literature, music, folk-lore and folk-dance. The visual concept of the issue is to portray Culture Vannin carrying the Island's culture and history to the population of the Isle of Man and the wider world, hence the movement of those depicted in the artworks.

**Commenting on the stamps, Culture Vannin** said: "The team at the IOM Post Office is one of the hidden gems of the Isle of Man – their knowledge, expertise and support in showcasing a sense of Manxness nationally and internationally is second to none. We have enjoyed every minute of working with them, and with the designer, Jay Cover, who understands the role of culture in building a sense of identity and place, and whose wonderful illustrations have managed to capture all aspects of the wide remit of Culture Vannin. We hope that everyone enjoys the sense of movement and joy which is at the heart of a living culture made accessible and relevant to everyone."

For updates & news on Manx music & dance, follow  
[www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance](https://www.facebook.com/groups/manxmusicanddance)

**Celebrating 40 Years #40MANXTHINGS**

**Connect**  
with  
Manx  
music

**Learn**  
a little  
Manx

**Listen**  
to stories from the  
Island's past

**Check out**  
interesting people in  
Manx history

**Connect**  
with  
Manx  
music

**Learn**  
a little  
Manx

**Listen**  
to stories from the  
Island's past

**Check out**  
interesting people in  
Manx history

**Bake**  
a  
bonnag

**Snap**  
a lighthouse

**Spot**  
five Manx  
house names and find  
out what they mean

**Sing**  
a song in  
Manx

**Say**  
"Gura mie ayd"  
(Thank you)  
to a stranger

**Make**  
a cròsh cuirn  
to protect your  
household

**Discover**  
the great  
Manx poets

**Enjoy**  
one of the  
Island's many  
museums

**Celebrate**  
our unique  
heritage  
transport

**Immerse**  
yourself in some  
Manx  
Fairy Tales

**Pay**  
Manannan's rent  
at  
South  
Barrule

**Have fun**  
learning a  
Manx  
Dance

**Take**  
a real or virtual trip to the  
Calf of Man

**Join in**  
with a  
Manx  
Ceili

**Watch**  
the National Anthem  
performed  
in Manx

**Wear**  
some Bolland Bane  
for  
Tynwald Day

Wherever you are in the world... why not learn a little Manx, listen to stories from the Island's past, Bake a bonnag, Sing a song in Manx?!

For Culture Vannin's 40th anniversary year...  
**TAKE THE #40MANXTHINGS CHALLENGE!**

<https://tinyurl.com/bdewcmrw>

Arbory School gave a lovely performance of Manx dances at the Laa Columb Killey celebration last week (24th June).

See some the dancers perform the "Girls' Jig":

[www.facebook.com/100000008907138/videos/420534766650728/](http://www.facebook.com/100000008907138/videos/420534766650728/)

Y Mheillea: [www.facebook.com/100000008907138/videos/1226433084790958/](http://www.facebook.com/100000008907138/videos/1226433084790958/)

Find out more about Laa Columb Killey: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9akp78>



**JERRY SHIAGTIN**

6TH AUGUST 2022  
@ 2PM-9PM  
WEATHERGLASS CORNER  
PEEL



From April - September, hold your own Biosphere Bee community picnic

**Download pack here:**

[www.biosphere.im/our-projects/biosphere-bee](http://www.biosphere.im/our-projects/biosphere-bee)



# RUTH KEGGIN & RACHEL HAIR LOSSAN



## New Manx song and harp album out Friday 8th July!

Ruth Kegginn and Rachel Hair's new album of Manx Gaelic song and harp will be released on Friday 8th July! The album is called 'Lossan', a Manx word with meanings including 'glimmer', 'sheen', 'light' and 'flame', and features traditional and contemporary songs and tunes.

You can pre-order the CD from either:

[www.ruthkegginn.com/shop/](http://www.ruthkegginn.com/shop/) or [www.rachelhair.com/shop/](http://www.rachelhair.com/shop/)

Pre-add Apple (and listen to a track!):

<https://music.apple.com/gb/album/lossan/1627282413>

Pre-save Spotify here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3r55tr4f>

If you like the album, do tag them on the release day! @rachelhair on Twitter or Instagram, or Ruth Kegginn – Manx Gaelic Singer / Rachel Hair : Harp Player on Facebook

The lyrics are available via Ruth's website: [www.ruthkegginn.com/lyrics/](http://www.ruthkegginn.com/lyrics/)

## Orchestra premieres work by renowned composer for anniversary

The Isle of Man Wind Orchestra is to premiere a work by a world famous composer to mark its 25th anniversary.

**Manx Dances** by Martin Ellerby will be performed for the first time at St Ninian's Church, Douglas, on Friday 1st July, 7.30pm, with the composer present in the audience.

Martin Ellerby [pictured on left with Paul Dunderdale] is one of the world's best known composers of music for brass bands and wind and concert orchestras.

In composing the music, Martin Ellerby has renewed a friendship with the orchestra that began when he composed *Five Manx Romances* for its 20th anniversary and visited the Island to research the pieces.

'That work concerned itself with historic locations and events on the Island which resonated with me and all of which I had visited,' he said.

'I was delighted to be asked to write for the orchestra again, this time for its 25th anniversary.

'*Manx Dances* features four movements: Castletown, Ramsey, Point of Ayre and Peel. The new work celebrates diverse coastal places so as to include the whole Island – the art of diplomacy.

'The four movements are Castletown, a bright and lively opening with unexpected turns here and there; Ramsey, a gently lilting, yet passionate, movement that comes into focus only to slip away again; Point of Ayre, a contrasting, concise, miniature featuring a solo oboe to concentrate the music on a single voice, backed by a transparent orchestration, played reflectively; and Peel, played vivace (very lively) and featuring a recurring (ritornello) idea that suggests the peal of bells. There is a more lyrical second subject, which remains in the same tempo, to maintain energy, before it all concludes in great celebration.'

<https://www.energyfm.net/>

Francesca May has a new single - "Say Something" >>

Check it out here:

<https://youtu.be/eo7q9ILBjU4>

<https://linktr.ee/francescamay>



### Manx Radio Morning Show

Culture Vannin's Manx Music Development Officer, Dr Chloë Woolley was a guest of Marc Tyley on his Manx Radio show, MiTunes. Hear the interview and the four music tracks chosen by Chloë on this Podcast: <https://tinyurl.com/55cdwzkh>

# Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

The Celtic nations are back in full force this summer for Europe's largest music festival - Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Brittany!

5 - 14 August

## Clash Vooar:

[www.festival-interceltique.bzh/artiste/?artist\\_id=1277](http://www.festival-interceltique.bzh/artiste/?artist_id=1277)

## Mec Lir:

[www.festival-interceltique.bzh/artiste/?artist\\_id=1167](http://www.festival-interceltique.bzh/artiste/?artist_id=1167)

## Ny Manninee:

[www.festival-interceltique.bzh/artiste/?artist\\_id=1204](http://www.festival-interceltique.bzh/artiste/?artist_id=1204)

**Adam Rhodes & Tomas Callister** in the new Inter-Celtic collaboration "Celtic Odyssee"

[www.festival-interceltique.bzh/spectacles/?spectacle\\_id=480](http://www.festival-interceltique.bzh/spectacles/?spectacle_id=480)

[www.festival-interceltique.bzh/](http://www.festival-interceltique.bzh/)



Kevin Kelly's chamber singers in Georgia, USA

recently performed his lovely arrangement of the "Goodnight Song" (Arrane Oie Vie) in a concert. Have a listen - track 10: [www.manxmusic.com/audioplayer/#](http://www.manxmusic.com/audioplayer/#)

Meanwhile, up in New Jersey, Carol Walker's ensemble performed the "Milking Song" (Cur dty Vainney) from her suite of folksongs with dulcimer at the Masterwork Chorus' Appalachian Spring concert (21 May).

Composer Richard Willmer is soon to release his suite of Manx pieces arranged for viola and piano. His daughter recently performed one of the pieces; "Arrane Ghelby" in her school concert. More about Richard: <https://richardwillmer.musicaneo.com/>

The Baruva Choir from Hale in Cheshire performed 'Manx Lullaby' arranged by Lori-Anne Dolloff at a recent concert. Watch: <https://tinyurl.com/yc5hpk8u>

Buy the sheet music: <https://tinyurl.com/mzp9k8uc>

Manx dance group Perree Bane will be heading to Ulverston next week to perform at the Furness Tradition festival:

<https://furnesstradition.org.uk/>

Season 3, Episode 3 of the #CelticStudentsPodcast has Erin McNulty's bilingual interview (Manx & English) with Isla Callister (Isla Callister Music). In the episode, Erin and Isla discuss the Manx music tradition and the current situation, the role of women in traditional music and much more!

Listen to the Podcast: <https://tinyurl.com/44ff427k>



June 20, 2022

Episode 3: Manx Music featuring Isla Callister

*"... It's a living tradition and I think that's really important..."*

## Manx music featured on BBC Radio 3 (30/06/22)

In recognition of the premiere of the Isle of Man Wind Orchestra's new suite, Manx Dances by Martin Ellerby, Petroc Trelawny played Anne Roo's version of 'Manx Courting Song' (Arrane Sooree) and Mactullagh Vannin's 'Three Little Boats'.

Listen again [1'48"]: [www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0018h4k](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0018h4k)

# RESEARCH NEWS

## Manx Singers and the BBC

by Maurice Powell

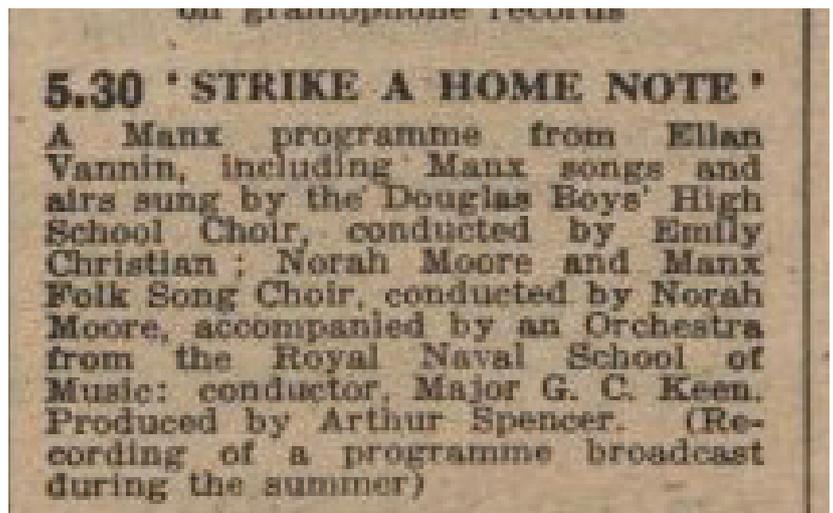
Norah Moore

This is the second in an occasional series of articles about notable Manx-born singers who broadcast on BBC radio. Norah Moore\* was one of the few to enjoy a professional career beyond the shores of 'the lil' Island', who featured in no less than twenty-three radio programmes between 1927 and 1952; the others being Jean Curphey, a popular concert artiste and frequent broadcaster between 1957 and 1964, and Margaret Curphey, the Isle of Man's only true opera singer, who featured in twenty-five broadcasts between 1965 and 1987.\*\* A generation earlier, Norah's career in many ways foreshadowed that of Jean Curphey's in so much as they had similar repertoires in common: popular operatic and operetta arias, songs from popular musical shows, and Manx songs. After World War II Norah devoted herself to teaching, theatrical producing on the Island and to her successful business career.

\* Norah Kathleen Moore (1906-93) was the daughter of Noah Moore, the highly regarded teacher, singer,

choir trainer and, after World War I, the manager of the Villa Marina, and Sarah Quayle. She had one sibling, a brother, Arthur Quayle Moore, a journalist, and perceptive commentator on Island life during the heyday of the tourist industry. She never married.

\*\* See Maurice Powell, articles about the careers of Jean Curphey and Margaret Curphey, [manxmusic.com](http://manxmusic.com)



READ THE FULL ARTICLE

<https://tinyurl.com/2dtnp686>



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

### 1. Rinkaghyn Vannin ~ 1.20 Purt Cubbley

As previously discussed typed notes to this dance appear amongst Douglas' notes under the title Moghrey Mie as Maynrys. Its only datable reference is in Rinkaghyn Vannin where it is published as being collected by Douglas. However, in conversation with Sue Ling Jaques (nee Lee) she stated that she and dancer David Callister found the notes to the dance in Douglas' piano stool one day. Further research on the origins of this dance will need to be undertaken, although it would appear to be a relatively new addition to the canon.

READ FULL THESIS:

[www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MANX%20DANCE%20THESIS%20Cinzia%20Curtis%202006.pdf](http://www.manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MANX%20DANCE%20THESIS%20Cinzia%20Curtis%202006.pdf)

*Each month, Breesha Maddrell, Director of Culture Vannin, looks at the journey of Manx culture and its importance to our sense of identity and belonging.*

## **Festivals as a meeting place for culture**

Who doesn't love a good festival – an opportunity to celebrate culture by coming together for concerts, sessions and talks, friendly competitions, but always threaded through with a deep sense of friendship, community and enjoyment. Since the early days of Culture Vannin, when we were known as the Manx Heritage Foundation, right up to the present, we have supported festivals which are now part of the established Manx cultural calendar, because they bring so much to us all and to our quality of life.

Yn Chruinnaght Inter-Celtic festival is one of the longest-running festivals, taking place each July, and gathering together musicians, dancers and languages from all of the Celtic countries. Last month, I was talking about the work that Mona Douglas did to promote Manannan, and the revived Yn Chruinnaght was her brainchild, too. Now celebrating over 45 years, it has been joined by other festivals such as Shennaghys Jiu each Easter, and the Cooish Manx language festival each Autumn. Culture Vannin supports the Manx cultural elements of the IOM Flower Festival, Oie Voaldyn and Manx Litfest, and many more besides.

Festivals are important to the development of Manx culture for so many reasons. They provide a focus for Manx music, dance, and creativity, giving extra reasons for new material to be developed, arranged or choreographed. They also – rather wonderfully – forge friendships, both on-Island and with visiting performers and audiences. Visiting acts bring new ideas, which in turn inspire us, and connections made often lead to invitations to other festivals around the world.

For Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering, the opportunity to celebrate the myriad of cultures in the Isle of Man has also been a highpoint, especially in their colourful dance displays. Bulgarian and Irish musicians and dancers have featured in recent years, and the wonderful Manx Bulgarian project dreamt up by Our Island, Our World festival, showed how much cultures can gain by 'talking to each other'. Culture helps us see what we have in common, and offers ways to celebrate our differences.

But what about those not on stage but in the audience? Festivals are a great 'extended family' to become part of just by showing up, offering shared experiences full of joy and affirmation! But

we shouldn't forget the volunteers who run the festivals, working all year long to prepare what may only be a week-long event. Having had the privilege to work on various voluntary committees for festivals and organisations over the years, I have found them a great way to get to know new people of all ages and backgrounds in a way that has enriched my life. If you want to help out, let one of the organisers know and they will welcome you with open arms!

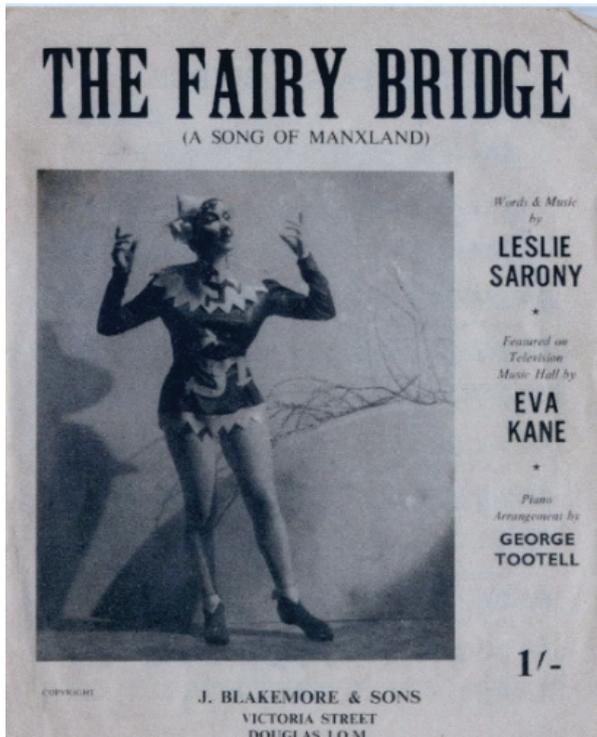


Which festival will you go to next? For the summer festivals, programmes are published, tickets are on sale, but don't forget that there are also many free events, too – there's something for everyone. Time to try something new and to tick off one of the Culture Vannin #40manxthings challenge as part of our 40th anniversary celebrations! Find out more at: [www.culturevannin.im](http://www.culturevannin.im)

Photo of Yn Chruinnaght 2019 by Jiri Podobsky

# TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

see [www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com) for more printable pieces of Manx music



One of the set pieces for this year's Manx Folk Awards was 'The Fairy Bridge' (A Song of Manxland). The song was written in 1950 by holiday entertainer Leslie Sarony with piano arrangement by George Tootell.

Here is the winning choir from Arbory School singing it: <https://youtu.be/f2k2tflcoj4>

Download the transcription of the song: <https://tinyurl.com/yaubm2ce>

About Leslie Sarony:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leslie\\_Sarony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leslie_Sarony)

George Tootell:

[www.manxmusic.com/news\\_story\\_709788.html](http://www.manxmusic.com/news_story_709788.html)

THE FAIRY BRIDGE

Words & Music by **LESLIE SARONY**  
Arr. GEORGE TOOTELL

Moderate *mf*

You've

heard of Kel-ly from the Isle of Man, Where tens of thous-ands go? But this

is-land fair has an - oth-er thing there, And I won-der if you know. There's a

CHORUS

FAI - RY BRIDGE in the Isle of Man, The peo-ple love it so; And a

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You can access all of the KMJ Transcriptions from the first edition to the present day:  
[https://manxmusic.com/learn\\_page\\_467456.html](https://manxmusic.com/learn_page_467456.html)

# CALENDAR

## JULY

1st IOM Wind Orchestra concert – premiere of Manx Dances by Martin Ellerby, St Ninian's Church, Douglas, 7.30pm

5th Tynwald Day

9th Clash Vooar at Deep South stage, outside Port Erin Bay Hotel

16th \* RE-SCHEDULED\* Claasagh harp ensemble concert, Lezayre Church, 6pm, free/donations.

16th – 17th Port Erin Beach Festival

25th – 31st Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering

[www.celticgathering.im](http://www.celticgathering.im)

## AUGUST

6th Jerry Shiagtin live music, Peel, 7pm

7th Peel Carnival - lots of Manx music & dance

31st - 4th SEP Once - the Musical, Gaiety Theatre [www.villagaiety.com](http://www.villagaiety.com)

## SEP

## OCTOBER

21st - 23rd IOM Trad Music Weekend

## NOVEMBER

2nd - 6th Cooish Manx Language Festival



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

[www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)

~ SESSIONS ~

**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. (Bufs) Club, Ramsey

**FRI** 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey

**FRI 8pm** Trad session at the Colby Glen

Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiavull 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](http://www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan)

~ SESSIONS ~

## culture vannin

For information on Manx music & dance contact:

Manx Music Development Officer **Dr Chloë Woolley**: [chloe@culturevannin.im](mailto:chloe@culturevannin.im)

[www.manxmusic.com](http://www.manxmusic.com)

**Call:** Chloë: 01624 694758 (answerphone)

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

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