

Isle of Man Traditional Celtic Music Session Weekend

29th September to 2nd October 2017

Regulars at the Douglas-based Irish Music Session welcome a host of visiting artists from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales.



Informal sessions will take place from Friday through to Sunday night at various licensed locations around the island. On Saturday we will be playing in Brendan O'Donnell's, Castle Street, Douglas from noon until late closing. Other venues and times will be announced on our Facebook page (Isle of Man Traditional Music).

All sessions are free and open to everyone - players, singers, dancers and listeners alike. We hope that lots of you will come along and enjoy what promises to be some truly friendly and uplifting craic. Help us make sure that our visitors have a great and memorable time.

www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan/



In this month's edition...

- *Lorient success*
- *Poems of Paul Lebiezinski re-released*
- *Kelly Songs*
- *Memories of Mona from a Dutch visitor*
- *The Good Old Way*

Mannin / the Isle of Man at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient



Annym, Birlinn Jiarg and Rushen Silver Band, three contrasting Manx bands, all did the Isle of Man proud at this year's Festival Interceltique Lorient.

After their success during the year of honour for the Isle of Man and Cornwall, Rushen Silver Band were invited back to the festival as part of the official delegation. As a band with a repertoire including Manx and Celtic arrangements, they were perfectly suited to the numerous parade events at the festival and proved a striking and popular contrast to the myriad pipe bands. They were a firm favourite in the official parade on the first Sunday morning, and were even given their own solo parade around the festival site; it was a wonderful thing to hear the strains of Cur Shaghey yn Geurey floating in to the Palais des Congres as they performed an impromptu spot in the heart of the city. Their late-night performances as part of the nightly spectacular Nuit Interceltique were not only gruelling, following long and detailed rehearsals and requiring late nights and substantial stamina, but professionally executed with evident pride.

Birlinn Jiarg are also festival veterans, having travelled to the festival in 2016 to accompany the dance group Ny Manninee. The recent launch of their album 'Seamount' this year provided an opportunity for the band to showcase their own arrangements. The band play a mixture of Manx traditional tunes and Beccy Hurst's own compositions. Beccy (concertina, whistles) was joined in Birlinn Jiarg by Freya Rae (clarinet, flute, whistles), Callum Younger (bodhran, percussion) and Alasdair Paul (guitar, bouzouki), all friends Beccy has met since moving to Newcastle. The band were kept more than busy with a round of festival gigs including the prestigious Palais des Congres and Espace Bretagne, and even performed in a local prison.

Annym, also known as Cairistiona Dougherty (whistles, voice) and Isla Callister (fiddle, voice) were joined by harper Rachel Hair for their festival debut. With a mix of tunes and songs, some beautiful airs and high octane tune sets, they showed a different facet of Manx music. They also performed around the various festival venues, including the haunting Enclos du Port, a disused water cistern with extraordinary acoustics. Where space allowed, such as the Palais des Congres and the Espace Parole, Annym were joined by a small troupe of dancers (Hollie Jaques, César Joughin, Grainney Sheard, Tamsin Armour) performing a mixed repertoire of solo, couples and group dances. As one Welsh band put it following their performance at the Palais des Congres; 'that was more like a show than a concert'.

All of the bands worked far harder than just their pre-arranged gigs however. Aply facilitated by the official delegate for the Isle of Man, Ealee Sheard, each group also completed a gruelling round of press conferences and radio interviews, promoting not only their own bands but also the Isle of Man and its culture as a whole. Annym conducted a live radio interview in Manx and Breton! Birlinn Jiarg and Annym joined forces to teach a busy, if mildly violent (Chyndaa yn Bwoailley!!) Manx dance workshop in the Salle Carnot dance venue.

Following previous successes, the Manx pavilion, which shares a space and a stage with the Cornish delegation was set up differently this year with a central stage space, creating a focal point for visitors and festival goers. This change allowed for a full programme of performances (six or seven spots a day) to take place, making this shared space a busy and vibrant area throughout the day (and night). All three of the Manx groups volunteered to perform at the pavilion, (sometimes more than once a day!), and were joined in the programme by the Cornish delegation bands and impromptu performances from Irish and Breton musicians attracted by the atmosphere of the stage and the promise of queenies!

Once again, the Isle of Man was amply represented, despite its relative size, with a variety of music, song and dance and maintained its position as a firm festival favourite. All of the musicians, dancers, volunteers and organisers are thanked for once again going above and beyond.

Huge thanks to Peter Young & Event Management Solutions for organising the Manx pavilion, plus Culture Vannin and the IOM Arts Council for their valuable support.

[SEE OVER FOR PHOTOS >>](#)

Report by Cinzia Yates





Photo credits: Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Ouest France, Rushen Silver Band, Cairistiona Dougherty, Jack Fossard, Michel Renac, Fred Landsbergen, Ealee Sheard, Cathy Clucas, Peter Young, Catherine Wilson. See more photos: 'Mannin / the Isle of Man at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient' Facebook page

Rushen Silver Band at Festival Interceltique de Lorient 2017

Report by Tom Sinden, Rushen Silver Band

Rushen Silver Band were honoured to be included in the Manx Delegation at this year's Festival Interceltique in Lorient, Brittany. During the course of their week at the festival, the band performed 13 engagements to an estimated audience of over 140,000 people.

During the week, the band represented the Island in the Nuit Interceltique on the Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday nights. This included a solo contribution marching into the stadium playing Mona's Delight, a piece written by Musical Director John Kinley for the band's last visit to the festival in 2015. The band then performed Hunt the Wren to the 10,000 strong audience before marching off. The band then also performed in the Nuit Interceltique finale with acts from the other Celtic nations.

The band also represented the island in the Festival's Grand Parade, with an estimated 80,000+ crowd on the streets and in the stadium for the event that includes over 70 acts from across all the Celtic nations.

On Thursday 10th August the band took part in a parade of traditional boats. Before setting sail, the band performed Peel Castle (Harvest of the Sea, also known as the Manx Fisherman's Evening Hymn), traditionally sung before Manx Fisherman were setting off on a voyage. The band then performed Ellan Vannin and the National Anthem on their way in to Port.

Two other parades through the streets, a concert in the Espace Marine, a concert in the Breizh Stade arena and an elderly persons home were also undertaken during the week. The band's engagements finished with a concert at the Manx Pavilion, with a large audience enjoying performances of Manx music, as well as items from the other Celtic nations.

IOM Food & Drink Festival Villa Marina Gardens

MUSIC STAGE

Saturday 16th September

10.30 Meraki choir

12.00 Adam Melvin

14.00 Lee Brookes

15.30 Matt Creer

17.00 Bird and Beards

18.30 Shoddywaddy

20.00 Truman Falls

Sunday 17th September

10.45 Roc Vannin Choir

12.00 Ny Fennee

12.45 Perree Bane

13.30 Skeddan Jiarg

14.15 Scrán

15.00 The Mollag Band

The poster for the IOM Food & Drink Festival 2017 features a collage of food and drink images. At the top, it says '9th year!' in a yellow banner. Below that, the festival title is displayed with a fork icon. A large 'Welcome' message is in the center, followed by the dates and location: 'SAT 16th 10AM - 9PM • SUN 17th 10AM - 5PM • SEPTEMBER 2017 VILLA MARINA GARDENS, DOUGLAS'. Ticket prices are listed as 'Adults £4 | Children up to 16 Free | Weekend Ticket £5'. The bottom of the poster includes the website 'www.gov.im/foodanddrink' and the 'SPONSORED BY POKER STARS' logo.

Demystifying Music Rights and How to Make Money

- Copyright basics
- Who controls what?
- The role of Collecting Societies
- Commissioning & Publishing
- Music Licensing: how it works
- The money flow
- Online and the “Value Gap”
- Q&A

FREE EVENT ~ Monday 23rd October @ 6pm, Noa Bakehouse

There are ways of monetising your art in 2017. Supertone are delighted to announce that we have Paul Kempton of Footprint Music giving a talk on demystifying Music Rights and how to make money!!

Paul Kempton, MloD, BA (Hons) Business Law is a specialist practitioner in intellectual property with over 25 years' experience in the media/entertainment industries. Paul heads up the Strategic Advice team of Footprint Music.

Book your FREE ticket early to avoid disappointment:

www.eventbrite.com/e/demystifying-music-rights-and-how-to-make-money-tickets-37413033390

Facebook event is here:

www.facebook.com/events/134357347175473/

KANEEN BURSARY AWARDED TO MANX MUSICIAN

Culture Vannin is delighted to announce the 2017 recipient of a bursary scheme for young and fluent speakers of Manx that enables them to attend a summer school in Irish run by Oideas Gael in Donegal. The bursary covers attendance, travel and accommodation costs to the selected course.

The recipient this year is César Joughin from Peel who follows Isla Callister-Wafer and Erin McNulty who travelled to Donegal last year. César is a talented Manx speaker who attended the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh and QE2. He is also a gifted musician and dancer and comes from a family steeped in Manx tradition and culture. César is presently studying the Diploma in Advanced Violin Making at the Newark School of Violin Making in Nottinghamshire.

The bursary scheme is named after Manxman and academic, Professor Brian Kaneen, a professor and lecturer in German and Linguistics at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia who was keen to see young Manx speakers given the opportunity to experience other Gaelic languages, especially Irish.

Adrian Cain, Manx Language Development Officer for Culture Vannin, commented that:

“César is a talented young man who deserves the opportunity to experience the Irish language in such a brilliant location as Donegal. Culture Vannin is pleased to support young and talented Manx speakers who have contributed so much to Island life and who are such good ambassadors for the Isle of Man. The bursary scheme is awarded annually.

Follow Learn Manx for information about future awards.



Clash AND Vooor **LOOSE Crew**

FREE ADMISSION

DOUBLE BILL

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER - 8.00PM
 PEEL CENTENARY CENTRE - ATHOLL ROOM BAR
 ALL PROCEEDS GO TO FRIENDS OF THE CENTENARY CENTRE

Ceilidh in the Park
7.30pm Friday 8th September
 Onchan Park Marquee with Yn Tarroo Marroo Ceili Band

Tickets £15 each, includes a chilli supper

Licensed bar available • Raffle

In aid of Manx Blind Welfare Society,
 in association with Onchan District
 Commissioners.

Call 674727 for tickets

MANX
BLIND WELFARE
SOCIETY

Manx Registered Charity No. 132

FREE CONCERT

Songs new and old, songs for dancing, songs to leave you chilled out - enjoy them all in a free gig from the lovely **Loose Crew and Clash Vooor** in the Atholl Room at the Centenary Centre. No admission charge, but we'll be having a raffle and accepting donations in aid of the Centenary Centre.



Scran *guest appearance* at the Sunday Night Music Club with Lava
Sunday, September 3rd, 7pm

£10 reserve your tkts: lavabandiom@gmail.com

Sunday Session in Laxey 12.30 - 4pm 3rd September

Lots of food, lots of fun, fantastic place to spend a Sunday afternoon!!

Tel. Mary for more details: 493365
All ages welcome.

Young Musician of Mann 2017

Open to all musicians under the age of 19, this year's competition has been scheduled for the Autumn.

Deadline for entries: 6th October

1st round: Sun 22 October 2017 @ 2pm

Final: Sun 12 November 2017 @ 2pm

Closing date for entries: Friday 6 October 2017 5pm

More info and form: http://manxmusic.com/event_detail_486834.html



**Isle of Man
Festival of Choirs 2017**

Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd October 2017

Royal Hall, Victoria Mall, Douglas, Isle of Man

Welcome Evening, Friday 20th at 8.00pm
Be prepared to sing your party piece for any of introducing your choir to the festival!

Choir Competition, Saturday 21st at 1.00pm
Choirs to compete for first place in the Men's, Ladies & Mixed Voice categories.

Choir Final, Sunday 22nd at 1.00pm
Ensemble Competition followed by the 3 Britain winners go Head-to-Head to be crowned Choir of the Festival 2017



Yn Chruinnacht and Cooish

are joining forces to hold a mini-festival of Manx language events on 20-22 October. As well as a Gaelic song and music evening, there will be a workshop for budding songwriters and Manx speakers who'd like to have a go at writing a new Manx Gaelic song for the annual Arrane son Mannin competition which will take place in the New Year.



Find out more in next month's KMJ!

The Big Bree Workshop Weekend

This year's weekend will take place at the Youth Arts Centre in Douglas on Sat 28 and Sun 29 October. This annual Manx music and dance workshop is open to youngsters aged 10-18, and it is a great way to have fun with Manx culture, language, music and dance and make new friends.

Booking form will be in the next KMJ but for more info, email Chloe: manxmusic@culturevannin.im





The Devil's Violin

has been breathing new life into the ancient art of storytelling since 2006, enchanting audiences around the British Isles with performances that combine the magic of music and words.

In October 2017, they begin a UK tour with their latest show – STOLEN – and are coming to Manx Litfest to give us a special preview.

Stolen is the story of a young woman who goes missing, and the search for her that uncovers secrets which threaten to destroy her family – brimming with dreamlike images that will haunt you long after the performance ends, The Devil's Violin will take you on an epic journey to The Land of No Return.

Check out the trailer on their website:

<http://www.thedevilsviolin.co.uk/>

Tickets are now on sale, folks - £12 and £6 for U16s, with a family ticket (two adults and two children) for £30. The show is suitable for children aged 10+.

www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/FDDGMK

Featuring Mabon's virtuosic Celtic fiddler Oli Wilson-Dixon.

<http://manxlitfest.com/>



Claire Jones
International Harp
School

Saturday, 16th September
2.30pm - 4.30pm

St Paul's Church, Market Square,
Ramsey, Isle of Man

An unique and exciting opportunity to study with international solo harpist Claire Jones. As former Official Harpist to HRH The Prince of Wales, she performed at the Royal Wedding in 2011, and has reached the top of the classical charts with her albums. Claire will deliver a workshop to inspire and encourage harpists of all ages and standards. Participants will perform alongside Claire during her evening recital at the church at 7.00pm.

Cost: £10 per person

For bookings please contact
Ella Slack.

Tel no: 01624 81 2896

Email: ebs@manx.net



Claire Jones

Former harpist to HRH Prince of Wales

International Soloist

www.clairejones.co.uk



Chris Marshall - Percussionist/
Composer

Recording Artist

West End Percussionist

**MARSHALL
JONES** MUSIC

CONCERT with CLAIRE JONES

St Paul's Church, Sat 16th Sep, 7pm

www.ramseymusicsociety.org

The sun shone for sister act Kirsty & Katie Lawrence who played at one of the Groudle Cliff-top concerts last month



MANX MELA

Students at Queen Elizabeth II High School in Peel have been learning about the different cultures on the island by holding a multicultural festival.

The festival consisted of activities based on Manx culture and cultures from further afield.

It featured workshops for the students on Manx music, dancing and drama, African painting, European cuisine, craft-based skits with a theme of medieval battles, performance poetry and Indian fusion dance.

The school has held the multicultural day for its Year 8 students (12 and 13-year-olds) for several years, as part of their School Enrichment Week. This year the festival was named 'Multicultural Mela'. Mela is the Indian word, from the Hindi language, for festival.



The multicultural festival aims to create an awareness of other cultures and promote the idea of equality and diversity among students, in tune with the changing cultural climate of the Isle of Man.

The events were organised by English teacher and sixth form co-ordinator for English, Usha Kishore, and deputy director for Years 7, 8 and 9 (ages 11 to 14) Jeff McCubbin.

Article from:
www.iomtoday.co.im

Harrish y Cheayn - Across the Sea

The following is a translation from a recent Dutch news article written by Wicky Beens, a journalist who visited the Isle of Man in 1974. She recalls her memories of meeting Mona Douglas...

Isle of Man (I love Man)

Een reis terug in de tijd ~ A journey back in time

By Wicky Beens, The Netherlands

A visit to the Isle of Man is certainly a journey back in time; at least that's what I experienced [in 1974] when I travelled from Schiphol via London Heathrow to Ronaldsway Airport, in Castletown on the south coast of the Isle of Man. It was as if I had gone back a century. After getting settled at the youth hostel in Douglas (the capital of the Island), I caught the horse tram and then rode on the steam train as a means of public transport the next morning. Amongst other things, I was struck by the natural beauty of this Island, which is not much bigger than the province of Utrecht. Of the 60,000 inhabitants - there will be more now - one third lived in Douglas, with the rest scattered across the villages and towns, surrounded by the hills around the island. Of these 60,000 islanders, the number of Manx born residents with a Manx passport was in the minority at this time.

There was a small group of people at this time committed to the independence of the island and the survival of the Manx folklore and culture, and the "spiritual" mother of this group was 76-year-old Miss Mona Douglas; writer, poet, journalist, composer and library administrator. Born in the Isle of Man, Mona Douglas spent her younger years wandering the hills learning the Celtic songs from the shepherds, and she would write down these songs when she got home. Thanks to her, Celtic culture has been preserved on the island, and the Celtic songs she collected are still taught in the schools in the Isle of Man. Together with the Italian writer and poet Barone Nicolai Giovanelli, who was the only foreigner in the group not of Celtic descent, she occupied an old cottage in the hills, not far from Laxey.



Wicky Beens (right) pictured with Mona Douglas.

kiaul1 noa

Young singer-songwriter **Mae Challis** has a new album on the way!

Listen to an interview with Christy D for Manx Radio at her acoustic preview:
<https://youtu.be/-t05yiVHJXI>

Manx Rockers, **The Fletcher Christian Mutiny** have released a new EP. Songs inc. Scrap From The Table Songs - Are You The Boz Boz?, That One, and Something Will Crop Up. Download here:

<https://fletcherchristianmutiny.bandcamp.com/album/scrap-from-the-table-ep>



Peel based musician Jamie Smith has brought out a new album with his Welsh outfit Alaw – “Dead Man’s Dance”. Available now from: www.alaw-band.com

USHAG VEG RUY reimagined

In addition to the premiere of her new piano suite ‘Isle of my Heart’, Madeline Kelly performed a new piece of music based on Manx trad tune, Ushag Veg Ruy. It was recorded at St German’s Cathedral at YC Celfest last month. Have a listen:

<https://soundcloud.com/culture-vannin/ushag-veg-ruy-madeline-kelly?in=culture-vannin/sets/isle-of-my-heart>

Isle of My Heart is for sale from Culture Vannin and other local shops £6.99 RRP and the live recording is also available online via the Culture Vannin soundcloud.

A series of 17 films have been released online, offering an overview of some of the best Manx poetry and music from the past 200 years.

The position of Manx Bard has been awarded since 2014, when it was awarded posthumously to the Manx National Poet, T. E. Brown. In the event organised to reveal the Manx Bard for 2017, a walk through the history of Manx poetry was presented.

The readings stretched through hundreds of years of Manx poetry, from the oral tradition represented in songs such as Fin as Oshin, through “that woman of genius” Esther Nelson and T. E. Brown, into the 20th Century with Cushag, Mona Douglas and Paul Lebedzinski, and on to the living Manx Bards of Stacey Astill and John ‘Dog’ Callister. This was then followed by a number of musical performances, by Caarjyn Coidjagh, Paul Costain and Mera Royle, before the revealing of the new Manx Bard for 2017/18.

The Manx Bard organisation filmed the event and they will release their film of the revealing of the Bard soon. However, Culture Vannin also filmed a selection of the readings and performances.

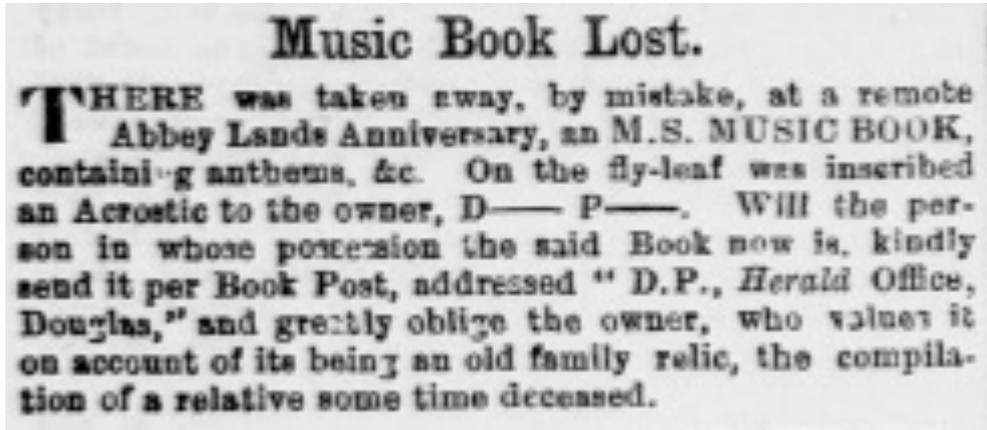
Watch now: www.culturevannin.im/video_story_490140.html



RESEARCH NEWS

“MUSIC BOOK LOST”

(1873)



“[Advert] Music Book Lost.” *Mona’s Herald* 30 October 1872: 2a.

Whilst music books such as the one sought for in the advert in the *Mona’s Herald* for 1872 are a boon to the historian, we should not lose sight of the meaning they possess within a family. Here, the music book is a sentimental reminder of a lost relative and wherein one can bring to mind not just the person through the trace of their handwriting but also the music that moved them.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017



Horse and carriage with Charles ‘Charlie’ Clague in the driving seat, driver to Dr John Clague – photo in iMuseum. Dr Clague noted ‘Arrane ny Guilley Hesheree’ and other tunes from Charles Clague.

Gaelic Song Conference at University College, Cork

There was strong Manx representation at a conference on Gaelic song at University College Cork (UCC) at the end of August. Organised by Sorcha Nic Lochlainn, a lecturer in the Department of Modern Irish, it brought together researchers and practitioners from across the Gaelic world.

Various themes emerged – the role of women as song-makers and poets, a real sense of loss within the communities which hold together Gaelic song in so many regions and islands, and the value of song in society.

Rather amazingly, there were three Manx papers, which looked at very different aspects of the Manx song tradition.

Breesha Maddrell's paper focused on the importance of education and new modes of transmission for Gaelic song over the last few decades, looking at how the other Gaelic countries had strengthened that tradition either through festivals or the willingness to loan material to be translated into Manx. She focused on the success of Annie Kissack's *Roie Mygeayrt* book, CD and app, as well as Chloe Woolley's *Gow Ayrn* schools resource, and talked about how the fragmentary nature of the tradition (as it has been handed down to us) actively invites creativity.

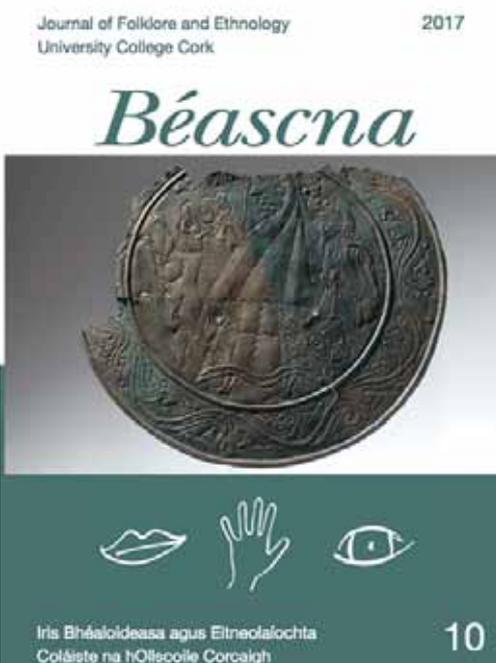
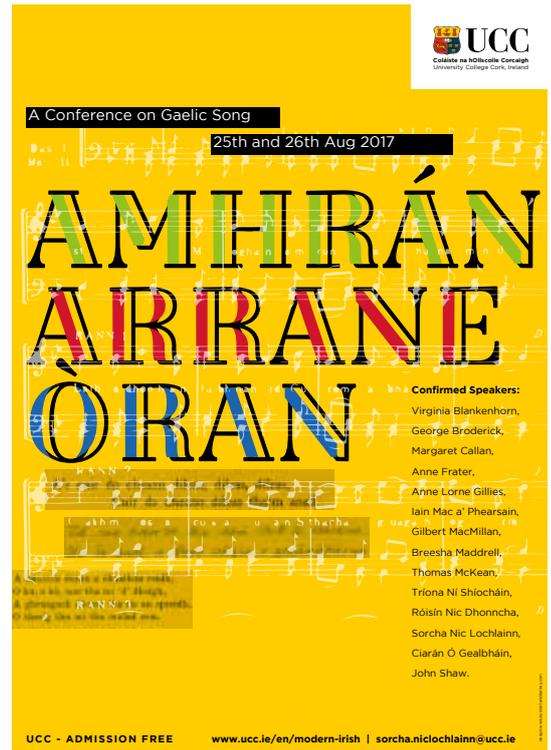
David Speers examined the Gaelicisation of extraneous ballads in the Manx song tradition, giving examples such as 'The Demon Lover' ('Yn Graihder Jouylagh'). His paper showed the importance of the wider tradition of broadside ballads, and the ways in which adaptations of texts were made in the Isle of Man.

George Broderick gave a lively account of the revival of traditional songs and music from a personal perspective, noting the reaction to his release of Brian Stowell's LP in various retail outlets, which was not always positive! He talked about the revival of song in the context of the revival of the Manx language, and of Manx traditional music.

Two other Manx connections emerged from papers by Ciarán Ó Gealbháin (UCC), who talked about Father Henebry's work in Waterford. Henebry accompanied Strachan when he visited the Isle of Man to collect Manx song from Tom Kermode in 1883. Conference organiser, Sorcha Nic Lochlainn, used 'She Lhong Honnick Mee' as an example of Gaelic songs in praise of ships and their sea-farers, common to Irish and Scottish traditions.

It is anticipated that a volume of conference proceedings will be published in due course.

Report by Breesha Maddrell



“Sophia Morrison as Manx Folklore and Song Collector”

Stephen Miller has recently had a paper published in *Beascna* (10), the Journal of Folklore and Ethnology, University of Cork. The paper discusses the collecting activities of Sophia Morrison (1859-1917) at the start of the twentieth century and her dedication to the Manx revival.



Paul Lebieczinski to be heard again

One of the Isle of Man's most divisive, exciting and important poets can now be heard again; marking what would have been the 66th birthday of Paul Lebieczinski, his recordings have been released online. Paul Lebieczinski, son of a Polish Air Force pilot stationed

at Jurby, was born and raised in Ramsey amongst his Manx family and community. By the 1970s, then in his 20s, Lebieczinski had settled into the day-job as a gardener, but in the evenings he gained a legendary reputation for his thrilling performances of poetry in pubs and gatherings around the Island.

It is some of these recordings, made between 1975 and 1988, which have now been made freely available by Culture Vannin. The album entitled *Six Foot Under* was previously only available in a rare cassette tape.

A short film has also been created to accompany the re-issue of 'Six Foot Under'. Created by the young Manx film director Samuel Hurt, it is hoped that many will be inspired to find out more about Lebieczinski's work through the film inspired by the poem 'Thatching Down South.'

Behind Paul's voice, you can hear the Manx tune, "Here comes Tom Duke's a-riding":

<https://vimeo.com/229109391>

There is some music amongst the recitations, including Paul singing 'Lament for the Manx Homeless', 'Colonel Pimp' sung to the tune of "Give me the bus-fare to Laxey", and an alternative version of "Ellan Vannin" in the poem 'Pooyldhooie Tip'.

Six Feet Under – digitized cassette:

<https://soundcloud.com/culture-vannin/sets/six-foot-under-paul-lebieczinski>

Traditional Tunes and Popular Airs conference

CECIL SHARP HOUSE in London are hosting a conference exploring 'traditional' and 'popular' tunes, their history and transmission on Friday 6–Saturday 7 October.



Will Quale, an American MA student at the University of Sheffield will be delivering a paper exploring 'Eunyssagh Vona' and its many variants:

Delightful Multimodality: Connections in the Family of "Quodling's Delight" and "Mona's Delight"

Programme: www.vwml.org/images/VWMLASSETS/PDFs/tunes-conference-programme.pdf

www.cecilsharpshouse.org

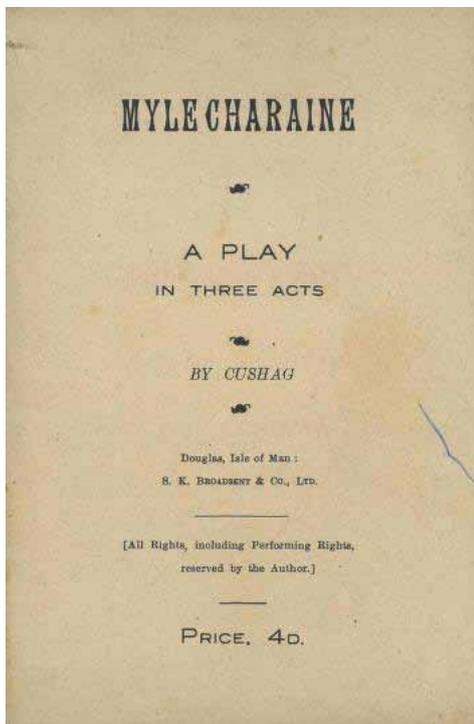
‘Has Anybody Here Seen Kelly?’

By Maurice Powell, 2017

This is the second of three articles about the music hall songs from the heyday of the Island’s entertainment industry. In the decades before and just after World War I the ‘Kelly’ songs contributed to the spread of the Island’s name, image and reputation as one of the most vibrant and popular holiday venues, but with the exception of Has Anybody Here Seen Kelly, the ‘Kelly’ songs are little-known today.

This first official ‘Kelly’ song associated with the Isle of Man was Kelly the Carmen, written and composed by C.W. Murphy² in 1898 for the popular Lancashire comedian Lester Barrett, and was ‘the rage of Douglas’.³ The song introduces a different character from ‘Kelly the Boatman’ who featured in Oliver Gags’s Hi! Kelly! vocal polka of 1887: a certain Casey from Cork who, after spending some years in New York, returns home and attempts to find his friend Martin Kelly - the name Martin does not appear in any other ‘Kelly’ song - only to be told, ‘Why Kelly’s in the Isle of Man, I’ll swear’.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE: http://manxmusic.com/news_story_491070.html



Mylecharaine – the play

A startling reimagination of the Isle of Man’s traditionally best known song, Cushag’s 1921 Mylecharaine is a rare and brilliant instance of theatre emerging from Manx music.

‘Mylecharaine’ was one of the most popular Manx folk songs, said to be known by all Manx people at the end of the 19th century. The tune was described by T. E. Brown as having “a depth of ineffable melancholy”, and it came to be the basis of the Manx National Anthem when it was composed by W. H. Gill in 1907. The words are a call and response between a daughter and her miserly father, who got his store of wealth from “in the Curragh, deep, deep enough”. It carries the refrain after every line, “My-lomarcan daag oo mee” / “Alone you left me”.

As she had done with her earlier Peel Plays, Cushag took on this piece of Manx folklore and brought it to the stage by skillfully bypassing the difficulties that would frustrate the efforts of anyone without her skill and ability. Instead of the very dark subject and tone presented in the original song, Cushag managed to convert the piece to a convincing happy ending by placing the song midway through, when all seems lost, before it is all regained in the final Act. The result is a remarkable play that still stands as an exemplary case of how to breath life into the Island’s rich store of folklore and song.

Read the script: <http://manxliterature.com/sort-by-genre/plays/mylecharaine/>

MANX BALLADS & MUSIC WORKING GUIDE NO. 8 by Stephen Miller

Another Working Guide to A.W. Moore’s Manx Ballads and Music (1896), the eighth in the series, has been issued with this month’s KMJ. This one deals with the biographies of the individuals who were named by Moore as being involved in some way with MBM, some thirty-four names in total.

<http://manxmusic.com/media/History%20photos/MBM%20Working%20Guide%208.pdf>

The previous Guides have covered the sources of the texts (No 1), the tunes (No 2), the correspondence relating to MBM (No 3), the collecting of the tunes (No 4), the Preface to MBM (No 5), the reviews of MBM (No 6), and the Robert Gawne Collection (No 7). The next Working Guide will look at Moore’s editorial practices in Manx Ballads and Music. http://manxmusic.com/bio_page_183097.html

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH

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

The Good Old Way

Manx Tune (Dorian) slightly adapted

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of five staves. The first staff begins with a 3/4 time signature, followed by a 2/4 time signature, then a 3/4 time signature, and ends with a 2/4 time signature. The second staff contains two first endings, labeled '1.' and '2.', with repeat signs. The third staff continues the melody with a fermata over the first note. The fourth and fifth staves complete the piece, ending with a fermata over the final note.

Note from Maurice Powell:

The original copy in the Manx Museum has the following inscription above:

"Taken down by Mr. Harry Wood, Douglas, from the singing of Mr. Proctor, Dec. 1895".

Alistair Proctor was a popular local baritone, who took part in the Manx Celtic Concert in January, 1897, organised by the Gill brothers, Dr. John Clague and Harry Wood.

*The Good Old Way was also collected by Dr J. Clague from J. Cubbon. Most Manx singers and musicians nowadays call it 'Tra va Ruggit Chreest' (When Christ was Born). It is possible that the carol was first translated into Manx by Mona Douglas in the 1960s for a pageant. It was published in 1979 as "The Good Old Way (Tra va Ruggit Chreest)" in *Kiaull yn Theay 2* by Colin Jerry, and has since become more well-known under the Manx title.*

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

3rd Sunday Trad Session, Laxey, 12.30pm
3rd Scran and Lava concert, The British, Douglas, 7pm £10, reserve tkts: lavabandiom@gmail.com
8th Ceilidh in Onchan Park with Tarroo Marroo, £15 (see poster)
9th Bree youth trad session, 2pm
16th/17th Music stage at IOM Food and Drink Festival, Villa Arcade
16th Claire Jones harp workshop 2.30pm and concert 7pm, St Pauls Church, Ramsey
29th The Devil's Violin – Stolen, Kings Theatre, www.manxlifest.im
29th – 2nd Oct Isle of Man Traditional Celtic Music Session Weekend, various venues
30th Clash Vooar & Loose Crew, Centenary Centre, Peel, 8pm Free

OCTOBER

20th- 22nd Yn Chruinnaght presents Cooish, Manx workshops, activities & concert
20th – 22nd Festival of Choirs, Villa Marina
23rd De-mystifying Music Rights – talk, Noa Bakehouse, 6pm, free (tkts -Eventbrite)
28th-29th Big Bree Workshop Weekend, Youth Arts Centre
31st Hop-tu-naa!

NOVEMBER

2nd- 5th Skeddan Jiarg at Lowender Peran festival, Cornwall
25th Caarjyn Coodjagh at A Taste of Christmas, St James, Dalby, eve



Sharon Christian playing Manx tunes on the pipes at the inauguration of the Manx Bard.

Please send in dates so that we can publicise events here & online:
www.manxmusic.com

~ SESSIONS ~

TUES 8pm Singaround at The Manor, Douglas
WED 8.30pm Session at O'Donnells, Douglas
THURS 8pm Singing session at The Mitre, Ramsey
FRI 8pm Trad session at The Mitre, Ramsey
FRI Trad session at the Crosby
Last **FRI** of month 9pm, Kiaull as Gaelg, Albert, Port St Mary
Occasional **SAT** 10pm Manx session at The White House, Peel

~ SESSIONS ~

culture vannin

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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