

SESSIONS
RECITALS
CEILIDH
ADULT & YOUTH
WORKSHOPS
CONCERTS
STALLS
TALKS

THE PLEASANCE
EDINBURGH
17-19 NOVEMBER

SCOTS
FIDDLE
FESTIVAL
2023

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BOOKING TICKETS:
www.scotsfiddlefestival.com

Scots Fiddle Festival
@Scotsfiddlefest
info@scotsfiddlefestival.com
www.scotsfiddlefestival.com

Pleasance Courtyard, EH8 9TJ

TICKET PRICES - PLEASE NOTE WE DON'T ADD A BOOKING FEE

TICKET	COST	ACCESS TO...
FESTIVAL SAVER	£140	Both evening CONCERTS plus all RECITALS
EVENING CONCERTS	£29	FRIDAY or SATURDAY concert (unreserved seating)
RECITAL / TALK	£13.50	Individual recital / talk (NB the 12noon recitals are free)
RECITAL DAY TICKET	£44	All recitals on either SATURDAY or SUNDAY
CEILIDH	£11.50 / £11	CEILIDH / if 8 or more tickets
FESTIVAL CLUB Over 18s only	By donation	Donations appreciated - £5 suggested
WORKSHOP	£22 / £10.50	Adult workshop / Youth workshop (U18 only)
FESTIVAL HUB & SESSIONS	FREE	Donations appreciated

Ages 12 or under: entitled to a free recital ticket (up to 2 per paying adult).
Personal assistants / carers go free.
Last minute tickets can be bought in person at the venue, however many events sell out early.
Bringing a large group? Email Malcolm Gillies: malcolm.gillies@scotsfiddlefestival.com and we'll do our best to assist.

ACCESS: If you have access or parking questions, SFF committee member Dugald is a wheelchair user himself and keen to help - email info@scotsfiddlefestival.com.

There is no general parking in the Pleasance Courtyard.

WELCOME

Interesting times we live in: world events, financial crisis, climate crisis, things constantly changing, but one thing which doesn't change is a great weekend at The Scots Fiddle Festival. Good company, good music - be it playing or listening, meeting up with old friends, making some new ones and generally relaxing.

So once more to The Pleasance, and many thanks yet again to EUSA for hosting us.

This Festival is Jeana's last. Her successful performing & teaching career continues to grow and needs more time than she has available, so regrettably she is moving on. A grateful thanks to Jeana - she didn't have an easy gig, with lockdowns and constant zoom meetings, but she has left us a cracking festival this year and we wish her well.

We have Shetland, Norway, Wales, as well as Scotland, represented in the Headline acts, with some old favourites but a fair smattering of new. Plus workshops, stalls, recitals, ceilidh, and the ever popular sessions. All centred around our Festival Hub in The Cabaret Bar.

As ever the festival is run and organised by dedicated volunteers on the committee (to whom many thanks for a power of work), creating a friendly place to meet and enjoy good music - and enjoy the company.

Thanks for coming to the 2023 Festival; people travel from all round the world for this weekend and it wouldn't work without all of you. Please say hello, let's have your feedback, but most importantly, enjoy the weekend.

Malcolm Gillies

Thank you to...

Committee: **Malcolm Gillies** (Chair) **Jeana Leslie** (Artistic Director) **Katie Dekeizer** (Treasurer) **Fiona Campbell** / **Dugald McArthur** / **Donald Murray** / **Maira Weitzen** / **Elaine Appleby** / **Sarah Brown** / **Kirsten Leask** / **Caitlin Oddy**

Sound: **Dave Keay**, **Bootcamp Audio & Production**
Lights: **John Weitzen Lighting Services**
Video: **Sandy McGhie**, **Channel 7a**



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The SFF is a Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in Scotland No: SC217588 and a Scottish Charity No: SC031564.

SEE THE FULL PROGRAMME AND BOOK TICKETS AT WWW.SCOTSFIDDLEFESTIVAL.COM

2023 AT A GLANCE

CONCERT RECITAL CEILIDH WORKSHOP / TALK LED SESSION INFORMAL SESSION FESTIVAL HUB FESTIVAL CLUB

FRIDAY	Pleasance Theatre	Quaker Studio	Pentland Room	Ochil Room	Highland Room	Lomond Room	Cabaret Bar
7 pm							
8 pm	Concert How to Raise the Wind / VRi						
9 pm	7.30pm (doors 7pm)						
10 pm							
11 pm							Festival Club 11pm - 1am
12 am							

SATURDAY	Pleasance Theatre	Quaker Studio	Pentland Room	Ochil Room	Highland Room	Lomond Room	Cabaret Bar
10 am			Megan Henderson Using strings & ears no1 (advanced)	Jordan P Williams Groove accompaniment no2 (intermed/above)	Aneirin Jones Tunes from Wales no3 YOUTH		Festival Hub From 10am
11 am							STALLS SESSIONS CAFE/BAR
12 pm		12noon Arc Fiddlers	Juhani Silvola Harmony/accompaniment no4 (advanced)	Graham Rorie Playing v practicing no5 (intermed/above)	Ewan Thompson Fiddle making/care no6	Informal Session	with the odd special event - see noticeboard for details
1 pm		1pm Megan Henderson			Led Session (slow) 1 - 2pm		
2 pm		2pm Graham & Rory	Sarah-Jane S Tunes from Selvstrek no7 (intermed/above)	Rua MacMillan Highland Fiddle no8 (beginner)	Kathryn Nicol Irish session tunes no9 (intermed/above)	Informal Session	
3 pm		3pm Arthur & Kerran					
4 pm		4pm Kathryn Nicoll	Arthur Coates Reels from Quebec no10 (intermed/above)	Eryn Rae Playing with swing no11 (improver/intermed)		Led Session (fast) 4 - 5pm	
5 pm						Informal Session	
6 pm			(NB workshops levels are for guidance only)				
7 pm							
8 pm	Concert Haltadans / Eryn Rae Band / YEP	Ceilidh Armstrong Ceilidh Band					
9 pm	7.30pm (doors 7pm)	7.30 - 11pm					
10 pm							
11 pm						Informal Session	Festival Club 11pm - 1am
12 am							

SUNDAY	Pleasance Theatre	Quaker Studio	Pentland Room	Ochil Room	Highland Room	Lomond Room	Cabaret Bar
10 am			Ella / Haltadans Slow Shetland melodies no12 (beginner/improver)	Carly Blain Scottish Border tunes no13 YOUTH	Maurice Hend'n Shetland tunes & stories no14 (advanced)	Trad tunes for bairns. Family friendly	Festival Hub From 10am
11 am		TALK: Adam Sutherland				Led Session (slow) 11am	STALLS SESSIONS CAFE/BAR
12 pm		noon Ed Uni FolkSoc	Iain Fraser Crooked tunes no15 (intermediate)	Charlie Stewart Simon Fraser collection no16 (intermed/above)	Jeri Foreman Old time fiddle no17 (intermediate)	Informal Session 11.30am - 1pm	with the odd special event - see noticeboard for details
1 pm		1pm Eric Linklater				Led Session (slow) 1 - 2pm	
2 pm		2pm Rebecca & Charlie	Adam Sutherland 'Destroying' tunes no18 (intermediate)	Madeline Stewart New England tunes no19 (intermed/above)	Lauren Collier World & arrangement no20 (intermediate)	Informal Session	
3 pm		3pm Jeri Forman					
4 pm		4pm Lauren Collier	Simon Bradley Irish tunes no21 (improver/intermed)	Eric Linklater Orkney tunes & roots no22 (intermediate)	Marie Fielding Beginning to perform no23 (advanced)	Led Session (fast) 4 - 5pm	
5 pm							5.30pm
6 pm			(NB workshops levels are for guidance only)				Final Stramash



Programme correct at time of going to press but may be subject to changes beyond our control.

EVENING CONCERTS PLEASANCE THEATRE 7.30PM - 10PM (DOORS OPEN 7PM)

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

HOW TO RAISE THE WIND - SUMMERS/SILVOLA

Traditional and experimental sounds unite in the music of Scottish/Finnish duo Sarah-Jane Summers and Juhani Silvola, based in Norway. Each of their four albums was awarded Top Of The World status from *Songlines*, and their 3rd album, *The Smoky Smirr o Rain*, was nominated for a Norwegian Grammy. *How To Raise The Wind* was commissioned by Nordlysfestivalen 2022 (The Northern Lights Festival, Tromsø). In this through-composed work for string quintet and the duo, they take inspiration from the fantastic worlds of Highland folk tales. The music is based on the rhythmic drive and melodic focus of traditional music, but arranged as classical/contemporary chamber music, with the quintet as structural foundation.

VRI

VRI are 3 Welsh musical & cultural archaeologists who have unearthed and breathed new life into centuries-old forms of Welsh language, music and dance, previously suppressed by Act of Union and Methodist doctrine. The finesse of the violin, viola and cello combine eloquently with the beauty of chamber music, while the raw energy of the fiddle alongside powerful vocal harmonies create an uplifting soundscape of stories that transcend centuries. VRI, in Old Welsh, means 'above' or 'floating' to describe the sensation of playing this kind of exhilarating vocal and instrumental chamber music without the rhythmic anchors of drums, keyboards or fretted instruments. Jordan Price Williams (cello), Aneirin Jones (violin) and Patrick Rimes (viola & violin), who also all sing, are what embody award-winning VRI, whose new album *islais a genir* (A Sung Whisper) was released in 2022.



SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER

HALTADANS

Formed 10 years ago with the aim of giving a new lease of life to long-forgotten tunes from the archives of the Shetland fiddle tradition, Haltadans are some of Shetland's finest folk musicians: Maurice Henderson, Ewen Thomson & Ella Robertson (fiddles), with Grant Nicol (guitar) and John Clark (bass).

Whilst rooted in celebrating traditional Shetland music, the band introduce many self-penned compositions to their lively sets. They approach tunes in a fresh yet sensitive manner. Layered, intricate harmonies and arrangements sit alongside fired-up dance tunes with fresh compositions. Their recent Album *Light ida Lum*, recorded at Mareel in Lerwick, met great acclaim.

ERYN RAE BAND

Hailing from the Borders, Eryn has been playing fiddle from the age of 7. Now based in Glasgow, she won BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2022, and received a First-Class Honours in Traditional Music at the Royal Conservatoire. She was one of four finalists in the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award 2017. With influences from Scotland, Ireland, Cape Breton and Scandinavia, Eryn's style is energetic and distinctive. She will be joined by fellow YTM0Y winner, Michael Biggins, on piano, and Stephen Henderson on percussion.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Young musicians from all backgrounds, all over Scotland, led by Graham Rorie.



WORKSHOPS SATURDAY

- 10 - 11.30 AM**
 - 1 MEGAN HENDERSON - USING OUR STRINGS & EARS TOGETHER**
Learning by ear and finding tone by feel and awareness of other musicians.
 - 2 JORDAN PRICE WILLIAMS - GROOVE ACCOMPANIMENT**
Fiddle/viola/cello. Introduction to the shuffle & chop, and choosing chords.
 - 3 ANEIRIN JONES - TUNES FROM WALES**
YOUTH Welsh repertoire, looking at dynamics, bowing and double stops.
- 12 - 1.30 PM**
 - 4 JUHANI SILVOLA - HARMONY & ACCOMPANIMENT**
Learn a Finnish tune, look at arranging techniques. Any instrument.
 - 5 GRAHAM RORIE - PLAYING V PRACTISING**
Breaking down tricky passages, fingering, bowing and phrasing.
 - 6 EWAN THOMPSON - FIDDLE MAKING/CARE**
Learn about instrument making, care and maintainance, the tools Ewan uses and how he harnesses the best sound.
- 2 - 3.30 PM**
 - 7 SARAH-JANE SUMMERS - TUNES FROM SÖLVSTRÖK**
Tunes Sarah-Jane and Juhani composed for their duo + chamber orchestra.
 - 8 RUA MACMILLIAN - HIGHLAND FIDDLE**
Exploring tunes and technique from the Highland fiddle tradition.
 - 9 KATHRYN NICOL - SESSION-FRIENDLY IRISH TUNES**
Concentrating on bowing and technique including ornamentation.

- 4 - 5.30 PM**
 - 10 ARTHUR COATES - REELS FROM QUEBEC**
Introduction to Quebecois shuffle bowing.
 - 11 ERYN RAE - PLAYING WITH SWING**
Develop your own style and add more 'swing' to your playing, with the use of bowing techniques, accents, and ornaments.

WORKSHOPS SUNDAY

- 12 ELLA ROBERTSON / HALTADANS MEMBERS - SLOW SHETLAND MELODIES**
Traditional Shetland double stopping which links with the Scandinavian culture.
- 13 CARLY BLAIN - SCOTTISH BORDER TUNES**
YOUTH Harmonies, techniques and ornaments to create a great sound.
- 14 MAURICE HENDERSON - SHETLAND TUNES & THEIR STORIES**
Learn tunes that depict the lives & traditions that hold fast for the islanders.
- 15 IAIN FRASER - CROOKED TUNES**
Changing time signatures, parts that have an unequal number of bars...
- 16 CHARLIE STEWART - THE SIMON FRASER COLLECTION**
Explore ways of interpreting the music, collected from 1715 to 1745.
- 17 JERI FOREMAN - OLD TIME FIDDLE**
From the meeting of colonial, indigenous and African cultures in North America, old time is a trancey, groovy and inclusive foundation for country and bluegrass.
- 18 ADAM SUTHERLAND - DESTROYING SOME OF OUR BEST LOVED TUNES**
Rewriting in a shockingly poor way, highlighting why our favourite tunes work.
- 19 MADELINE STEWART - NEW ENGLAND TUNES**
Expect a couple detours to French-Canadian, English, Irish & Cape Breton influence.
- 20 LAUREN COLLIER - WORLD MUSIC & ARRANGEMENT**
World music for the fiddle, including harmonies, and arrangement ideas.
- 21 SIMON BRADLEY - IRISH TUNES & OWN COMPOSITIONS**
Ornamentation, bowing, and variations will be explored.
- 22 ERIC LINKLATER - ORKNEY FIDDLE, TUNES & ROOTS**
Core values & wide influences of old style and evolving tradition in Orkney.
- 23 MARIE FIELDING - BEGINNING TO PERFORM**
Explore your own style and technique as a performer. Focus on inner confidence and learning to share your fiddling with others in performance.

RECITALS SATURDAY QUAKER STUDIO

12 NOON: THE ARC FIDDLERS

An enthusiastic group of young people from Moray, taught by Mhairi Marwick, they perform at local events including Speyfest and The Arc Sessions supporting Skerryvore.

1PM: MEGAN HENDERSON

Musician of the Year 2022 at the Scots Trad Music Awards, multi-instrumentalist and singer Megan Henderson's profile continues to flourish with the 2022 release of her album *Pilgrim Souls*, an instrumental and vocal suite inspired by the art work of fellow Fort William native Christine Clark. Touring with her trio comprising Su-a Lee (Cello/Saw) and Alistair Iain Paterson (Piano/Harmonium), she combines beauty, energy, and finesse to create a versatile programme of original music and song.

2PM: GRAHAM RORIE & RORY MATHESON

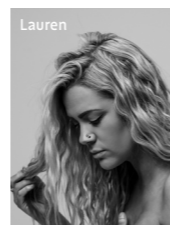
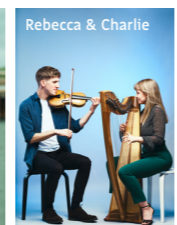
We Have Won The Land is the new collaboration from fiddler Graham and pianist Rory celebrating the unprecedented success of the Assynt Crofter's Trust in buying the 21,300 acre North Lochinver Estate in 1993. Their album, released in Spring 2022, was nominated for Album of the Year at the MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards.

3PM: ARTHUR COATES & KERRAN COTTERELL

Arthur & Kerran are carving out a name for themselves with their unique style, rooted in Quebecois music fused with songs from around the British Isles and North America. Their creative choices and syncopated melodic rhythms are a testament to their talent and synergy. These multi-instrumentalists / vocalists make music that is thoughtful, conscious, and driven.

4PM: KATHRYN NICOLL

Kathryn is a multiple Scottish fiddle champion from Kirriemuir. Now in Edinburgh she's a well-known session musician with regular nights in Sandy Bells. She has played with many musicians and travelled extensively playing everything from dance shows to session trails and teaching festivals.



© Elly Lucas

RECITALS SUNDAY QUAKER STUDIO

12 NOON: EDINBURGH UNI FOLK SOCIETY

At 75, FolkSoc is one of the oldest UK student folk societies. Musicians from all over the world share music they have grown up with as well as those found on their travels. Rooted in the Scottish tradition, they play tunes from all over.

1PM: ERIC LINKLATER

Eric learned traditional music from early childhood in a vibrant Orkney folk scene. His debut album, aged 17, saw him hailed "a new young star" by *The Living Tradition*. His talent and range of influence, spanning the US to Scandinavia, as well as self-penned tunes led to RCS graduation and the Martyn Bennett scholarship. Eric performed his New Voices commission at Celtic Connections.

2PM: REBECCA HILL & CHARLIE STEWART

Rebecca and Charlie are a harpist and fiddler who have collaborated in numerous settings, deciding to make an album in 2022. *Thawcrook* draws on their individual musical backgrounds as well as their love of contemporary arrangement, compositions and improvisation. It is also influenced by the thriving traditional music scene in Glasgow, where they are both based.

3PM: JERI FORMAN

Jeri is a multifaceted musician from Adelaide. Fascinated by similarities and differences in fiddle traditions, she travelled Europe and North America, finding tunes and sharing Australian repertoire along the way, before settling in Glasgow. She performs all over the world across multiple genres.

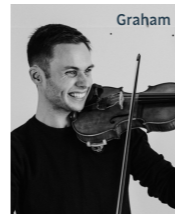
4PM: LAUREN COLLIER

Lauren is a fiddler and singer based in Glasgow. Her album *Uddevalla* features songs and tunes she has collected from around the world. The fresh compositions and arrangements, combined with technology, create a blend of music encompassing flavours of traditional, world, and electronic music.

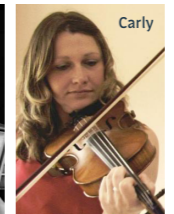
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TRAD TUNES FOR BAIRNS SUNDAY 10-11AM, LOMOND ROOM

Sisters Kirsty Johnson & Fiona Hamilton bring a fun, family performance. Join them for dancing and a sing along with your wee ones. FREE. 0-11yrs.

TALK: ADAM SUTHERLAND IN CONVERSATION SUNDAY 11AM-12PM, QUAKER STUDIO

Adam shares a selection of 'Tunes n Tales' from his 25 years of being a professional musician.

CEILIDH: ARMSTRONG CEILIDH BAND SATURDAY 7.30 - 11PM, QUAKER STUDIO

Carly & Graeme mix fast, energetic tunes with Scottish songs. Having grown up around the traditions of the Scottish Borders their set features much of the music they heard there. Both graduates of the Folk and Traditional Music Degree from Newcastle University, and having spent years touring in bands around the world (Monster Ceilidh Band, The Rachel Hamer Band, Reel time, Ideoms Theatre), they are excited to be back playing together. Their powerful and exciting set provides a captivating performance. Their infectious enthusiasm and huge repertoire, together with their experienced dance caller, will get everyone on the floor and having a good time.



Carly Blain (fiddle) & Graeme Armstrong (guitar and song)

SESSIONS LOMOND ROOM & CABARET BAR

Led or informal; fast or slow - there's a session for everyone.



READ MORE ONLINE

www.scotsfiddlefestival.com

FESTIVAL HUB SAT & SUN, FROM 10AM CABARET BAR

The Pleasance Cabaret Bar is the place to network, relax, listen, and browse. The café/bar is open throughout the festival.

FESTIVAL CLUB FRI & SAT, 11PM - 1AM CABARET BAR

Want more? The Festival Club brings you even more great music after the recitals and concerts are over. Join local and international artists as they make special un-billed appearances. See someone you haven't had a chance to hear elsewhere and witness some spellbinding collaborations.

THE 25+2 COLLECTION

A collection of 27 tunes by 27 composers



Available from www.scotsfiddlefestival.com