

TRACS

TRADITIONAL
ARTS + CULTURE
SCOTLAND

Workshops & Taster Sessions

APRIL – JUNE 2026



Scottish
STORYTELLING
Forum

Traditional Music Forum
Fòram Ceòl Traidiseanta na h-Alba

Welcome...

...to the joint spring programme (April-June) from **TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland)**, the **Scottish Storytelling Forum** and the **Traditional Music Forum of Scotland**. From drop-in taster sessions to professional skills development, we present a rich and eclectic offering of workshops, talks and performances.

As the days grow longer we look forward to welcoming you to the Scottish Storytelling Centre (Edinburgh), An Lanntair (Stornoway) and CatStrand (New Galloway), as well as online and as part of Edinburgh Tradfest, for a seasonal celebration of our shared traditions of music, song, storytelling, dance, crafts, customs and indigenous languages.

The Scottish Storytelling Forum and the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland combine skills developments opportunities and practical support sessions, whilst TRACS builds on its work in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), also known as Living Heritage, to showcase the Traditional Arts as a whole in a lively mix of back-to-basics talks, interactive drop-in sessions and 'come & try' workshops.

We hope you find something to enjoy and we look forward to welcoming you soon!

Cover images: Siannie Moodie, Photo by Andy Catlin

Willow Weaving: Photo by TRACS
(Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland)



Charlie Stewart
Photo by Neil Hanna

Booking & Venue Information

For full booking information for all events, please visit:



Website: tracscotland.org/workshops

Phone: +44 (0)131 556 9579

Email: info@tracscotland.org

Tickets & Pricing

*For events at SSC a booking fee of £1.50 is charged per transaction. There is no booking fee for free events, or for events booked in-person.

**For events at An Lanntair and Catstrand booking is via TicketSource (links on TRACS website) and a booking fee of 6.5% + VAT is charged per ticket.

Venues

Events in this programme take place at the following venues:

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE, EDINBURGH (SSC)

scottishstorytellingcentre.com

0131 556 9579

AN LANNTAIR, STORNOWAY

lanntair.com | 01851 708 480

CATSTRAND, NEW GALLOWAY

gcat.scot | 01644 420 374

ONLINE

scottishstorytellingcentre.com

0131 556 9579

Full venue details and directions are available on our website.

Access

Access arrangements vary by venue. Please check the relevant venue's website for detailed access information, or contact the venue directly if you have specific requirements.

For queries relating to online events, please contact TRACS via info@tracscotland.org



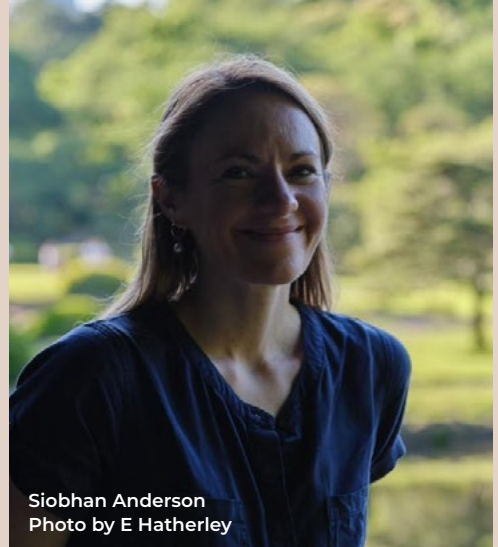
@tracscotland



@TRACScot



Alice Fernbank
Photo by Ludovic Farine



Siobhan Anderson
Photo by E Hatherley

SAT 11 APR | 10:30AM (5HRS)

***£25 (£20 SSF MEMBERS) | SSC**

Starting with Stories

A hands-on, practical introduction to live storytelling and the associated skills. Storyteller **Alice Fernbank** leads this participatory session for anyone curious about discovering and developing their own storytelling talent. Let out your inner storyteller and learn to craft your skills. For new and aspiring storytellers. Presented by the Scottish Storytelling Forum.

FRI 17 APR | 10AM (3HRS) | **£15 (£13) (£7.50

TMFS MEMBERS) | AN LANNTAIR, STORNOWAY

Funding & Finances for Musicians

A fundraising workshop for traditional musicians and organisations led by **Siobhan Anderson** (Traditional Music Officer at Creative Scotland). Siobhan will talk through what assessors look for in funding applications and how to plan out a project in advance of applying for support. Primarily aimed at traditional musicians and organisations who are interested in applying for arts funding, or who have a great project idea but don't know where to begin. Presented by the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland.

APRIL

SAT 18 APR | 10AM (3HRS) | **£15 (£13) (£7.50
TMFS MEMBERS) | AN LANNTAIR, STORNOWAY

Recording & Releasing Your Music

Are you a musician looking to record and release your music with confidence? Join us for an in depth, practical workshop with **Keith Morrison** (Wee Studio Records) that explores how to take your music from an initial idea, through the recording process and out to the world.

Ideal for musicians new to recording or those wanting to improve both their creative process and their understanding of the wider music industry, this workshop is designed to be practical, honest, and empowering.

Join us and leave better informed, better prepared, and ready to take control of your music. Presented by the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland.

*The Director of the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland, **Brian Ó hEadhra**, will be at both An Lanntair events to meet attendees, discuss the work of the Forum and highlight opportunities to get involved.*



Keith Morrison
Photo by Wee Studio Records

MAY



EDINBURGH TRADFEST

TRACS are pleased to present a series of events and workshops as part of Edinburgh Tradfest (Fri 1 – Mon 11 May). Join us in a spring celebration!

FRI 3 APR – SUN 10 MAY

Exhibition: Highland Story Quilts

FRI 1 MAY

7:30pm | Moonspinners

SAT 2 MAY

10:30am & 11:45am | Family Beltane

2pm | Ogham-chraobh (Pt.1)

8pm | FAODAIL | FOUND

SUN 3 MAY

10:30am & 11:30am | Harvest Moon

11am | What is... Traditional Dance?

1pm | Easy Sundays: Starting with Step Dance

7:30pm | The Corpse Road

MON 4 MAY

11am | What is... Traditional Craft?

1pm & 3pm | Afternoon: Hand-Bound Brush Making

1pm & 3pm | Afternoon: Willow-weaving

TUE 5 MAY

1pm | What is... Traditional Music?

2pm | Cafe Cèilidh

THU 7 MAY

6pm | What is... Traditional Storytelling?

7:30pm | Hearth Fire Sessions

FRI 8 MAY

1pm | What is... Gaelic in Traditional Arts?

2:30pm | Bùth-obrach Òrain na Gàidhlig | Gaelic Song Workshop

7pm | Bothan Dhùn Èideann

SAT 9 MAY

1pm | What is... Scots in Traditional Arts?

2pm | Ogham-chraobh (Pt.2)

2:30pm | Young Scots Singers

7:30pm | A Cold Heart

SUN 10 MAY

10am | Living Heritage Discovery Day



Charlie Stewart
Photo by Neil Hanna



MAY

SAT 2 MAY & SAT 9 MAY | 2PM (3HRS)

*£40 | SSC

Ogham-chraobh

Explore an ancient link between trees and language; learning Gaelic names for trees and looking at the beith-luis-nin, a form of the early medieval Ogham alphabet as a prompt for creating improvised music.

During this 2-part workshop with musician **Susannah Stark**, participants will get to know the variety of Ogham inscriptions in Scotland, learn the names of different trees in the surrounding area in Gaelic and Ogham, and work with field recordings, acoustic and electronic instruments and your voices, responding to improvisation prompts and creating visual scores for improvising together. Open to musicians of any background and level of experience who are willing to improvise, try vocal practices, and open to group working.

Photo by Susannah Stark

SUN 3 MAY | 11AM (1HR) | FREE (TICKETED)

SSC & ONLINE

What is... Traditional Dance?

We've probably all been to a cèilidh dance; maybe even seen dancing at a Highland Games, but what actually is understood by 'Traditional Dance' in Scotland? Join author, scholar, dancer and dance teacher **Pat Ballantyne** to find out, in the relaxed environment of the SSC Library (or, if you prefer, in the comfort of your own home).



Cèilidh House
Photo by Carl
John Barber

SUN 3 MAY | 1PM (2HRS) | FREE (TICKETED) | SSC

Easy Sundays: Starting with Step Dance

Step Dance is Scotland's indigenous percussive dance tradition: a magical combination of music and movement. Led by expert tutor, **Pat Ballantyne**, with musical accompaniment by fantastic fiddler-piper duo, **Sarah Hoy** and **Fin Moore**, this introductory session is for anyone interested in taking their first steps in one of Scotland's most thrilling Traditional Dance forms in a relaxed environment.

MON 4 MAY | 11AM (1HR) | FREE (TICKETED)

SSC & ONLINE

What is... Traditional Craft?

Crafting is popular like never before – from basket making to knitting, potting to printmaking; but where are the roots of all this contemporary crafting; and what counts as 'Traditional Craft'? Join Heritage Craft's expert **Mary Lewis**, along with craft artists **Simon Cooper** and **Anna Liebmann** to find out, in the relaxed environment of the George Mackay Brown Library (or, if you prefer, in the comfort of your own home).

Want to try your own hand at crafting? Stick around for one (or both!) of our afternoon workshops on Hand-Bound Brush Making and Willow Weaving.



MAY

MON 4 MAY | 1PM OR 3PM (1HR 30) | *£15 | SSC

Crafternoon: Hand-Bound Brush Making with Simon Cooper

Whether you count yourself a canny crafter already, or think you're not crafty at all, come and try your hand at the beautiful and practical craft of hand-bound brush making, under the expert tutelage of **Simon Cooper**. Enjoy learning to make something that's both lovely and useful, with the pleasure of taking your brush home with you!

Looking for more crafting? Come and try Willow Weaving with Anna Liebmann either before or after your brush-making session.

MON 4 MAY | 1PM OR 3PM (1HR 30) | **£15 | SSC

Crafternoon: Willow-weaving with Anna Liebmann

Adorn your home with your very own willow woven decorations! Try your hand at willow weaving under the expert guidance of local basketmaker **Anna Liebmann**. Learn the very basics of one of the oldest known (and still modern!) crafts, and leave with your hard work in hand.

Looking for more crafting? Come and try Hand-Bound Bush Making with Simon Cooper either before or after your weaving session.

TUE 5 MAY | 1PM (1HR) | FREE (TICKETED)

SSC & ONLINE

What is... Traditional Music?

In this week of Edinburgh Tradfest, you might think this a daft question: but come and challenge your preconceptions with a fresh perspective from guest speaker, **Claire Frances MacNeil** – native of Barra, Gaelic singer, fiddler, scholar and recipient of the Gold Medal for traditional singing at the 2024 National Mòd. Stay on afterwards for a free session of music from members of the Scots Music Group at Cafe Cèilidh.



Hand-bound brushes
Photo by Simon Cooper

THU 7 MAY | 6PM (1HR) | FREE (TICKETED)

SSC & ONLINE

What is... Traditional Storytelling?

Storytelling comes in all shapes and sizes, but how do we know what makes it 'traditional' or not? Join Orkney storyteller **Tom Muir**, as he brings a fresh Northern sea breeze to this sometimes misty matter. Stay on afterwards to hear Tom in action in our celebrated Hearth Fire Sessions.

FRI 8 MAY | 1PM (1HR) | FREE (TICKETED) | SSC

& ONLINE

What is... Gaelic in Traditional Arts?

Tha a' Ghàidhlig air a bhith aig cridhe traidiseanan òrain, bàrdachd agus sgeulachdan na h-Alba tharais na linntean. Anns a' bhùth-obrach seo, bidh an seinneadair agus an t-oideachaiche ainmeil **Brian Ó hEadhra** a' roinn beachdan air a' chànan, a co-theacsa cultarail, agus a' bhuaidh a th' aice air ceòl traidiseanta an-diugh. Tro dheasbad agus eisimpleirean, tha cuireadh aig com-pàirtichean bruidhinn air òrain agus traidisean na Gàidhlig ann an dòigh fhosgailte agus ruigsinneach.

Scottish Gaelic has long been central to the song, poetry, and storytelling traditions of Scotland. In this workshop, acclaimed singer and educator **Brian Ó hEadhra** shares insights into the language, its cultural context, and its continuing influence on traditional music today. Through discussion and examples, participants are invited to engage with Gaelic song and tradition in an open and accessible way.

FRI 8 MAY | 2:30PM (2HRS)

FREE (TICKETED) | SSC

Bùth-obrach Òrain na Gàidhlig | Gaelic Song Workshop

Bidh òrain Gàidhlig a' pòsadh faclan is fonn ri chèile gu foirfe; agus chan eil duine sam bith a tha nas fheàrr gus seo a dhearbhadh na an seinneadair is neach-ciùil Gàidhlig, **Brian Ó hEadhra**, a bhios gur stiùireadh sa bhùth-obrach seo a tha fosgailte do dhaoine de gach comas, a' coimhead air na seòrsaichean òrain Ghàidhlig as cudromaiche - a' gabhail a-steach port-à-beul, òrain luaidh, agus sàr-òrain cèilidh. Chan fheum eòlas a bhith agad air a' Ghàidhlig roimhe, ach bhiodh beagan eòlais air seinn feumail.

Gaelic song is the perfect marriage of word and tune; and there's none better to demonstrate this than Gaelic singer and musician, **Brian Ó hEadhra**, who'll be your guide in this workshop open to all abilities, covering the essential Gaelic song types – including port-à-beul (mouth music), waulking songs, and some cèilidh classics. No prior experience in Gaelic required, though some singing experience is desirable.

SAT 9 MAY | 1PM (1HR) | FREE (TICKETED)

SSC & ONLINE

What is... Scots in Traditional Arts?

With the passing of the Scottish Languages Act last year, Scots (along with Gaelic) finally got long-overdue official recognition as one of Scotland's national languages. Learn more about its cultural kist o riches, from the medieval makars to Bothy Ballads, with Scots speaker and singer, **Steve Byrne**, looking at Scots' central place in our Traditional Arts.

Throu the Scottish Leids Act last year, Scots (alang wi Gaelic) wis gien lang socht offeicial kennin as ane o Scotland's national leids. Lairn mair about its cultural kist o riches, fae medieval makars tae Bothy Ballads, wi Scots spikker an sangster, **Steve Byrne**, leukin at the Scots leid's kenspeckle place in oor Tradeitional Airts.

SAT 9 MAY | 2:30PM (2HRS 30)

FREE (DROP-IN) | SSC

Young Scots Singers

Caain aa Scots sangsters unner 30! An efternuin o sang sharin an lairnin fur younger sangsters in the Scots tradeition, o aa levels o experience. Share yer Scots sangs in a blythe, walcomin environs, in a gaitherin tae forder the neist generation o sangsters in the Scots leid. Wi **Steve Byrne** an **Scott Gardiner** in pairtnership wi Embra Varsity Folk Society an The World's Room sang howff.

Calling all Scots sangsters under 30! An afternoon of song sharing and learning for younger singers in the Scots tradition, of all levels of experience. Share your Scots songs in a friendly, welcoming environment, in an event aiming to support the next generation of singers in the Scots leid. Hosted by **Steve Byrne** and **Scott Gardiner** in conjunction with Edinburgh University Folk Society and The World's Room singing club.

Neil Sutcliffe
Photo by Neil Hanna



SAT 9 MAY | 10AM (3HRS) | **£15 (£13)
(£7.50 TMFS MEMBERS) | CATSTRAND,
NEW GALLOWAY

Funding & Finances for Musicians

This interactive workshop will take you through important considerations for developing a funded project, including how to budget, write the application and keep track of finances once you have secured the funding. Led by festival organiser, folk music agent, and creative producer **Katch Holmes**, who has also managed grant programmes with Arts & Business Scotland. Suitable for traditional and folk musicians and organisations who are interested in applying for funding, or who have a great project idea but don't know where to begin. Presented by the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland.

SAT 9 MAY | 2PM (3HRS) | **£15 (£13) (£7.50 TMFS
MEMBERS) | CATSTRAND, NEW GALLOWAY

Self-Promotion & Booking Gigs

Shameless or not, some kind of self-promotion is necessary as an artist. In this workshop, participants will explore how they view their role as an artist, how they promote themselves and what they want to achieve. The workshop will also cover practical steps around booking gigs and touring, including how to build contacts, approach promoters and negotiate fees. Suitable for new musicians as well as established artists who wish to improve, reflect on or change their current direction or image. Led by festival organiser, folk music agent, and creative producer **Katch Holmes**. Presented by the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland.



Katch Holmes
Photo by Katch Holmes

MAY

SUN 10 MAY | 10AM-6PM | FREE (DROP-IN) | SSC

Living Heritage Discovery Day

Join TRACS and partners for a jam-packed all-day celebration of the very best in the Traditional Arts at the Scottish Storytelling Centre. Intrigued by Intangible Cultural Heritage and would love to know more? Come to the Living Heritage Fayre to find out all you want to know from Scotland's experts in the field, whilst having a go yourself in our come and try craft, dance, music and storytelling taster workshops.

We're thrilled to have with us **Michael Fortune**, Ireland's folklore aficionado, who'll be talking to us about our Celtic cousins' approach to ICH and tradition-bearing, as well as his own amazing work via the folklore.ie platform.

We round off the day with a traditional 'house cèilidh' – a welcoming showcase of traditional craft, dance, music and song with participation warmly encouraged.

10am–1:30pm | Living Heritage Fayre
10:30am–1:30pm | Come & Try Sessions
2pm–3:30pm | An Afternoon with Michael Fortune of folklore.ie
4pm–6pm | TRACS House Cèilidh



Living Heritage Talk
Photo by TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland)

SAT 16 MAY | 10:30AM (5HRS) | *£25 (£20) | SSC

Creative Approaches to Dementia Inclusive Storytelling

Sharing stories with people living with dementia is a creative and collaborative practice. Led by **Jan Bee Brown**, a storyteller with 10 years of experience shaping and sharing stories for dementia inclusive events. Whether you are a storyteller or work/volunteer in the third sector or a residential care setting, this workshop will give you the tools to make a story resonate with neurologically diverse audiences and ensure your creative event is dementia inclusive. Presented by the Scottish Storytelling Forum.

SAT 13 JUN | 11AM (2HRS)

*£15 (£13) (£7.50 TMFS MEMBERS) | SSC

Gaelic Songs of Runrig with Norrie Maclver

Thigibh agus rannsaichibh clàr nan òran Gàidhlig a sgrìobh is a sheinn Runrig bhon chiad chlàr aca a-riamh *Play Gaelic*, anns an robh cuid de na h-òrain as motha nan cùrsa-beatha, gu òrain Gàidhlig nas co-aimsireil a chuidich le bhith a' cumadh sealladh dùthchail na Gàidhlig agus a' brosnachadh mòran sheinneadairean thar nan 50 bliadhna a dh'fhalbh.

B' e Calum agus Ruaraidh MacDhòmhnaill prìomh sgrìobhadairean òrain na Gàidhlig thar nan 50 bliadhna a dh'fhalbh agus chuidich na h-òrain aca le bhith a' cumadh saoghal seinn na Gàidhlig chun na tha e an-diugh, agus cluinnidh sibh mòran de na h-òrain aca gan cleachdadh aig an fhèis Ghàidhealach as motha san t-saoghal, Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail.

Come and explore the catalogue of Gaelic songs written and performed by Runrig, from their first ever album *Play Gaelic*, (which included some of the biggest songs of their career), to more contemporary Gaelic songs that helped shape the Gaelic folk scene and inspire many singers over the last 50 years.

Calum and Rory Macdonald were the key Gaelic songwriters of the last 50 years, and their songs helped shape the Gaelic singing world to what it is today. Many of their songs are now used at the biggest Gaelic festival in the world, The Royal National Mòd. Presented by the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland.



Norrie Maclver
Photo by Paul Jennings

JUNE

SAT 27 JUN | 11AM (2HRS)

*£15 (£13) (£7.50 TMFS MEMBERS) | SSC

Scots Songs from Aberdeenshire with Ellie Beaton

Jyne award-winnin nor'east folk sangster **Ellie Beaton** fur a blithesome reenge throu tradeitional Aiberdeenshire ballants fae the Greig-Duncan Folk Sang Collection. Uisin sic routhie resoources, fowk takkin pairt wull fin oot mair about the airt o gaitherin folk sangs, alang wi the distinct ornamentation an style o thon pairt o the kintra. Pit on bi the Tradeitional Music Forum o Scotland.

Join award-winning North-East folk singer **Ellie Beaton** for an engaging exploration of traditional Aberdeenshire ballads from the Greig–Duncan Folk Song Collection. Through these rich resources, participants will delve into the art of folk song collecting, while exploring the distinctive ornamentation and style of the region. Presented by the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland.

Ellie Beaton
Photo by
Gillie O'Flaherty



Willow Weaving
Photo by TRACS
(Traditional Arts and
Culture Scotland)

SUN 28 JUN | 12PM (3HRS)

FREE (DROP-IN) | SSC

Easy Sundays: Willow Weaving

Try your hand at willow weaving in this beginner-friendly afternoon. Spend a day with professional East Lothian basket maker **Jilly Greig** learning the basic weaving skills whilst working on a real basket project. Materials provided and no prior experience necessary.





TRACS (Traditional Arts & Culture Scotland) (SCIO, SC043009) is a co-operative network which champions our shared traditions of crafts, dance, music, and storytelling: our intangible cultural heritage. As of June 2024, TRACS is an accredited NGO expert advisor to UNESCO on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and is supporting the UK Department for Culture, Media and Sport as one of ten Community Support Hubs developing the UK's first Inventory of Living Heritage. TRACS is supported by Creative Scotland and The City of Edinburgh Council.

tracscotland.org

Scottish STORYTELLING Forum

Scottish Storytelling Forum

(SCIO SC052330) The Scottish Storytelling Forum is the national network for Scotland's storytelling community. It supports and connects storytellers, organisations and audiences, championing Scotland's rich oral traditions in contemporary life through events, advocacy and sector development.

storytellingforum.co.uk

Traditional Music Forum
Fòram Ceòl Traidiseanta na h-Alba

Traditional Music Forum of Scotland

(SCIO SC042867) The Traditional Music Forum of Scotland is the national network for Scotland's traditional music sector. It connects musicians, promoters, educators and organisations, providing advocacy, professional development and information sharing to support a vibrant and sustainable traditional music community.

traditionalmusicforum.org

Funders



• EDINBURGH •
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL



tracscotland.org/workshops



@tracscotland



@TRACScot