

TRACS

TRADITIONAL
ARTS + CULTURE
SCOTLAND

Workshops & Taster Sessions

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2026



Scottish
STORYTELLING
Forum

Traditional Music Forum
Fòram Ceòl Traidiseanta na h-Alba

Welcome...

A warm welcome to the autumn programme from TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland), the Scottish Storytelling Forum, and the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland; a rich and eclectic offering of workshops, talks, performances, and practical sessions, with something for all ages, interests, and experience levels.

The Scottish Storytelling Forum and the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland combine skills development 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 talks, interactive drop-in sessions and 'come & try' workshops.

This autumn, sessions will take place across Scotland, with events hosted in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and the Isle of Skye, alongside a wide range of online sessions, making it easier to take part wherever you are.

Cover images:
Franziska Droll, Photo by Ross Johnstone
Stepdance shoes, Photo by Archie MacFarlane

Harp: Photo by Aly Wight



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 £1.25 is charged per ticket capped at 4 tickets. There is no booking fee for free events, or for events booked in-person.

**For events at UHI Broadford Learning Hub and Scottish Music Centre booking is via TicketSource (links on TRACS website) and a booking fee of 6.5% + VAT is charged per ticket.

Bursary Places

Where cost is a barrier to participation, three bursary places are available for Contemporary Methods in Folklore with Lucy Wright on 14 November. No proof of eligibility required, please contact SSC Box Office to reserve a place. Email: reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com

Venues

Events in this programme take place at the following venues:

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE,

EDINBURGH (SSC)

scottishstorytellingcentre.com

0131 556 9579

UHI BROADFORD LEARNING HUB, ISLE OF SKYE

nwh.uhi.ac.uk | 01397 874530

SCOTTISH MUSIC CENTRE, GLASGOW

scottishmusiccentre.com | 0141 552 5222

ONLINE

scottishstorytellingcentre.com

0131 556 9579

Full venue details and directions are available on our website. Bookers will receive joining information for online events in their confirmation email.

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



SUN 13 SEP | 11AM (50MIN) | *£5 | ALL AGES | SSC

Easy Sundays: Thistledown Tales

Join storyteller **Ailie Finlay** (My Kind of Book) for some soft and spiky tactile sensory stories for the changing of the seasons. Lots of bumpy, lumpy, smooth and stretchy props for joining in on the fun. Feel the breeze, listen to the rain and see the thistledown fly... After the stories and games you'll relax with some play dough crafts.

Fun for everyone, particularly suitable for children with additional needs and their families and friends. Part of the Accessible Book & Story Festival 2026.



Dijana Zorić
Photo by
Manuela Tunjic

SAT 19 SEP | 9:30AM (2HRS)

*£10 (£8 SSF MEMBERS) | ONLINE

Storytellers as Independent Entrepreneurs

This workshop with **Dijana Zorić** will upskill professional storytellers in the effective communication of their skills and services to current and potential clients, whether cultural, tourist or private sector, in domestic or international markets.

Participants will receive practical guidelines on how to develop business proposals, pricing models and other creative and operational formats essential for successful, sustainable and transparent professional practice

Presented by the Scottish Storytelling Forum.

SEPTEMBER

SAT 19 SEP | 10:30AM (3HRS)

*£5 (FREE TMFS MEMBERS) | SSC

Recording and Releasing Your Music

Join multi-instrumentalist and producer **Tom Oakes** for a practical workshop on recording and releasing your music, from initial concept to final release.

This workshop will guide you through each stage of the process, highlighting where you can save money, where it pays to invest, and how to avoid common pitfalls.

Tom will share insightful and helpful tips, and examples of what works (and what doesn't), helping you navigate your own recording project with greater confidence and clarity.

Presented by the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland.

SUN 20 SEP | 10:30AM (ALL DAY)

*£25 (FREE SSF MEMBERS) | SSC

Scottish Storytelling Forum Development Day

Storytellers are invited to the Storytelling Development Day 2026 at the Scottish Storytelling Centre for a full day of workshops, networking, presentations and discussion.



Lizzie McDougall
Photo by Aly Wight



Tom Oakes
Photo by Archie MacFarlane

SEPTEMBER

**FRIDAY 25 SEP | 10AM (3HRS) | **FREE TICKETED
UHI BROADFORD LEARNING HUB, ISLE OF SKYE**

Funding & Finances: Essential Skills for Traditional Artists & Organisations

Are you an artist or part of an arts organisation working in the traditional arts? Do you have a great project idea but no idea where to begin with funding and finances? This workshop will take you through what assessors look for in funding applications and how to plan out a project effectively in advance of applying for support. With **Siobhan Anderson** (Music Officer) and **Catriona Hawksworth** (Traditional Arts Officer) of Creative Scotland.

Presented by the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland.



Corn Dollies
Photo by Elaine Lindsay

SUN 27 SEP | 12PM (3HRS) | FREE DROP-IN | SSC

Easy Sundays: Come and Try Straw Work

Celebrate harvest time creatively, learning the seasonal craft of straw work with expert **Elaine Lindsay** from Something Corny. Discover this endangered tradition during this drop-in, hands-on afternoon and leave with your own hand-made corn dollies.

Siobhan Anderson and
Catriona Hawksworth
Photo by Jack Wolf



Deiseil Airson Dannsa Workshops



Discover the lively tradition of Scottish stepdance in these fun, welcoming workshops led by acclaimed dancer **Alison Carlyle** and musician **Amy Geddes** of Deiseil: Dancing in Time. Whether you're trying stepdance for the first time or looking to deepen your connection with Scotland's percussive dance tradition, these sessions offer a chance to learn rhythms, steps and tunes while exploring the remarkable story of a dance form that was lost in Scotland and revived through the traditions carried forward by Scottish communities in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.



Workshops range from introductory "Come and Try Stepdance" sessions, to combined stepdance and playing for stepdance workshops for dancers and musicians. No previous experience is needed for dancing, just wear comfortable shoes (hard soles are ideal). Suitable for intermediate and upwards musicians.

SAT 22 AUG | 2PM (2HRS 15)

£18, £14, £10 PWYC + £2 BOOKING FEE

PEEBLES LIVE - EASTGATE THEATRE

Stepdance and Playing for Stepdance

For dancers and musicians

TUE 8 SEP | 16.30PM (1HR) | £10, £8, £6 PWYC

CORN EXCHANGE, HADDINGTON

Stepdance

SAT 7 NOV | 11AM (1HR 30MIN) | £7

MAREEL, SHETLAND

Stepdance and Playing for Stepdance

For dancers and musicians

15 NOV | 10AM (1HR) | £10, £8, £6 PWYC

BALQUHIDDER VILLAGE HALL

Stepdance



Workshops and Performances are supported by TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland), for more information on upcoming events please visit: deiseil.scot

Alison Carlyle and Amy Geddes
Photo by Archie MacFarlane

OCTOBER

SUN 4 OCT | 11AM (2HRS)

*£15/£13 (£7.50 TMFS MEMBERS) | SSC

Scots Songs of Aberdeenshire

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 aboot the airt o gaitherin folk sangs, alang wi the distinct ornamentation an style o thon pairt o the kintra.

Join 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.

SAT 10 OCT | 6PM (2HRS)

*£10 (£8 SSF MEMBERS) | ONLINE

Starting with Stories

An interactive online introduction to live storytelling and the associated skills. Professional storyteller **Franziska Droll** 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.



Franziska Droll
Photo by Ross Johnstone



Ellie Beaton
Photo by Gillie O'Flaherty

OCTOBER

SAT 17 OCT | 10:30AM (5HRS) | SSC

Family Fun for Intangible Cultural Heritage Day

Celebrate International Intangible Cultural Heritage Day with an open-doors day of family fun at the Scottish Storytelling Centre. Explore our shared living heritage through story, crafts, dance, music and song with a line-up of come and try workshops, ticketed sessions and drop-in activity for all ages.

WED 21-SAT 31 OCT | VARIOUS TIMES | SSC

Scottish International Storytelling Festival Workshops

This year's Scottish International Storytelling Festival explores the rich relationship between storytelling and the natural world through the theme 'Bird and Beast'.

Alongside a vibrant programme across Scotland, the festival hub at SSC will host a programme of training workshops, discussions and sharings. Gather round, follow the trail of feathers and footprints, and let your imagination take flight.



Craft Session
Photo by Aly Wight

NOVEMBER

WED 4 NOV | 6:30PM (1HR 30) | FREE TICKETED

ONLINE

Meet the Practitioners: Thatched Roofing

One of Scotland's oldest forms of traditional craft, highlands thatching is also one of the most critically endangered with only a handful of practitioners remaining. Join online to hear from Master Thatcher and Drystone Dyker **Brian Wilson** and his former apprentice **Troy Holt** to gain insight into the world of this precarious craft and the efforts to preserve it.



Brian Wilson
Photo by Brian Wilson

SUN 8 NOV | 10:30AM (2HRS)

FREE TICKETED | SSC

Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Traditional Arts

Working in the traditional arts can be exceptionally rewarding, but it also comes with pressures that aren't always easy to talk about: financial uncertainty, irregular work, time away from home, the blurred line between identity and output, and an industry that often expects you to keep going regardless.

This workshop with **Jen Anderson** will consider some of the wellbeing challenges specific to working as a traditional artist, share experiences, and explore practical approaches to looking after yourself and each other within the sector. Part of the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival 2026.

Presented by the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland.



Jen Anderson
Photo by Jen Anderson

NOVEMBER

TUE 10 NOV | 6PM (2HRS)

*£10 (£8 SSF MEMBERS) | ONLINE

Working with a Producer

What is a producer? How do they choose the stories they work with? How can storytellers get involved, or develop their own producing skills?

Find the answers to these and many more burning questions at this interactive session with **Naomi Wilds**, producer and founder of storytelling production company Adverse Camber Productions.

Presented by the Scottish Storytelling Forum.



Naomi Wilds
Photo by Jenny
Babenko

FRI 13 NOV | 10AM (3HRS)

*£5 (FREE TMFS MEMBERS)

SCOTTISH MUSIC CENTRE

Self-Promotion and Booking Gigs

In this workshop with Scottish booking agent **Rosie Munro**, learn practical self-promotion strategies, how to create a strong Electronic Press Kit (EPK), how to pitch to promoters and bookers, and how to plan tours confidently.

The session will also explore branding, networking, and industry best practices to help artists stand out and secure performance opportunities. Participants should leave with actionable tools, real-world insights, and guidance they can immediately apply to their music careers.

Presented by the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland.



Rosie Munro
Photo by Ellie Lucas

NOVEMBER

SAT 14 NOV | 11:00AM (2HRS)

*£15/£13 (BURSARY PLACES AVAILABLE) | SSC

Contemporary Methods in Folklore with Lucy Wright

An exploration of practice-led approaches to folklore scholarship with artist **Lucy Wright**, whose work sits at the intersection of sculpture, performance and research.

Wright's projects often emerge from years of study into under-recognised and often female-led traditions, situated where folklore, feminism and social practice meet. Gain insight into creative methodologies in this skills session suitable for artists and researchers with an interest in folklore and traditional practices. The morning will conclude with an informal folklore walk, looking for aspects of folklife happening right on our doorsteps. Part of Carrying Stream 2026.



Lucy Wright
Photo by Tilo Reifenstein

NOVEMBER

SAT 21 NOV | 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.



Alice Fernbank
Photo by Ludovic Farine

WED 25 NOV | 10:30AM (3HRS)

**£5 (FREE SSF/TMFS MEMBERS) | SCOTTISH

MUSIC CENTRE

Social Media and Digital Strategies for Traditional Artists

This practical workshop with **Hayley Preston**, Digital Marketing and Communications Officer at TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland), is designed for traditional musicians, storytellers, dancers, craftspeople and other traditional artists.

Through demonstrations, discussion, and hands-on exercises, attendees will leave with a clearer digital strategy, a set of content ideas, and practical next steps for building an online presence that reflects their artistic practice.

Presented by the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland.



Hayley Preston
TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland)

DECEMBER

SUN 6 DEC | 12PM (3HRS)

FREE NON-TICKETED | SSC

Easy Sundays: Come and Try Festive Weaving

Get in the festive spirit with this beginner-friendly, drop-in basket weaving workshop. Spend an afternoon with professional basketmaker **Anna Corbett** learning the basic weaving skills and make your own small decorations to take home or give as gifts, just in time for the holidays.

After many years of organic gardening, Anna Corbett brings her love of plants and respect for the natural world to her current practice of string making and basketry. She works almost entirely with plants local to where she lives in Northumberland, using cultivated and wild plant fibres and organic matter. Anna is a member of the Basketmakers' Association, Scottish Basketmakers' Circle, and the Northumbria Basketry Group.

Basket Decorations
Photo by Anna Corbett



TRADITIONAL ARTS & CULTURE FUND

The Traditional Arts and Culture Fund is supported by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland and delivered by TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland), the national network for traditional arts in Scotland.

Applications to the Traditional Arts and Culture Fund are welcome from both organisations and individuals. The fund is designed to support traditional artists and organisations to create, perform, tour, and showcase work, as well as to develop professional skills and learning opportunities. The fund offers small grants of up to £1,200.



[tracscotland.org/
traditional-arts-
and-culture-fund/](http://tracscotland.org/traditional-arts-and-culture-fund/)

Living Heritage Day
Photo by Aly Wight.





TRACS (Traditional Arts & Culture Scotland) (SCIO, SC043009) is a co-operative network which champions our shared traditions of music, song, storytelling, dance, crafts, customs and indigenous languages. TRACS celebrates the local distinctiveness of Scotland's places: 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 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



tracscotland.org/workshops



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