



Scotland's Music. **Ready for the** **World.**

**Your guide to Scotland's folk
and traditional music sector**

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Welcome

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Scotland's dynamic traditional and folk music scene is brimming with talent from established musicians to a new generation of artists.

Scotland hosts some of the most exhilarating and renowned music festivals in the world, and the country has many prominent organisations which nourish indigenous languages and traditions while encouraging and supporting fresh talent and ideas.

We've gathered together some of the **key organisations and festivals from the sector** which showcase what the country has to offer.

Resources & Key Organisations

Scotland has a thriving music sector featuring some of the world's finest artists. This is bolstered by a strong network of organisations which offer a range of support services and opportunities.

Bogha-frois

Bogha-frois (Rainbow) is a project aimed at LGBTQIA+ musicians in Scotland who write, collaborate on and perform songs in the folk tradition, that tell stories about life as members of the LGBTQIA+ community. The ultimate aim is to create a series of shows which reveal a link between the Scottish folk tradition and 21st century issues and values.

www.facebook.com/queervoicesinfolk

BIT Collective

The BIT Collective is a community of people interested in discussing and addressing equalities issues in Scottish folk and traditional music. They aim to be a diverse and inclusive community of practice with the shared objective of instigating positive change. They work toward this by gathering and analysing data, facilitating discussion and learning, providing support, and inspiring progressive action.

www.thebitcollective.co.uk

Ceòlas

Based in the island of South Uist, Ceòlas have Gaelic language and culture at the heart of their work, running events and activities throughout the year which include symposiums, lectures, concerts and dances. Their summer school attracts students from across the globe.

www.ceolas.co.uk

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

A major voice in promoting Gaelic arts and culture, Fèisean nan Gàidheal provides learning opportunities in Gaelic music, song, dance and drama to over 13,000 young people across Scotland. Fèisean nan Gàidheal also runs the Blas festival which celebrates Highland culture.

www.feisean.org/en/

Fèis Rois

At the forefront of high quality traditional arts education, Fèis Rois provides an extensive programme of music tuition to over 100 schools in Scotland. They also support young musicians to tour Scotland, the UK and internationally, and offer a range of music activities including cèilidh trails, instrumental classes and online learning.

www.feisrois.org

Hands Up for Trad

Hands Up for Trad works to increase the profile and visibility of Scottish traditional music through information, education and advocacy. They promote excellence and support talent through a range of projects including the Scots Trad Music Awards, BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year, Scotland Sings, Tinto Summer Schools and FolkWaves.

projects.handsupfortrad.scot

FolkWaves

FolkWaves is a project of Hands Up for Trad. Its aim is to promote Scottish music to all kinds of radio stations across the world. Musicians can upload their latest singles to the website and broadcasters can download new releases from Scottish artists to play on their shows.

projects.handsupfortrad.scot/folkwaves

National Piping Centre

The National Piping Centre in Glasgow is the international centre of excellence for the bagpipe and its music. The centre incorporates a school, rehearsal rooms, a performance hall, a museum, an information centre and a reference library. Visitors from home and abroad are welcome to enjoy the centre for study, performance or pleasure.

www.thepipingcentre.co.uk

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is internationally recognised as a National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture, and offers high quality education and research opportunities both online and at their campus on the Isle of Skye. The college also plays a leading role in the promotion of the Gaelic arts and culture, and hosts a programme of residencies for artists in music, literature and the visual arts.

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

School of Scottish Studies

The School of Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh was established in 1951 to collect, preserve, research and publish material relating to the cultural traditions and folklore of Scotland. Collecting has focused on Scottish life, folklore and the traditional arts with material in Gaelic, Scots and English gathered from communities throughout Scotland and its diaspora. The collection includes a historically important sound archive comprising some 33,000 recordings, a photographic archive containing thousands of images from the 1930s onwards, a small film and video collection, and a manuscript archive.

libraryblogs.is.ed.ac.uk/sssa



Staran at Blas Festival
Photo: Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Scottish Music Centre

Scottish Music Centre is an excellent music resource, and home to a collection of over 30,000 items including rare scores and recordings in Glasgow and online. The Centre is also a key player in encouraging talent both locally and internationally through programmes, training sessions and a range of services, and is central in promoting Scotland's vibrant music culture.

www.scottishmusiccentre.com

Scottish Music Industry Association

Scottish Music Industry Association (SMIA) is a trade body which fosters, promotes and serves the interests of Scotland's music industry. Their membership encompasses individuals and organisations working across all sectors of Scotland's music industry, including artist managers, promoters, record labels, studios, artists, distributors and more. SMIA strengthens and advocates for Scotland's music industry through a variety of projects including training events, workshops, masterclasses, sector networking and the SAY Award, Scotland's national music prize.

www.smia.org.uk

Showcase Scotland Expo

Showcase Scotland Expo aims to further the live export opportunities for Scotland based artists working in the genres of folk, traditional, Scots, Gaelic, world and acoustic music. They forge strong relationships with overseas music trade events and support showcase opportunities for artists resident in Scotland. They also produce The Visit, an inward-bound mission for the overseas music industry, which targets industry from key territories to visit Scotland to see export ready artists perform and meet the wider Scottish music industry.

www.showcasescotlandexpo.com

Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o Riches

Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o Riches is a project which preserves, digitises and catalogues thousands of hours of Gaelic and Scots recordings which are then made available online. The website hosts a wealth of historically and culturally important material including songs, music, oral history, poetry and folklore. The recordings are primarily drawn from the School of Scottish Studies Archives.

www.tobarandualchais.co.uk

The Touring Network

The Touring Network promotes rural touring as a central and significant part of the cultural life of Scotland. They help to bring live performances of the highest quality to all areas of the Highlands and Islands, and provide support, advice and training to those working in small-scale touring.

www.thetouringnetwork.com

Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland (TRACS)

TRACS represents the traditional arts in Scotland and is a collaboration between three Forums: Music, Storytelling and Dance. Together, they encourage collaboration across art forms and languages. They also run workshops, concerts and talks, as well as the Scottish International Storytelling Festival.

www.tracscotland.org

Traditional Music and Song Association

Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland (TMSA) is a membership organisation committed to promoting, presenting and preserving the traditional music and song of Scotland. As well as offering advice and information, TMSA provides opportunities to participate through festivals, ceilidhs, concerts, competitions and workshops.

www.tmsa.scot



Sector Support

The traditional and folk music sector receives support from a range of sources. Here are some of the key organisations which provide funding, advice and general support.

Arts Infopoint UK

Arts Infopoint UK is a pilot initiative with resources to guide interested parties through some of the administrative stages of coming to the UK as an artist, cultural professional or organisation.

Whether addressing questions relating to short-term paid work in the UK; moving instruments and kit; or checking social security obligations, Arts Infopoint UK runs events, collates resources, and answers enquiries to assist those planning a creative visit to the UK. Arts InfoPoint is led by Wales Arts International in partnership with the other arts councils and agencies of the four UK nations: Creative Scotland, Arts Council England and Arts Council Northern Ireland.

www.artsinfopointuk.com

British Council (Scotland)

The British Council music team is part of a global network which plans, resources and delivers high quality arts projects with professional artists and organisations from the UK. They work to strengthen the international profile of UK music and creativity and to establish partnerships overseas.

scotland.britishcouncil.org

Creative Scotland/Alba Chruthachail

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland, through funding from the Scottish Government and the National Lottery.

www.creativescotland.com

Key Festivals in Scotland

Scotland has a fantastic traditional, folk and roots music scene with a calendar full of excellent festivals and events featuring artists of international standing. These take place across the length and breadth of the country throughout the year.

Celtic Connections / January – February

Celtic Connections is Glasgow’s annual folk, roots and world music festival, celebrating Celtic music and its ties to cultures across the globe. Musicians from all over the world come to Glasgow for a festival comprising concerts, cèilidhs, talks, art exhibitions, workshops and free events. The Showcase Scotland delegate event, with an annual international partner, falls within the festival period.

www.celticconnections.com

Shetland Folk Festival / April

This internationally renowned festival - the most northerly folk festival in the UK – hosts a fantastic line up of folk, blues, jazz and swing, and is famous for showcasing Shetland’s musicianship and unique fiddle tradition.

www.shetlandfolkfestival.com

Edinburgh Tradfest / May

Tradfest is the annual showcase of Traditional Arts and Culture in Scotland’s capital. The festival has a programme bursting with events and performances, featuring music, song, storytelling and dance as local and international artists come together for events across the city.

www.edinburghtradfest.com

Skye Live / May

Hailed as a 'unique and essential festival experience' by The Scotsman newspaper, Skye Live stakes a claim for inhabiting one of the most beautiful festival sites in the world, with stunning views of the Cuillin Ridge on one side and The Old Man of Storr on the other. The festival features acts from across the traditional, dance and electronic music scenes of Scotland and beyond.

www.skyelive.co.uk

Knockengorroch World Cèilidh / May

Knockengorroch World Cèilidh champions the best in traditional and contemporary Celtic and world music. The festival celebrates diversity and showcases Scotland's finest homegrown talent alongside top class artists from around the world.

www.knockengorroch.org.uk

Orkney Folk Festival / May

The Orkney Folk Festival brings together local acts with international artists, delighting locals and tourists alike with its mix of concerts, cèilidhs, informal sessions, workshops and talks.

www.orkneyfolkfestival.com

Tiree Music Festival / July

Founded in 2010 by Stewart McLennan and Skerryvore's Daniel Gillespie, Tiree Music Festival has grown year on year. The family-friendly festival features national and international acts, traditional and contemporary approaches, and has won numerous awards. Fantastic music, Gaelic culture and breathtaking landscapes combine in this impressive island festival.

www.tireemusicfestival.co.uk



Fèis Fhoirt
Photo: Nicky Murray

Hebridean Celtic Festival / July

Taking place in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, the Hebridean Celtic Festival attracts performers from all over the world. This family-friendly festival features concerts, workshops and free events, and showcases Celtic, Gaelic, traditional and contemporary music.

www.hebcelfest.com

Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival / July – August

Held on the Belladrum Estate near Inverness, this award-winning music and arts festival presents an exciting line-up covering folk, indie and rock. Known for its eclectic programming and all-ages approach, the festival has become increasingly popular and tickets now sell out in advance every year.

www.tartanheartfestival.co.uk

Piping Live! / August

Showcasing the very best of international bagpiping culture, Piping Live! boasts a packed programme of events including free pipe band displays, family fun days, taster sessions for all ages, evening concerts and the celebrated World Pipe Band Championships.

www.pipinglive.co.uk

Edinburgh Festival Fringe / August

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is the largest arts festival in the world and takes place every August in Scotland's capital city. Thousands of performers, from big names to unknown artists, present shows across all art forms. The festival includes music, theatre, comedy, dance, physical theatre, exhibitions and events.

www.edfringe.com

Blas / September

Blas festival celebrates the culture of traditional music and Gaelic in the Highlands of Scotland, with local, national and international performers. The festival has a rich programme offering opportunities to young musicians, schools and communities.

www.blas.scot

Royal National Mòd / October

Celebrating Gaelic language and culture, the Royal National Mòd, delivered by An Comunn Gàidhealach, provides opportunities for people of all ages to perform and compete across a range of disciplines including Gaelic music and song, Highland dance, instrumental music, drama, sport and literature. The festival fringe showcases top Gaelic acts every year.

www.ancomunn.co.uk/nationalmod



Julie Fowlis, Edinburgh Tradfest.
Photo: Douglas Robertson



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