

Scots Music Group Newsletter October 2008

SMG Ceilidhs

Our ceilidhs are lively, friendly and fun. You'll be made welcome whether you come on your own or with a party! There's no need to know the dances: a caller will explain them and there are friendly folk to give you a hand and get everyone up dancing. There is a licensed bar in St Bride's.

Venue: St Bride's Centre, Orwell Terrace, Haymarket

Doors open: 7.30pm. Dancing from 8pm – midnight.

Tickets: Tickets bought in advance SMG members £7/£5 concs, Non-members £8/£6 concs.



Tickets can be purchased (at the lower price) from the SMG Office until 4pm on the Thursday before, from St Bride's Centre 0131 346 1405 10am – 4pm on the Friday before and online at <http://www.scotsmusic.org/events/199/> until midnight on the Friday before. Tickets bought on the day £10/£7 concs.

SMG members can purchase as many tickets as they like at the members price!
SMG no longer reserves tickets.

Saturday October 11 with Crowdie House doors open 7.30pm, dancing 8pm - midnight Ceilidh Dance Opening Offer

To set our 2008 ceilidh dance season off in a birl, every ticket for our ceilidh on October 11 has a **FREE VOUCHER** to our ceilidh dance class

<http://www.scotsmusic.org/classes/subjects/ceilidh-dance/>.

Also – in case you're planning a party:

- Saturday November 8 with Da Hooley
- Saturday December 20 with Bella McNab's Dance Band
- Saturday January 31 with The Robert Fish Band

Raffles

Raffles are an important part of Scots Music Group's fundraising income. Footstompin' Records have kindly donated a number of CDs for raffles. Karine Polwart and a number of other artists have given their CDs. We would appreciate bottles of wine or spirits or boxes of sweets. These are popular prizes that we need to buy at present. Any donations would increase the profit from our raffles and help to continue SMG's valuable work. In light of the generous CDs donations we are going to hold a small raffle at the end of term Stramashes. Please contact Sheila on raffle@scotsmusic.org or 0131 555 7668 if you would like to donate a prize.

Power of Song - Saturday 15 November

Boroughmuir School, Viewforth, Edinburgh

The Power of Song 2008 brings together some of Scotland's finest singers and workshop leaders for a day of inspirational traditional song.

The programme for the day includes:

- Christine Kydd – Harmonious Sangs!
- Corrina Hewat – Rattlin Roarin Singin
- Ewan McVicar – 'Sing a song of tax and woe'
- Ali Burns – Burns' songs - in preparation for The Homecoming year in 2009
- Ewan McVicar – Songs for The Hamecomin

The workshops are open to all aged 16 and over who want to sing! You don't need to be able to read music or have previous knowledge of traditional music. More information,

including full workshop descriptions and details of how to enrol, will be available soon (online and on paper!)

Scots Music Group Annual General Meeting

Scots Music Group's AGM is on Monday the 10 November 2008 starting at 7pm in St George's West Church. We hope that you can come and join us on that night. The evening will start with a short performance by Iain Adie, one of our daytime song classes. There will also be a slideshow of photos from our campaign events. The formal business will be followed by a presentation by Mairi Campbell and the evening will be rounded off with an open session - so please bring your instruments!

Mairi Campbell won the Scots Singer of the year in December 2007. She is musical director for Sangstream, and is a noted fiddler, viola player and step dancer. Mairi and Dave Francis, who together form 'The Cast', recently achieved worldwide recognition after featuring on the sound track for the 'Sex and the City' film. In the past Mairi has been a very popular step dance and fiddle tutor for Scots Music Group. Mairi Campbell has been invited to talk about the role of traditional music and song in some of the communities she knows - Cape Breton, Lismore and Edinburgh.

SMG is Looking for New Board Members

We are looking for new Board Members who have a commitment to the work and growth of Scots Music Group, and imagination about how we spread the practice of Scots music throughout Edinburgh's communities and beyond. The Board meets every 6 weeks, in the SMG office. As we are a limited company there is no financial risk to those who join the Board. If you think this might be something you can give time to, please speak to one of the Board or staff, or email info@scotsmusic.org. We will get in touch with you and we'll give you more information.

Campaign Ceilidh



We had a great night for the Campaign Ceilidh on 27 September. It was packed full of fantastic performances by some of our students, tutors and past tutors including Karine Polwart who also gave some very supportive words about the value of SMG in her life. There was some dancing to our own Ceilidh Caleerie Ceilidh Band plus speakers including Sarah Boyack MSP, Stan Reeves from the Adult Learning Project and our Convenor Alastair Cameron.

Thanks go to everyone who helped to make this evening such a great success including performers, speakers, volunteers, staff and of course everyone who came along. Special thanks go to Alison MacLeod who was the main volunteer organiser for the event.

Photo: Stan Reeves

Funding Update

In April 2008 we were informed by the Scottish Arts Council that we were not successful in our application for continued funding from April 2009. We have had a busy summer dealing with this funding issue. We have submitted a written appeal against the SAC decision. In June, Alastair Cameron, our convenor, was interviewed as part of the Holyrood Live programme on BBC 2, when they covered the progress of the Creative Scotland Bill. A group of Scots Music Group musicians were also filmed for the programme, which was broadcast on the day the bill was thrown out by parliament. The Scots Music Group joined with the TMSA and STDT in September for a colourful protest held outside the parliament building. Sarah Boyack asked a question in parliament that morning, about funding for the traditional arts, and several MSPs came out to show their support at the protest.

Representatives from the 3 organisations then met with Linda Fabiani, the Culture minister, to discuss the issues around funding for the traditional arts. The protest was widely covered by the papers, and Alastair was interviewed on Radio Scotland.

The SMG board and staff team met together on 6 October to look at alternatives for generating income for the organisation. We definitely have funding in place until the end of March 2009. We are confident that there is life in SMG beyond this date – it will take the coming months to be clear about how this will work out.

We met with the Scottish Arts Council and the Appeal Panel on Tuesday 7 October in the next step of our appeal hearing. The Appeal Panel will now decide whether or not our appeal has been successful. We also plan to meet with the SAC to discuss possible funding to soften the blow of losing out on Flexible Funding

We will be adding a new page to our website soon with more information about what people can do to help the Scots Music Group to ensure we can continue to thrive into the future. If you would like to be kept informed of this and any other developments regarding our funding, please sign up to our funding developments contact list. You can do this online (preferred) here: <http://www.scotsmusic.org/info/funding-campaign/> or, if you don't have access to email, by phoning the office on 0131 555 7668.

Karine Polwart CDs for sale

SMG has for sale, a number of 8-track CDs 'A Wee Bit Extra' recorded at Cambridge Folk Festival by Karine Polwart. These are for sale from the SMG Office and at Stramashes. SMG Members £4, non members £5

SMG Classes - Mid-Term Break and Term End

SMG classes will take a break on Tuesday 21, Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 October. Unless your tutor has indicated otherwise, the autumn term ends on Tuesday 9, Wednesday 10 (daytime classes), Wednesday 17 (evening classes) and Thursday 11 December. On the last night of term we hold our traditional end of term Stramashes. Each class plays a tune or two, sings or dances if they wish. Guests are welcome to come and listen. 'Discreet alcohol' is permitted.

The daytime class Stramash date will be confirmed soon..

There will be a small fundraising raffle at Stramashes so bring your pocket money.

Slow Session

Every Wednesday during term time, in Bennet's Bar at Tollcross, from 9.15pm. Lead by Nigel Gatherer, a longstanding and popular tutor with the Scots Music Group, this is a great way for people who are starting out to get into the session scene. Come along to listen or to play.

The Big Seat by the Fire

Restarts on Sunday 12 October in St George's West. Doors open at 7.00pm. This is a supportive space to try out your performance skills or just come along to listen. The October event already has a variety of performers booked but it's not too late to book a 10 minute slot if you'd like to try your hand at performing. Why not come along to hear what other people in the Scots Music Group are doing?

Cafe Ceilidh

Tuesday 14 October - St Colm's Church, Dalry Road from 1–3pm

Daytime song and music session hosted by Linten Adie, and friends from the Scots Music Group. Visitors welcome to take part or listen.

Scots Fiddle Festival

Friday 21 – Sunday 23 November 2008. Assembly Rooms, George Street

A weekend packed full of all things fiddle-related. Concerts, ceilidhs, cabaret, sessions, talks, recitals The Fiddle Festival is great fun whether you play the fiddle or just enjoy brilliant music.

Great offers for volunteers. Programmes at all classes and full information at www.scotsfiddlefestival.com

Events Calendar – kept up to date at <http://www.scotsmusic.org/diary/>

October

- 11 SMG Ceilidh with Crowdie House
- 12 Sunday The Big Seat by the Fire
- 14 Tuesday Café Ceilidh session
- 21, 22, 23 Tues, Wed Thurs – mid-term break

November

- 8 SMG Ceilidh with Da Hooley Ceilidh Band
- 9 Sunday - The Big Seat by the Fire
- 10 Monday - Scots Music Group AGM
- 11 Tuesday - Cafe Ceilidh session
- 15 Saturday - Power of Song
- 21, 22, 23 - Scots Fiddle Festival
- 25 Tuesday - Cafe Ceilidh session

December

- 2 Tuesday - Cafe Ceilidh session – 2pm at the Storytelling Centre
- 9 Tuesday - end of Autumn Term
- 10 Wednesday - end of Autumn term (daytime classes only)
- 11 Thursday - end of Autumn Term
- 14 Sunday - The Big Seat by the Fire
- 17 Wednesday - end of Autumn term (evening classes only)
- 20 Saturday - SMG Ceilidh - Bella McNab's Dance Band

2009 January

- 13, 14, 15 - Spring term starts
- 13 Tuesday - Cafe Ceilidh Session
- 31 Saturday - SMG Ceilidh with The Robert Fish Band