

Ardgour Artistic Collaboration

Watercolour Music promotional video in association with Ardgour-based artist Anna Raven.

Anna Raven: ***Born 1956 Painter***

Ard Daraich

Ardgour

Near Fort William

Highland

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Education

1972 - 1974 Dartington Hall School A level in Art and English Literature.

1976 – 1979 Bath Academy of Art BA hons in Fine art Painting.

Exhibitions

1984 Royal Society of Watercolourists annual exhibition

1995 Rebecca Hossack Gallery, Windmill Street, London W1.

1997 Rebecca Hossack Gallery, Windmill Street, London W1.

1998 Rebecca Hossack @ Osterley House (National Trust) West London

2007 Lime Tree Gallery, Fort William, Inverness-shire

2007 Kilmorrack Gallery, Beaulieu, Inverness-shire

2008 Rebecca Hossack @ Charlotte Street, London W1

2008 Marjoribanks Gallery, Coldstream.

2010-11 Various exhibitions with the collective Ealanta Locaber

2011-15 Various exhibitions at and with Resipole Studios, Ardnamurchan.

[VISIT WEB PAGE](#)

New to Watercolour for 2015 - Residential guitar workshop weekend

June 4th - 7th



Watercolour Music is opening its doors to a unique event which will appeal to guitar students and emerging professionals alike. An intensive but relaxed weekend in the stunning surroundings of Scotland's West Highlands with the undivided attention of two stellar guitar tutors – John Goldie and Peter Kroll-Ploeger.

To ensure a fruitful individual learning experience, there are limited places on this special weekend – two classes of eight maximum brings the setting close to the mentoring process pioneered in the US. Students will arrive on Thursday evening with a relaxed meet-and-greet, followed by intensive tutored sessions through the day on Saturday and Sunday, and a tutors' and guests' concert on the Saturday night.

The weekend is designed to give attendees the time and space needed to invest in their musical passion, unhampered by the usual interruptions and distractions of home and work. The workshops will be tailored to the abilities of participants, aimed at all levels of musician who want to learn new skills and increase their confidence in a group situation.

Watercolour Music specialises in creating a relaxed, supportive and inspiring environment, and the course will be the perfect retreat for guests to be able to concentrate on improving various aspects of their music and performance in the beautiful, peaceful location of Ardgour. The emphasis is on an informal atmosphere which incorporates structured activity in a supportive learning environment.

Facetime with the tutors includes at least 8 hours of tutor-led group teaching sessions designed to bring out the best in your abilities. It won't all be hard work though - there will also be opportunities for a session with the other players, and of course the chance to spend some quality time 'alone' with your instrument!

And the fun will continue on this retreat with an open-mic session and concert on Saturday night - a friendly, supportive environment in which to air your favourite songs or tune to the group and local audience, join in on an impromptu jam session, or just to sit back and enjoy the music.

The Tutors



John Godie

***John Goldie** is without doubt a world class acoustic guitarist incorporating a wide range of influences including jazz, Celtic and funk. The press quote One man acid jazz band is a little way to describe this remarkable musician's ability to blend bass, chords, melody and groove together with apparent ease and thrill audiences worldwide.*

John started playing at the tender age of 6 when he was given a guitar by his parents for a guitar, which was a surprise to them as he was not very musical!. He started learning chords from books and had a fascination in electric guitars as well as a love of rock music. At the age of 13 he was playing in several local bands as he was able to play all the rock classics, including the solos, perfectly. It was around this time that John found it frustrating that he could not read music, so he decided to find a guitar teacher. Frank Henry, John not only found a teacher but a mentor that would have an immense impact on his musical future. Frank taught him how to read music and understand harmony which was crucial in later years

By the time John had left school he was already earning a living from music by playing guitar in local function bands, and it was during one of these gigs that he was spotted by an agent who booked shows for Motown acts from the USA touring in Europe. This led to John touring with several of the labels artists over the next few years.

John's musical career was about to take a radical change of direction after a chance meeting with Jazz guitarist Martin Taylor. After seeing Martin playing with legendary violinist Stephane Grappelli on TV, he decided to see the pair perform in Glasgow and was invited, much to his surprise, to Martin's house. This led to John touring with Martin as a duo and eventually as part of the band Spirit of Django. He also worked for Andrew Lloyd Webber around this time touring with his show Jesus Christ Superstar. During that period on the road, John starting playing and writing on the acoustic guitar. The resulting demos found their way to Germany and into the hands of record label owner Peter Finger who invited John over to Germany to record a cd at his studio, which turned out to be 'The View from Here', his first solo cd.

John subsequently signed to Scottish label Watercolour Music and has released 4 albums for the label, 'This Time and Place', 'Open 4 Closure', 'Picked In the Past' and his new album 'Chocolate Maze'. Both 'Chocolate Maze' and 'Open 4 Closure' features John with his band, showing a different side to his playing while 'A Little Of What You Fancy' and 'Picked In The Past' features reworkings of classic rock ad pop songs, arranged for acoustic guitar by John. The albums have received a string of 5 star reviews and even won praise from Ronnie Woods, Brian May and Andy Fairweather Low.

John is now recognised as one of the most revered players on the acoustic circuit undertaking worldwide tours, taking in USA, Asia and Europe as well as collaborating with some of the world's greatest players, including Tommy Emmanuel, Ike Isaacs and George Benson. In fact George asked John to play a private concert for him and his band after one of their concerts in Scotland. John was also asked recently to play with The Faces at the Royal Albert Hall which he described as 'a surreal but amazing experience!'

John also has a long working relationship with AER amps, Martin guitars and Picato strings. He regularly plays at trade shows across the world as an endorser for these companies.

For the guitar geeks, John plays a Martin OM28V and use an AER colouriser D.I box and T Rex Reverb pedal in a live situation. He also uses Wegen picks.



Peter Kroll Ploeger

After the 2006 Release of [Peter Kroll Ploeger's](#) CD "Eat at Own R 14 duets with well-known collaborators as Tony McManus, Beppe Gambetta, Peter Finger and Don Ross, German steel string specialist Peter Kroll Ploeger has toured Europe extensively. This was followed with the "Wonderland Guitar Night" tour which saw Peter play a series of double header concerts in the USA, Canada and India with the aid of Ian Melrose, Joscho Stefan, Woody Mann, Tim Sparks and Steve Bennet.

For the last nine years Peter has also taught at the [Mediterranean Music School](#) as well as organising the highly successful "Kohler guitar weekend in Germany.

In spring 2008 the live recording "Live on a Dog's Day" was released (again on Peter Finger's Label – Wonderland Records), including mostly Peter's own songs and tunes, and featuring Stevie Lamberty on piano.

Since 2010 he's also working in a duo with Kasachstan singer, Alexa Wichner, doing Russian songs and rearranging classics and standards of popular music in new ways. The cd "Guitar meets Vocal" was released in the spring 2011. So far their shows brought this duo all over Germany and France.

In 2013 the Christmas album "Der Weihnachtsverstärker" was released together with German singer Michi Baum. Also the album "Press to Play" came out in January 2015, And featured guest appearances from Don Ross, Calum Graham, Eric Lugosch and more.

After learning to play the classical piano for 10 years, he started to play Fingerstyle Guitar at the age of 15. Over the years he has played mainly in Europe, often as a sideman to people like Ian Melrose or Eric Lugosch. He also plays Electric Bass, mainly in the German bands "Tuberculucas" and "The Sinus Blues Band".

For Booking please visit the [Guitar Workshop Page](#)

Access to Music

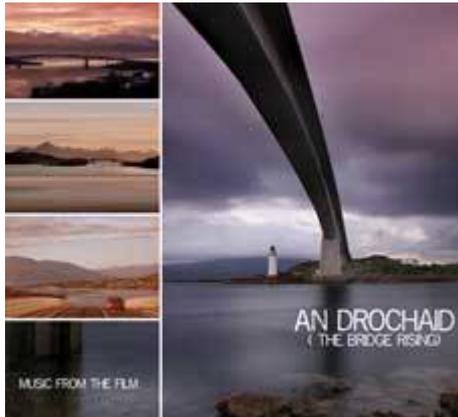


Watercolour was asked to participate in the embryonic pilot project "YMI Demo Fund". Now a few years on this has become the Access to Music Fund.

A great opportunity to afford young musicians the chance to explore the studio session environment as well as allowing studio professionals to open their doors to prospective clients

Visit the [Access to Music](#) page for examples of this innovative project

Latest Reviews



An Drochaid CD Review from "Folker" magazine

It stated on the cover of our one hundredth edition, "stories that must be told." That can be considered as a general theme for the *Folker*, but it is especially true for this story. In 1995, a bridge was opened to the Isle of Skye in north-western Scotland. It was financed privately with government support through a consortium with Bank of America at its head. The Conservative government in faraway London pushed through the project against strong resistance that it should be the first privately funded of many public works. The bridge, with no alternative crossing, was per metre the most expensive toll bridge in the world.

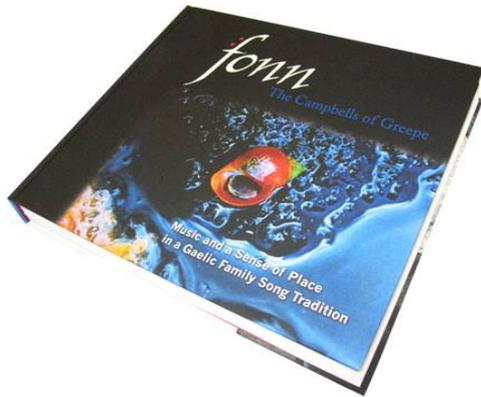
If Westminster thought the stupid islanders were suitable best for such experiments, then the politicians were deceived. The people on Skye fought continuously with all sorts of non-violent means against the tax. After nearly ten years of struggle, finally, the toll booths were demolished and a free crossing was possible! Ten years later, the story was celebrated at the Celtic Connections festival, with the premiere of the documentary film *The Bridge Rising* and the film soundtrack album *An Drochaid*: a great story of the revolt, not least the local musicians, some of whom are represented on it.

The songs and melodies come in large part from Scott Macmillan from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, produced in this collection by Nick Turner and the enterprising Mary Ann Kennedy. And what a great job all parties have delivered! The album, which convinces as a stand-alone without film, begins with the famous Piper Dr Angus MacDonald, followed by a unique, sometimes stunning blend of folk, elegiac string orchestra, brass and electronica.

Old and new, a creative connection that is only slightly limited when the activist Robbie the Pict plays his blues harp. No better way to celebrate a victory of local persistence over

governmental arrogance and transatlantic big business. This release (and the film) is fortifying!

Mike Kamp, Folker Sep- Oct 2014th



It is a complaint not just of folklorists worldwide: once it was sung together in families, today we watch it most often on telly, and even given laptops, smartphones and tablets, it's still considered something of an anachronism. It is true, once it was sung at home, especially in the countryside, where the inn was not around the corner. What else would one do for an evening's entertainment?

Here is the scenario : an island on the northwestern edge of Scotland with many small villages and farmsteads and pretty far to the west of the island a detached farmhouse. The island is the Isle of Skye, and the house bears the name No. 2 Greepe, and before travelers aimlessly roam the island, the nearest bigger town is Dunvegan. The house is the home of the Campbells , more specifically, the Campbells of Greepe, because there are a lot of that Campbell clan. In No. 2 Greepe, singing was a constant presence. In Gaelic, and for generations. This fact might not be worth mentioning if it had remained, as most others, family music within their own four walls. But this was fortunately not so, otherwise Greepe's contribution to this wonderful music would have been quite lost to the wider world. The individual members of the family sang regularly at the Mod, that annual showcase of Gaelic music. Seven of them won the prestigious Gold Medal and three have also received the Traditional Medal. It is doubtful whether there is a family in Scotland with a similar Gaelic singing talent. Back in the fifties of the last century folklorists from the School of Scottish Studies in Edinburgh captured an earlier generation of the Campbells through field recordings. These sound files are in the form of a CD at the end of this book.

Book? The 316 pages-thick tome is much more than a simple book. An infinitely loving, elaborately and carefully put together through bilingual Gaelic / English, documentation of a family, their environment and their singing tradition. Where exactly is Greepe in which landscape, what is happening there and in the neighbourhood? Then the family have a chance to speak. Journalist Morag Stewart has interviewed the members and summarised the answers to a good fifty pages in chronological order, ending with sisters Wilma and Mary Ann. The latter is likely to be under the name Mary Ann Kennedy, best-known internationally of the Campbells of Greepe, a popular radio and television host, producer and harpist, and a member of the Gaelic group Cliar. An academic musician also, she has presented nearly two

hundred pages of large parts of the family repertoire with notation, lyrics in Gaelic and English, hints, where individual songs can be found on the accompanying CD, as well as comments and sources. Amazing how many of the songs do not originate from the ‘fog’ of traditional ownership, but properly ascribed to their original poets, much of it from the 18th Century.

For those for whom the accompanying CD is too ‘archive’, one can enjoy the songs of the Campbells of Greepe in modern form. Together with the book’s publication, the album ‘Fonn’ and its 2014 successor ‘No. 2 Greepe’ were also released. Five members of the family singing in poignant harmonies, contemporary and very tastefully arranged parts of the repertoire, discreetly supported by piano, guitar, pipes, whistle, bass and percussion, with sensitive and convincing produced by none other than the old fox Jerry Boys. The freshness and quality of the songs are impressive.

To call the records and book a pleasure would be wrong - simply too short. Rather, the monuments of a unique culture that is struggling to survive in this fast-paced world, and thus an explicit proof of the huge gap that would be left if Gaelic were to disappear. With the Campbells of Greepe’s contribution, we may never have to know that loss.

Folker Jan 2015

aon teanga – un çhengey – one tongue

The age-old links of the Gaelic language in Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man are forged anew in *aon teanga/un çhengey*,

a bold new project reuniting the song traditions of the Gaelic nations.



For more details visit [Aon Teanga](#)

Showcase Flyer:

Aon Teanga: Un Çhengey

Three Nations | One Tongue

The Gaelic traditions of Ireland, Scotland & the Isle of Man. Reunited.

A unique vocal journey featuring three of Gaeldom's finest singers, sharing the common ground between the three Gaelic nations through bold new interpretation of tradition and confident new songwriting.

Ruth Keggin, Gaelic voice of the Manx music revival, joins Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin, younger generation of a Connemara sean-nós song dynasty, and Mary Ann Kennedy, from the 'first family of Gaelic music', the Campbells of Greepe.

Part of PRS for Music Foundation's flagship Beyond Borders programme and a legacy project for Island of Culture 2014.

Mary Ann Kennedy (Alba)
Ruth Keggin (Mann)
Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin (Éire)

Album release on Watercolour Music - April 2015.

Touring Scotland/Ireland/Mann - Summer 2015. Available for UK and Europe from September 2015.

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Comar

ISLAND of CULTURE
2014-2015

Watercolour
MUSIC

PRS
Foundation

aon teanga

Bruce Molsky House Concert



Bruce Molsky
Sunday 9th November @ 3pm
Entry by £10.00 Donation, under
16's FREE
Advance booking advised

Tel 01855 841320

mak@watercolourmusic.co.uk

The award-winning Highland recording studio opens its doors next month to welcome back American old-time music legend Bruce Molsky and to offer a great opportunity to here him play in the unique and intimate setting of Watercolour Music.

In this, Watercolour's only House Concert this winter on the 9th November, Bruce Molsky, a native of the Bronx with his musical heart in the Appalachian Mountains, will be showcasing his unique brand of fiddle and guitar playing.

Bruce has a world reputation as the finest exponent of old-time fiddle, and he combines this with his rich baritone voice for a fiddle-singing style he has made his own. No wonder he is a first-call guest each year for the hugely popular 'Transatlantic Sessions'. His love affair with the music of Appalachia started as a teenager in New York, but he served his time at the feet of the masters during many years in Virginia, whilst working as an engineer, learning from great tradition bearers such as Tommy Jarrell.

[New Studio Promo Video](#)

[Aiseag download available from NMC](#)

Mary Ann Kennedy



Well, our boat has well and truly come in – and now you can be part of the voyage all over again, on radio TV and download!

Watercolour Music's Mary Ann Kennedy and Nick Turner have made an epic journey over the past eighteen months to bring to fruition a significant new Gaelic work for strings, chorus, trad soloists and soundscape, culminating in performances in Skye, London, Inverness and Glasgow at the heart of the Commonwealth Games' cultural celebrations.

'Aiseag – The Ferryboat' was part of the first-ever PRS Foundation New Music Biennial – twenty 15 minute compositions exploring different corners of the Commonwealth around the globe. Mary Ann and Nick's commission saw them collaborating with the highly respected Canadian composer Scott Macmillan and poet, lyricist and Gaelic guru Aonghas MacNeacail. The quartet worked transatlantic-style with the help of Skype and email, with only one face-to-face meeting during the entire process, to produce a ground-breaking musical experience that has set a new benchmark in Gaelic choral music.

The ferries which have been a lifelong fascination for Mary Ann, and the various ferry stories in each of the creative team's own lives and upbringings were the background to 'Aiseag', but the epic sound-poem that resulted covers a wealth of human experience and connection on both sides of the Atlantic with the central narrative a journey from youth to old age, experience and beyond.

The premiere of 'Aiseag' took place at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig as part of SEALL Arts newly resurgent Fèis an Eilein in Skye at the end of July, featuring the quartet of writers, plus Cape Breton fiddler Colin Grant, Skye-based Cape Breton piper Angus MacKenzie, percussionist Allan Òg MacDonald, reader Christina MacDonald from the Isle of Skye, the strings of the Scottish Festival Orchestra, led by Stewart Webster, and the award-winning Inverness Gaelic Choir. The commission was won by Mary Ann during her tenure as Musician in Residence at SMO in 2013.

Subsequent performances involved a Caledonian Sleeper safari-ceilidh to London for a massive Biennial celebration at the Southbank Centre, a home-town gig at Eden Court Theatre in Inverness, and the finale at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall as part of the Commonwealth Games celebrations.

There are several opportunities now to experience 'Aiseag' for the first time or to revel in some great memories from the project across the summer. The live Glasgow performance of

'Aiseag', will be broadcast 'Hear and Now' on BBC Radio 3 on Saturday 9th August at 2200 BST. BBC Radio 3 is broadcast in the UK on digital radio and on 90-93FM, and online at www.bbc.co.uk/radio3 - the programme will also be available for seven days after broadcast on the BBC iPlayer.

A MacTV documentary produced by Skye director/cameraman and musician Magnus Graham, following the entire 'Aiseag' voyage from first meeting to maiden voyage and safe return to harbour, will be broadcast on BBC ALBA on Monday 22nd September. BBC ALBA can be found on Sky 143, Virgin Media 161 and Freesat 110 (UK), Freeview/You View 8 and BT Vision 8 (Scotland only), and Smallworld 170 (Ayrshire and North West England). It can also be viewed live throughout the UK on the BBC iPlayer. www.bbc.co.uk/alba

A download album of *all twenty* of the PRSF New Music Biennial compositions is available on the NMC label in MP3 and FLAC formats. The entire collection can be purchased for ten pounds and the various commissions are downloadable as they become available online. 'Aiseag' will be available to buy from August 25th, but you can pre-order now. Go to <http://www.nmcrec.co.uk/new-music-biennial/mary-ann-kennedy> and click on the New Music Biennial icon to find out more.

The Watercolour Music team are grateful to all the wonderful artists who have been involved in the 'Aiseag' project, and especially to the various organisations whose financial assistance have helped make this a reality.

Our funders:

Performing Rights Society Foundation
Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Touring Network (Highlands and Islands)
Creative Scotland
Fèisean nan Gàidheal
Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Music Nova Scotia

Our crew:

Mary Ann Kennedy – composer, vocals, harp
Scott Macmillan – composer, guitar
Aonghas MacNeacail – lyricist, reader
Nick Turner – soundscapes
Colin Grant – fiddle
Angus MacKenzie – pipes/ whistle
Allan Óg MacDonald – percussion
Christina MacDonald – reader
Inverness Gaelic Choir

Scottish Festival Strings:

Violins

Stewart Webster
Liam Lynch
Stephanie Brough
Gillian Risi

Ysla Robertson

Violas

Emma Peebles

Ian Anderson

Ronan MacManus (*London*)

Cellos

John Davidson

Rosie Townhill

Alice Murray (*London*)

Bass

Brodie Jarvie

Our associates:

Jennyfer Brickenden at Scojen Productions, Halifax, Canada

Donald Dixon and crews, Corran Ferry

Vanessa Reed, James Hannam and team, PRS Foundation

Clare Hewitt, Creative Scotland

Duncan MacInnes and team, Fèis an Eilein, SEALL Arts

Magnus Graham, Seumas MacTaggart and team, MacTV

Josh Williams and team, Howl Films

Margaret Cameron and team, BBC ALBA

Rebecca Hannah-Grindall and team, Southbank Centre, London

Colin Hynd and team, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

John Davidson, Scottish Festival Orchestra

Loudon Temple, Bloody Great PR

Roz Bell and the Eden Court Theatre team

Seumas MacDonald

Arthur Cormack at Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Iain Hamilton at Highlands and Islands Enterprise

David Boag, Nicola Simpson, Toria Caine, Chrissie Cumming and team, Inverness Gaelic Choir

Graham McKerrow at the Touring Network

Campbell Cameron, Marlene MacKinnon and teams, Benderloch Victory Hall and Lismore Village Hall

Lucy Mackay and team, Craignish Village Hall

Hannah MacAllister and team, Colonsay Village Hall

Mary Ann Kennedy

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Mary Ann Kennedy

Interviewed by Howl Films on behalf of the

New Music Biennial

[New Video Sampler of "Greepe No2"](#)

30th June – Lismore Village Hall, Isle of Lismore 7.30pm –

Scott Macmillan, Colin Grant & Mary Ann Kennedy in concert (plus special screening of ‘The Bridge Rising’ film documentary)

1st July – Craignish Village Hall 7.30pm -

Scott Macmillan, Colin Grant & Mary Ann Kennedy in concert

2nd July – Victory Hall, Benderloch 7.30pm –

Scott Macmillan, Colin Grant & Mary Ann Kennedy in concert (plus special screening of ‘The Bridge Rising’ film documentary)

3rd July – **AISEAG PREMIERE** – Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Sleat Isle of Skye, as part of Fèis an Eilein 8pm

5th July – **AISEAG @ NMB** – Southbank Centre, London as part of the PRSF New Music Biennial 9.30pm FREE

30th July – Colonsay Village Hall, Isle of Colonsay 7.30pm –

Scott Macmillan, Colin Grant & Mary Ann Kennedy in concert (plus special screening of ‘The Bridge Rising’ film documentary)

1st August – **AISEAG** – Eden Court Theatre, Empire Theatre, 7.30pm

2nd August - **AISEAG @ NMB** – Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, London as part of the PRSF New Music Biennial 9pm FREE

3rd July – **AISEAG PREMIERE** – Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Sleat Isle of Skye, as part of Fèis an Eilein 8pm

All images Sean Purser



The Writing Crew



Mary Ann and Aonghas



The Band and Choir Rehearsal



The Festival Strings



Scott and Mary Ann



Mary Ann and The Ladies



Inverness Gaelic Choir



The Speakers



Scott Macmillan



Scott and the Boys



Mary Ann and Scott



Colin Grant



The Premier

WATERCOLOUR MUSIC
HOUSE CONCERTS MAY 2014

Nuala Kennedy

with Troy MacGillivray

A small album cover for Nuala Kennedy, featuring a black and white photograph of her performing on stage. The text on the cover reads "Nuala Kennedy" and "House Strings".

"Stunning Irish-Scottish traditional music with a twist." —*Maverick Magazine*

SUNDAY MAY 11TH, 3PM

ETHAN JOHNS



Grammy award-winning producer and musician

SUNDAY MAY 18TH, 3PM

ARDGOUR, FORT WILLIAM PH33 7AH

tel. 01855 841320 mob. 07918618374

BOOKING: info@watercolourmusic.co.uk

Donation £10.00