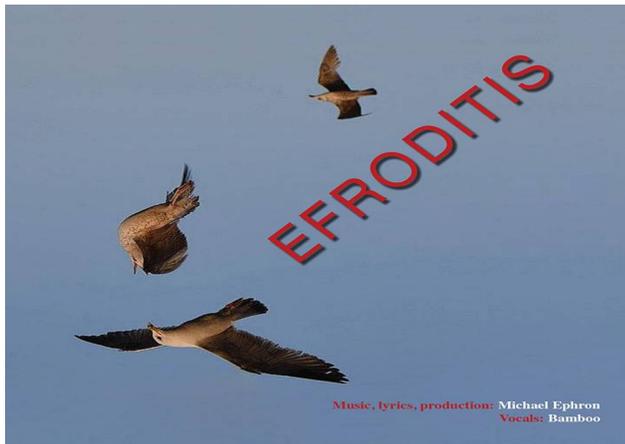


News Archive Autumn 2018

Efroditis EP Release

Novemberr 27th 2018



Michael Ephron the Welsh composer, lyricist and producer of this 5 song EP has had a fascinating musical life. Self taught, first on banjo at age 7 then moving to guitar and keyboards, he played as a solo act all over Europe and the Middle East in his teens. Equally passionate about words, he simultaneously wrote poems and plays.

He was living in NYC at the height of the cultural renaissance in the 1960s and performing as the poet in Poetry and Jazz performances. But his love of music in time overwhelmed his love of words and he moved into playing fulltime. In NYC he gained a reputation as an up and coming keyboard player on the avant garde free form jazz scene. Catching the attention of Jimi Hendrix he became a musical collaborator in Hendrix's experiments around the time Woodstock Festival and after.

Moving out to the West Coast, he made the decision to move on from experimentation and founded a Funk Band, The Word. They were signed to Strata East Records, Gil Scott Heron's label and recorded an album for them. In Los Angeles Stevie Wonder heard his compositions and got him a deal with RCA records. But for a while, personal health issues blighted his career. Moving to Asia he became active on the music scene in Manila, and known by musicians for his unusual highly individualized approach to composition.

His position is that fitting into any one musical genre is not for him; he is at home in any genre with the proviso that the music that preoccupies him be excellent music, be it Jazz, Latin, Country, Heavy Metal or Hip Hop etc. In addition when he composes it should have his very own personal stamp on it.

In the Philippines, he recorded an album of 18 songs, taking 6 years to complete. This EP is comprised of the 5 songs he wrote and produced with Bamboo, the Filipino star who was seeking to expand his musical horizons and heard Michael's work. It was recorded and produced in the Philippines, Scotland, England, California, New York, Ireland and Cuba with

Filipino musicians plus others from Scotland, England, the USA, Poland, Brazil and Cuba. The Album will be available on November 18, released by Watercolour Records.

There is a narrative in the EP that describes human behaviour gone haywire and its effect on love and our planet, but it is not a message devoid of hope. The next album with the remaining 13 songs will be released in the near future.

The Highlands Comes to Hampshire

Saturday October 27th

Hello to our Southern Watercolour Music friends!

Mary Ann was invited to play at this enigmatic venue by the Friends of St Huberts whilst visiting earlier in the year



The Church Friends have created a charity to help with the up keep of this 11th Century Church.

As part of their out-reach work they have been hosting a series of concerts to raise funds and interest in the magnificent Chapel



A sell-out crowd enjoyed an evening of Harp and song in an intimate acoustic environment. Very good shortbread as well!

MUSIC FROM THE OZARKS COMES TO LOCHABER

Sunday afternoon October 7th at 3pm

Hello to our Watercolour Music friends!

We hope you are all cooied in against the equinoctial storms and still up for coming out in search of some great music. Here are just a couple of events we thought you would like to hear about. Mary Ann will be playing at the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon on 16th October with a special commission from Scottish Natural Heritage celebrating the Clyde and its human, land and marine worlds.

We will be hosting American duo Betse & Clarke in a one-off house concert on Sunday 7th October. And Nick and his astrophysicist son Calum Turner are heading for Orkney in November to create a musical space station. How do you do that? Read on for more!

MUSIC FROM THE OZARKS COMES TO LOCHABER



We only put on a very few house concerts in the year, so when we do have guests, they are something special. Any of you who are fans of the award-winning alt country band The Wilders will remember the fabulous vocal and fiddle talents of Betse Ellis, and we are welcoming her back as part of her duo with banjo player Clarke Wyatt. Music from the Ozarks – their way. The date is Sunday afternoon October 7th at 3pm here at Watercolour Music.

Email your booking: nick@watercolourmusic.co.uk. Phone in your booking: 01855-841320
It's just a reservation – pay at the door, but we really need the advance notice to know how many to cater for! Donations are as ever £10 or what you can afford, and we like kids so much, they go free!

Betse & Clarke explore their love of old-time music with an inventive spirit, taking listeners on a field trip across mountain folkways and new landscapes. Their music is familiar... and totally different; a fiddle and banjo duo with a sense of adventure. Betse Ellis plays fiddle and sings like nobody's business. Her years with The Wilders proved her passion for Ozark tunes and an unstoppable stage presence. Her early violin studies continue to shape her musicianship through technique and composition.

Clarke Wyatt has an original and innovative approach to three-finger banjo. His background as a pianist and composer inform his banjo method as much as his love for old time music. Together, Betse & Clarke give every listener something to appreciate. They perform traditional tunes learned from cherished sources, creative arrangements of familiar and forgotten songs, and original compositions. You can expect to hear something new that reminds you what makes the old music so good.

This is how they sound live – you definitely need to hear this!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJ1GvvjarEE>

**MARY ANN GOES DOON THE WATTER FOR THE NATIONAL MÒD WITH
NEW COMMISSION FOR SNH
CLUAIDH – ÙRACHADH NA H-AIBHNE (CLYDE – A RIVER RECOVERY)**

Mary Ann is busy writing and recording in preparation for a special commission at this year's National Mòd in Dunoon. Scottish Natural Heritage have been great supporters of Gaelic

language and culture over the past few years with commissions at the Mòd and Blas Festival. For 2018, they have commissioned Mary Ann to create a night of new and traditional music celebrating the Clyde – river, firth and estuary. For Mary Ann, it's a perfect prelude to her new album, coming out in the Spring – 'Glaschu' on ARC Music, a love song to her very Gaelic home town.

Mary Ann will be joined by special guests, including long-time musical friends and young people from the area, taking the audience on a unique journey marking the changing face of one of Scotland's most famous rivers. From the cotton and tobacco trades to the legendary shipyards and modern-day businesses on her banks and shores, the Clyde's development didn't come without its impact on the natural environment. Scotland's land, sea and shores are ever-changing, both naturally and in response to the way we use them. Little by little, the river is regenerating – the Clyde is recovering. Salmon, redshank, basking shark and porpoise are all an indication of this reawakening.

Traditional song and music, native Gaelic from the area, technology and original words and music combine in this special night to celebrate the Clyde's multi-faceted environment. Mary Ann is joined by long-time collaborators, Finlay Wells on guitar and Carradale piper Lorne MacDougall, and Saorsa and Caoimhe Ní Bhroin, two young singers who speak the rare Gaelic dialect of mid-Argyll. Pupils from Greenock and Dunoon's Gaelic Medium Units will also be working with Mary Ann to create a new song especially for the night.

You can book tickets for the concert on Tuesday 16th October at Dunoon Burgh Hall here: <https://www.dunoonburghhall.org.uk/on/event/68038-clyde/>

But be quick – it's a beautiful, newly refurbished and intimate venue. The Clyde is a living, lively place for people and nature. Let's celebrate her new lease of life!

NICK AND CALUM TURNER, ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE at ØY FESTIVAL, PAPA WESTRAY ORKNEY

ØY Festival Residency: Space Station, Sound Science for the Old Frontier – 16-19 November 2018

Watercolour Music's father-and-son team of Nick and Calum Turner will be setting up a sound wave 'space station' for the duration of the ØY Festival – a 'festival of magnetism' seeking out what makes island inspiration unique. From the sound data they collect over the weekend festival in November, they will produce a sonic score that represents life on the Atlantic frontier and how it can be interpreted for future Islonauts.

Almost all planetary science relies on waves of one form or another, from radar and gamma rays to the most recent discovery of gravitational waves. A kind of sound is also used in things like Helioseismology - the study of the Sun's structure, and in mapping the Earth's interior. So sound waves are the perfect medium for an island 'space station', sitting as it will in Orkney's dynamic ocean wavescape.

Orkney's reputation as a hugely musical archipelago and the unpolluted sound-source quality of its geographical isolation all adds to the potential of the residency. And the resonance between current space station design and the islands' ancient architecture also adds to the intriguing possible results. Basically, Nick and Calum are going to be in the perfect place to create a work that uniquely capitalises on their respective expertise. Next stop, NASA!

You can make contact with this year's festival, running on Papa Westray, Orkney from 16-19 November here: <https://oyfestival2018.wordpress.com/2018/09/24/space-station-oy/>
You can read about the festival's origins here: <https://www.visitorkney.com/news/oy>
And you can read about the European Southern Observatory, where Calum is currently based, here: <https://www.eso.org/public/news/>

Watercolour Music Guitar Weekend

September 29th - October 2nd

Watercolour Music opens 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 two tutors work with 6- 8 players and are great at tailoring the tuition to each individuals skillset.

Date: 29th – 3rd October

Costs will be in the neighbourhood of last year's course which were:

Guitar Workshop and lunches alone:£325.

Guitar Workshop, Hotel BB and lunches: £475

Once at the studio transport is provided throughout the weekend. We eat as a group each night at the Hotel. Group costs approx. £15.00 pppn.