



## Watercolour Music News - May 2024

A chàirdean uile,

Seo na naidheachdan as ùire bhuainn – tha gu leòr air a bhi dol is gu leòr eile air faire, is tha sinn an dòchas gum faigh sibh cothrom èisdeachd, coimhead no tighinn cuide rinn thar nam mìosan romhainn.

Watercolour has been really busy of late, which we're always happy about - on the music, production, broadcast and hospitality fronts alike. Here are the deets of our latest doings – hope to see you around!



### IN CONCERT – ALASDAIR FRASER & NATALIE HAAS at ARDGOUR PARISH CHURCH (The Telford Kirk)

The latest Ardgour Gig presented by Watercolour is complete fiddle-cello royalty, with Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas coming to the village this Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May.

Mary Ann first fell in love with Alasdair's beautiful fiddle playing on the classic album Skyedance with pianist Paul Machlis. Since then, Alasdair and cellist extraordinaire Natalie have worked with Mary Ann at Alasdair's legendary Valley of the Moon fiddle camp in California, and they've also recorded at Watercolour's studios on the award-winning Campbells of Greepe family project.

It's extra-special therefore to be able to welcome the duo back to Ardgour to give a unplugged performance in the beautiful atmosphere and acoustics of the village's historic Telford Kirk.

We'll be royally fed as ever by the Inn at Ardgour, and as the church is just along the road from the Ardgour Ales brewery, the pre- and post-theatre drinks are taken care of too. And the gigs start at 7pm and finish just after 9 so that anyone from the 'mainland' side of the Corran Narrows can easily catch the last ferry!

Book your tickets now at [Eventbrite](#), or you can also buy them at the brewery, or on the night at the door. Advance booking is not necessary, but *a*lways appreciated!

## Kat in Ukraine



Almost exactly two years ago, Nika and her daughter Kateryna arrived in Scotland, having made the hard decision to leave their home in Ukraine. It took a lot of to-ing and fro-ing of bureaucracy in various countries, but they eventually arrived at Glasgow Central where we were waiting to take them home to Ardgour where the community were absolutely amazing in welcoming them to the Highlands.

Family duty eventually took them back to Ukraine, and it was only two weeks ago, on Kat's 15th birthday, that we heard terrible news from Odessa that Nika had been taken ill and died very suddenly.

This leaves a young girl with no immediate family left in Ukraine having to try and make a new start - to 'put a patch' as she says on a life that can never be the same again. She has had to leave her home once again and live in exile with her grandmother in Brno, Czechia.

As their hosts in Scotland, we are running a Crowdfunder this month to help support Kat making her way forward. We've been supported by our friends at Ardgour Ales, who ran a Pie and a Pint night to raise money, and Mary Ann will also be joined by Donnie Maroot on

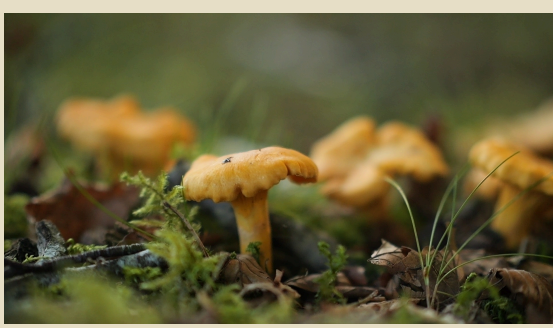
Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup> for an online fundraising night of the Gaelic music that Nika was so passionate about, with guests including Ruairidh Gray, Jim Mackintosh, Eilidh Cormack and many more.

Please give a little or a lot if you can, in solidarity with our friends in Ukraine. The giving link is [here](#)

## A Walk on the Wild side!

We've been really excited to start working with local professional forager Lucy Cooke, aka [The Wilde Cooke](#) on a project that we can't quite spill the beans on (or fruits or leaves or fungi!), quite yet. But it's been amazing to go through the process that foragers calling 'lifting the green veil' as we learn about the goodness growing all around us. Lucy is a very responsible forager so we've been keeping the specific locations secret, but suffice to say, it's been a real adventure to watch the year-round changing of the seasons through Lucy's eyes, and we're looking forward to being able to share more on this very soon!

Check out Lucy's Insta account (@thewildcooke) for some of her foraging finds – and the delicious food she prepares with them!



## Watercolour Cottage

We still have some availability through the summer for our beautiful studio cottage, which is available on a self-catering basis for 7 day bookings (or variable by arrangement). The house sleeps 6-8, is very well equipped, it has Watercolour's famous unrivalled views of Ben Nevis and we welcome well-behaved dogs who have the run of the 8-acre field!

You can check availability [here](#), but please email us directly at [mak@watercolourmusic.co.uk](mailto:mak@watercolourmusic.co.uk) with the dates you are enquiring about and we will give you an offline deal.

We love hearing from you, so please get in touch if you have any questions at [info@watercolourmusic.co.uk](mailto:info@watercolourmusic.co.uk). We try not to fill your mailbox with loads of emails, and this is only an occasional newsletter. But if it's not occasional enough, then just let us know and we'll unsubscribe you.

Le meas bho Nick & Mary Ann @ Watercolour Music



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