**MARY ANN KENNEDY – MÀIRI ANNA NICUALRAIG**

Mary Ann Kennedy is an award-winning musician, writer and broadcaster, based in Lochaber in the West Highlands of Scotland. She is the producer and co-presenter of BBC ALBA’s ‘Rùrachd’, made by Watercolour Studios, a residential studio and production house run by herself and husband Nick Turner.

An urban Gael from multi-cultural Glasgow, Mary Ann’s earliest memories are of a home filled with words and music, and where holidays were always trips to other versions of ‘home’ – her parents’ native islands of Skye and Tiree – where a wee ‘townie’ could run free on machair, moor and shoreline. She trained as a classical musician the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, and joined the BBC in 1993 where she several years in news and current affairs before returning to a freelance performing and broadcast career.

Having worked for many years on national radio and TV, especially in world and traditional music, Mary Ann remains devoted to Gaelic music, language and culture. She was the host of the first programme to be broadcast on the new Gaelic TV channel BBC ALBA in 2008 and continues to present flagship programmes including ‘Seirm’ from the Celtic Connections Festival, and the annual Scots Trad Music Awards (Na Trads).

A multi-award winner across the different genres of her output, much of her creative work is rooted in humankind’s relationship with nature. A residency at the Gaelic college, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Skye, led to the creation of ‘Aiseag’ (Ferryboat), an exploration of connection and community - from the ferry at the heart of her village to the ocean crossings of exile and emigration. It was performed as part of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games celebrations in 2014.

Other commissions include large-scale works based around the river Clyde for NatureScot and the Royal National Mòd, and ‘Talamh Beò’, an award-winning collaboration inspired by the landscapes of Coigach & Assynt in the north-west Highlands. Her solo work includes two albums on ARC Music, and she most recently co-produced ‘Westerfjord’, an arts-and-science album by Prof Colin Campbell, with whom she shares Skye family roots. The music from the album, scheduled for release in summer 2025, forms the soundtrack of ‘Rùrachd’.

Mary Ann also makes a mean carrageen pudding.

*For more information about Mary Ann, Watercolour Studios and ‘Rùrachd’, please email* [*info@watercolourmusic.co.uk*](mailto:info@watercolourmusic.co.uk)*.*