

Traditional Music Tutor Training Network



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Crosbhealach an Cheoil – Crossroads Conference, Derry

Following a successful application to the Scottish Arts Council's Professional Development Fund, Iona MacDonald, TMTTN Co-ordinator managed to attend the Crossroads Conference at Magee College, University of Ulster in April this year. A range of speakers from formal, informal and community education situations gave talks from their varying perspectives on traditional music education, learning and teaching.

"Traditional" methods of master and pupil were discussed and compared with group classes and with "on-line" and "virtual" classes. The merits of notated and non-notated music and the regard in which each was held were discussed in an Irish context – the notated music played in Victorian drawing rooms and the non-notated music which belonged "to the people" and was played in barns and kitchens.

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann discussed the training and assessment of the tutor, and their graded examinations in performance and tutoring, and Siobhán Ní Chonaráin of CCE agreed to come to Inverness to give a talk on their experiences to the Credit & Credibility Conference. The proceedings of both conferences are to be published shortly, and details will be given in this newsletter for those that would like a copy.

Credit & Credibility – 2nd National Seminar

The Second National Seminar of the TMTTN took place in Culloden Academy, Inverness on 7th June 2003 and was attended by around 50 participants.

The theme of the seminar was the formal accreditation of traditional music tutors, and employers, tutors, music students and others were represented, and took part in the workshop sessions which will eventually feed in to the

finished qualification. Workshops were held on accreditation of prior learning (APL), SQA Terminology, Teaching Techniques, Special Needs and Music Education, and the Disclosure process for tutors. These, and the plenary sessions sparked some lively debate, and raised many interesting issues.

The qualification framework

is being written up by Jack Beck, in consultation with the TMTTN, and with practising tutors in the sector and hopefully will be ready for public perusal in draft form in the Autumn. Further details on the qualification will be distributed through the TMTTN Subscription List and on the Fèisean nan Gàidheal website (www.feisean.org) as they become available.





Tutor Database

Names are still coming in for the Tutor Database, so if you are a traditional music tutor and you haven't registered your name and details on the TMTTN database you can still do so by downloading a registration form from the Fèisean nan Gàidheal website at www.feisean.org

The TMTTN database is kept as a part of the main Fèisean nan Gàidheal database, but is open to all

traditional music tutors working in Scotland. Tutor details will only be released to bona fide organisations such as ALP, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, SCaT, etc. At the moment, there are no plans to make it accessible through the web due to questions over security of information. A question on languages has been included to allow tutors who use Gaelic, Doric, Scots, Shetlandic, etc to

advertise the fact. One tutor (who shall remain nameless) has claimed German as an indigenous language of Scotland, and several have indignantly advertised their skills in the English language - it's a rich mix, right enough.



TMTTN Update

The TMTTN are currently working towards the establishment of a Scotland-wide tutor database, maintained by Fèisean nan Gàidheal at their office in Portree. The database will be made available to bona fide traditional music organisations to assist them in finding tutors for events and courses. Traditional Music tutors wishing to be included on this database can download a registration form from www.feisean.org

Also, the TMTTN are in the process of designing a qualification in Traditional Music Tuition which will be accredited by the Scottish Qualifications Authority. This qualification, while non-compulsory, will help to assure employers and pupils of a certain quality standard in tutors, and will contain optional modules in specific cultural elements, eg Gaelic or Scots music, while retaining a core of generic modules common to all, eg Groupwork, One-to-One Teaching, Health and Safety,

etc. The qualification will be vocationally relevant, and has the added advantage of being designed by musicians for musicians. It is hoped to conduct wide consultation throughout the summer, with a view to a draft qualification framework being ready to present to the public in late Autumn. Possibly, the first students could be registering for the qualification by Spring 2004.

It is intended to keep interested parties up-to-date with developments within the TMTTN through this newsletter which is distributed via e-mail. To subscribe, or for any further information, send your details including e-mail address to the TMTTN Co-ordinator, Iona MacDonald, at iona@feisean.org or at Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Meall House, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9EG. Iona is Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Training Development Officer, and co-ordinates the activities of the TMTTN as a condition of funding from the Scottish

Arts Council.

The Steering Group of the Traditional Music Tutor Training Network is currently: Carolyn Paterson, Scottish Arts Council; Sheena Wellington; Jack Beck; Caroline Hewat, TMSA; David Boag, Fèisean nan Gàidheal; Mark Sheridan, University of Strathclyde; and David Francis, Scottish Music Group. Though both Sheena and Jack have retired from their original posts, their experience is invaluable to the group. The Formal Accreditation Committee consists of Jack Beck, David Boag, Mark Sheridan, Dougie Pincock, National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton, Roddy McLeod, Institute of Piping, and Jo Miller of the Scottish Music department at RSAMD. Iona MacDonald co-ordinates both groups as part of her remit as Training Development Officer at Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

