

faileas

Youth Music Initiative



A special Fèisean nan Gàidheal newsletter focussing on our Youth Music Initiative partnership with The Highland Council

YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT MADE AT FÈIS



Thadhail Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cultar, Fiona Hyslop, air Fèis Rois san Dàmhair far an tug i iomradh air an t-airgead a bharrachd a tha Riaghaltas na h-Alba a' cur ris an stòras airson Iomairt Chiùil na h-Òigridh a chumail a' dol.

A further £10 million is being invested in the Scottish Government's hugely successful Youth Music Initiative, the Culture Secretary has confirmed.

Fiona Hyslop formally announced the funding allocation for 2012-13 during a visit to Fèis Rois nan Deugairean held in Ullapool in October. The Youth Music Initiative offers young people opportunities to get involved in music and supports more than 300 projects each year, covering all musical genres, age groups and teaching methods.

Speaking during her visit to Ullapool, Ms Hyslop said: "At a time when Scotland is facing deep cuts in public spending imposed by the UK Government, my first priority has been to protect the provision of frontline services such as the Youth Music Initiative.

"By maintaining funding for this scheme, we are investing in Scotland's young people. As well as fostering and developing their musical skills and unlocking their creative potential, the Youth Music Initiative teaches our young people to be innovative, resourceful, confident and responsible.

YMI DELIVERING THE CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

Tha sgoiltean na Gàidhealtachd a' dol air adhart leis a' phrògram airson seisean 2011-12. Tha luchd-teagaisg Fèisean nan Gàidheal air a bhith air leth taiceil ann a bhith a' coileanadh thoraidhean eadar-thoinnte nan Ealain Cruithachail agus a' leigeil le gach sgoilear adhartas a dhèanamh ann an ceithir raointean a' Churraicealaim airson Sàr-mhathais.

Highland schools are incorporating the Traditional Music YMI programme into their curriculum for session 2011-12. Visits from Fèisean nan Gàidheal tutors have become valuable in helping to meet the overarching outcomes for the Expressive Arts and to enable every pupil to achieve across the four capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence. The YMI visits contribute to their ability to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors.

YMI work contributes towards delivering the Expressive Arts section of Building the Curriculum enabling the pupils to:

- Express themselves and be creative
- Experience enjoyment
- Develop important skills
- Develop an appreciation and understanding of Traditional Music

Ann an iris seo:

YMI	1
Delivering the Programme	2
Fèis an Earraich	2
Resources	3
YMI Contacts	3
Tutor Focus	4
Luchd-teagaisg	4



Tha Fèisean nan Gàidheal air a bhith air leth toilichte co-obrachadh le Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd airson Iomairt Chiùil na h-Òigridh a chur air dòigh air feadh nan sgoiltean aca. Le taic bho na Fèisean ionadail agus le cuid den luchd-ciùil traidiseanta as fheàrr a th' againn gan teagasg, tha sgoilearan air Ghàidhealtachd ag ionnsachadh tòrr mun dualchas a tha a' buntainn ris an sgìre aca fhèin.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal continues to be delighted to work with The Highland Council in providing traditional music tuition in all its primary schools. With the exceptional assistance of the local Fèisean - which have been strengthened considerably as a result of this initiative - and the guidance of our YMI coordinator, Rae MacEachern, young people across Highland receive first class tuition from some of our best traditional musicians.

As one of the key providers of traditional music tuition across Scotland, Fèisean nan Gàidheal congratulates The Highland Council on having taken the decision to dedicate a large portion of its YMI funding to the teaching of traditional music. This has meant that youngsters across the Highlands have experienced some of the language and culture that belongs to them.

After 8 years we are really seeing the fruits of the investment, but there is a ready supply of children out there who could benefit in years to come!

A' LÌBHRIGEADH PRÒGRAM TRADISEANTA ICO ANN AN SGOILTEAN NA Gàidhealtachd

Tha a h-uile bun-sgoil sa Ghàidhealtachd, 187 uile gu lèir, a' faighinn teagasg co-dhiù 12 turas a mhaireas uair a thìde bho luchd-oide Fèisean nan Gàidheal rè bliadhna na sgoile. Nì am program cinnteach gum faigh na sgoiltean as lugha air an iomall an aon seirbheis ris na sgoiltean as motha anns na bailtean.

Anns an 2010-11, b' e Prìomh 5 an targaid le Prìomh 6 san amharc anns an ath sheisean. Tha seo a' toirt seachad cothrom adhartas agus leasachadh a dhèanamh. Air sgàth 's gu bheil an àireamh de chlasaichean measgaichte nas àirde anns a' Ghàidhealtachd tha tòrr sgoilearan a' faighinn buannachd às a' phrògram YMI airson barrachd air aon bhliadhna.

Tha an obair dhoirbh ann a bhith a' stèidheachadh clàran-ama an urra ri na Fèisean sgìreil – Fèis Chataibh (21 sgoiltean), Fèis an Earraich (19 sgoiltean), Fèis Loch Abar (29 sgoiltean), Fèis Rois (108 sgoiltean) agus Fèis Spè (10 sgoiltean) agus tha riochdairean dicheallach air am fastadh gus seo a dhèanamh. Tha na riochdairean seo ag obair gu dlùth le sgoiltean gus dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid am prògram air adhart ann an dòigh cho simplidh 's a ghabhas do na sgoiltean.

DELIVERING THE TRADITIONAL YMI PROGRAMME IN HIGHLAND SCHOOLS

All 187 primary schools in Highland have at least 12 one-hour visits from Fèisean nan Gàidheal tutors throughout the school session. The programme ensures that small, outlying schools receive the same input as larger, urban schools. In 2010-11, Primary 5 has been the target class with next session focussing on Primary 6. This allows for progression and development. However, with Highland having a high proportion of composite classes, many pupils benefit from more than one year of the YMI programme.

The difficult job of timetabling lies with area Fèisean – Fèis Chataibh (21 schools), Fèis an Earraich (19 schools), Fèis Lochabair (29 schools), Fèis Rois (108 schools) and Fèis Spè (10 schools) and dedicated representatives are employed by each to do this. They work closely with schools to ensure the smooth running of the programme.



Tutors receive many letters and drawings from appreciative pupils. This was received by Addie Harper who visits Caithness schools

Fèisean nan Gàidheal YMI Activities 2010-11



Tutors travel the long and winding roads to reach far flung schools from Durness to Glencoe and from Inverie to Rum, Eigg, Muck and Canna!

This map gives an indication of the extent of the area covered by Fèisean nan Gàidheal's YMI Programme.

Lesson content often reflects the traditions of individual areas giving the pupils a rich cultural experience and ensuring the continuity of their heritage. Tutors also deal with the diversity of pupils within classes, whether it be small numbers in rural areas or mixed ethnic backgrounds in urban schools.

PEIGI NICNEACAIL BHO FÈIS AN EARRAICH - SGOILTEAN AN EILEIN SGITHEANAICH AGUS LOCH AILLSE

“Anns an Eilean Sgitheanach agus Loch Aillse, tha 19 bun-sgoiltean rin co-òrdanachadh. B' e an dùbhlán bu mhotha a bh'ann an toiseach clàr-ama a chur air bhonn, a' feuchainn ri amannan teagaisg a rèiteach gus nach tèid bacadh a chur air tadhail luchd-teagaisg eile. Tha na Ceannardan-sgoile air a bhith air leth taiceil agus tha seo ga dhèanamh nas fhasa rian a chumail air cùisean. Tha luchd-teagaisg agus sgoilearan air deagh mheasadh a thoirt dhuinn.

Am bliadhna thathar a' tabhainn teagasg do BS5 ann am fideag, obair-còmhlain agus seinn ann an Gàidhlig agus Beurla. Tha bun-sgioba againn de luchd-oide stèidhichte gu h-ionadail a bhios a' libhrigeadh a' phrògram. Tha na tadhail a' còrdadh ris an luchd-oide agus tha deagh chàirdeas-obrach a' fàs le na sgoiltean.

Tha an iomairt seo air eòlas a thoirt do chlann mu cheòl traidiseanta agus air cothrom a thabhainn dhaibh ionnsramaid feuchainn no guth-seinn a lorg air nach robh eòlas aca roimhe! Tha sinn air barrachd de dhaoine òga fhaicinn a' gabhail pàirt ann an obair-còmhlain aig an Fhèis bhliadhnail againn. Chòrdadh e rium sin fhaicinn a' sior-fhàs san àm ri teachd.”

“In Skye and Lochalsh, there are 19 primary schools to co-ordinate. The biggest challenge initially was timetabling, trying to organise the visits so as not to clash with other visiting teachers. The Head Teachers have been very supportive of the programme and this makes it easier to administer. The feedback from the teachers and pupils has been very positive.”

CELEBRATING YMI IN HIGHLAND

A DVD is currently being produced showing the impact of all aspects of YMI in Highland Schools. Samples of school experiences in Kodaly, Gigajam, Sound Start and Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Traditional Music programme will be combined to give a flavour of the valuable work of the Youth Music Initiative in schools.

TECHNOLOGY THE ANSWER TO THE WEATHER?

Timetabling for the Small Isles schools – Rum, Eigg, Canna and Muck – has proved challenging over the years due to stormy weather. Last session Rachel Walker (Fèis Lochabair) decided to try sunny August and May for the visits. However, August proved to be rather blustery ... and May continued the theme!

In addition to physical visit we are now looking to provide tutor input via video conferencing to ensure the Small Isles schools receive the full benefits of the traditional YMI programme. We are hoping to trial lessons using Education Scotland's GLOW network to connect Rum and Canna for tuition in Gaelic Song and Whistle.

Meanwhile here are pictures of a day in the life of a tutor to the Small Isles!



COMMENTS FROM SCHOOLS

"I was very stunned by Gary's huge accordion and Ewen's cool guitar. You are brilliant musicians." - Pupil, Lochardil Primary

"Chòrd e rium nuair a chluich Andrew a' phìob dhuinn. Mòran taing." - Pupil, Broadford Primary

"I am very proud of myself because I can read proper music." - Pupil, Loch Duich Primary

"...I sing to myself some nights before I go to bed. The first time I went home my Mum asked what I was doing in school today. I said: 'Gaelic singing'. She asked me to sing one to her. So I did. After, she tried to sing it but she was not very good." - Pupil, Spean Bridge Primary

"Tha sinn a' faighinn cothrom ionnsramaidean ùr a chluich."

"Tha e spòrsail."

"Tha e sgoinneil."

- Pupils, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

"It was fantastic to have an expert/native speaker coming in to the class. The teachers working in the school really appreciated this." - Member of staff, Crown Primary

"Our pupils are very enthusiastic about learning to play musical instruments. I especially like the fact that whistle seems accessible to everyone. Also singing in both languages reflects an important part of their cultural heritage" - Member of staff, Loch Duich Primary

"The boys arrived and the children love them!" - Member of staff, Portree Primary

"I have limited (i.e. no) musical ability and feel that the children have benefited hugely from this experience" - Member of staff, Hilton Primary

"It's clear how much the children enjoyed their music tuition as their faces lit up when they were told each week that they were going to 'band practice'" - Member of staff, Broadford Primary

RESOURCES

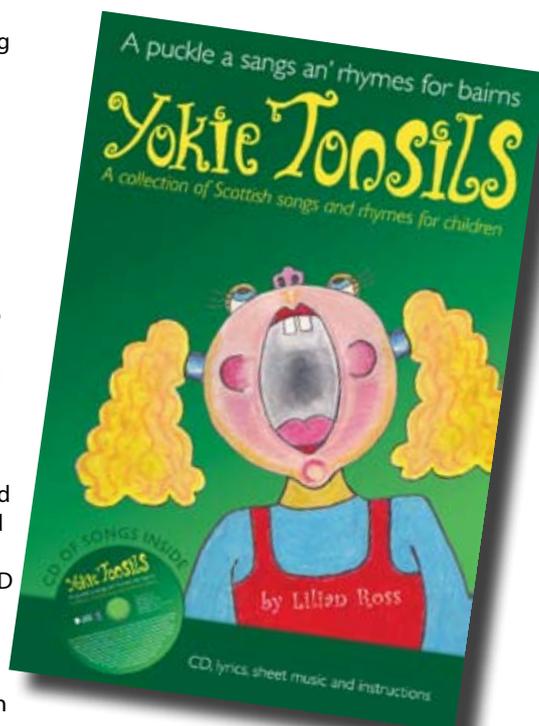
Tutors are constantly adding to and creating resources in order to ensure breadth and progression in their teaching.

Recently a comprehensive Tutor Whistle Pack was produced by Hugh Marwick and Heather Forbes, which contained suitable activities for differentiation within a class, along with cross-curricular suggestions.

The final completed resource will be available after consultation with tutors who have used the draft copy this session.

With support from the Scottish Arts Council and Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Lilian Ross produced a very attractive song book for children and this has proved very popular with schools. This has been used widely and a copy distributed to all schools in Highland so that it can also be used outwith YMI classes. In addition to the lyrics, there is a CD with the book so that children can hear the songs being sung by Lilian.

Copies of these resources, as well as earlier Gaelic Song and Whistle resource packs, can be obtained from Fèisean nan Gàidheal.



YMI CONTACTS

For further information on YMI contact:

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Taigh a' Mhill
Port-Rìgh
An t-Eilean Sgitheanach
IV51 9BZ
01478 613355
fios@feisean.org

Rae MacEachern
YMI Co-ordinator
25 Camuscross
Isleornsay
Isle of Skye
IV43 8Q5
01471 833258
rae@feisean.org

Caithness/Ross & Cromarty/ Nairn and Inverness

Education Officer
Fèis Rois
5 Business Centre
1 Castle Street
Dingwall
IV15 9HU
01349 862600
rachael.duff@feisrois.org

Lochaber

Charlotte Sutton
Lochaber Fèisean
Development Office
Camaghael Hostel Offices
Fort William
PH33 7ND
07789 052339
charlotte.feislochabair@gmail.com

Badenoch & Strathspey

Judith Bullivant
Fèis Spè
Glenrowan
Erbusaig
Kyle of Lochalsh
IV40 8BB
01599 534596
feisspe@feisean.org

Sutherland

Louise Mackenzie
Fèis Chataibh
'Grianan'
12, Ben Bhraggie Drive
GOLSPIE
KW10 6SX
01408 633084
louisefiddle@tiscali.co.uk

Skye and Lochalsh

Peggy Nicolson
Fèis an Earraich
5 Kilmore
Sleat
Isle of Skye
IV44 8RG
01471 844706
peggynicolson@tinyworld.co.uk

Highland Council

Norman Bolton
Music Development Officer
Education Centre
Castle Street
Dingwall
IV15 9HU
01349 863441
norman.bolton@highland.gov.uk

TUTOR FOCUS



BOB MASSIE

Bob Massie has been a tutor in the Youth Music Initiative since the programme started. He is a very popular tutor with both staff and pupils, as the many letters, cards and drawings he receives prove. His commitment to the initiative is hugely appreciated by Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

"My first involvement with the Youth Music Initiative was in 2005, and certainly, in the areas in which I have worked – Sutherland, Ross-shire and Caithness - there has been a change in the attitude of YMI tutors. In the early days, we may have had a slightly gung-ho, "over-the-top and let's-be-at-'em" attitude, where, to a certain extent the tutors went in to the classrooms a little bit unsure of what to expect when they got there. We are now much more structured and professional in our approach. Certainly, in my own case, I don't think I was as well-prepared in the early days as I like to think I am today.

I would also suggest that, while many of the early tutors had had a long-established involvement with the Fèis movement (my own going back to the early 1990s), the YMI is a different beast altogether. We are delivering our music not only to children whose parents are interested enough and perhaps affluent enough to send them to Fèisean, but also to those who have no musical influences at home, except what they see and hear on TV and radio. Also bear in mind that in the areas where I am visiting, Council funding restraints mean that the YMI might be the sole musical input for those children who are not receiving music instruction in chanter, violin etc. Again, a different situation from 2005.

I am extremely fortunate in that a lot of the YMI work I do is in the County of Sutherland where I lived for 12 years – I was Fishery Officer and later Harbourmaster in Kinlochbervie in the 80s and 90s. A couple of years ago, I took the classes in "beautiful Achfary on the shores of Loch More" (to quote a line from "The Waters of Kylesku") and also had the privilege of going back to Kinlochbervie where a number of the pupils were the sons/grandsons/granddaughters of friends and colleagues. That was special!

Tutoring in smaller schools means that you may have composite classes. One advantage of this situation is that instead of these children having one year of YMI, if you have a composite class of P4-7, which I have in several schools, then that child can have several years of YMI. This continuity is very important, both in that the tutor can build up a rapport with the pupils, and also that the pupils can have a second, third or even fourth bite at the musical cherry.

For a couple of years, I did some YMI work in Caithness, and in 2006 I was doing 4 schools on a Friday – Watten, Reay, Crossroads and Halkirk. I was driving 290 miles in a day!

Apart from the obvious Child Protection issues which are of prime importance, and which are outlined in the pack which every new tutor should get, my main pieces of advice to new tutors are;

- Your classes not only have to be instructive, but they also have to be fun – if that element isn't there, in my class, then I feel that I am not doing my job properly.
- You have to leave inhibitions at the classroom door, and take on a slightly larger than life stance. Although you are carrying out an important musical role for these pupils, don't be puffed and don't take yourself too seriously.
- Be prepared. And be prepared to be flexible!

After I got early retirement from my previous profession, I went back to full-time education and did a science degree. At one stage, I was contemplating qualifying as a Primary teacher. But in the end I didn't do it.

When visiting schools to deliver YMI, I can see just how hard primary teachers have to work, and unlike us - they can't just walk away after the hour is up. Hats off to the primary teachers!!

The one thing that has both surprised and impressed me is the sheer enthusiasm for the initiative, shown by the vast majority of children involved."

LUCHD-TEAGAISG

Tha suas ri 35 luchd-teagaisg air a bhith an sàs a' libhrigeadh prògram Iomairt Chiùil Òigridh. Tha seo air cothrom-obrach a thoirt do luchd-ciùil aig amannan duilich 's tha iad air sgilean ùra ionnsachadh mu stiùireadh chlasaichean, phlanaichean adhartach agus a bhith ag obair ann an suidheachadh foghlaim foirmeil.

A bharrachd air seo, tha sgeama-measaidh is sgrùdaidh ga dhèanamh air luchd-teagaisg agus tha seo, cuide ri trèanadh iomchaidh, a' ciallachadh gu bheil iad a' dèanamh an obair aca anns na sgoiltean aig ìre àrd phroifeiseanta. Tha grunn luchd-teagaisg a-nis air a dhol air adhart gus cùrsaichean foghlaim a dhèanamh.

A team of up to 35 tutors have been involved regularly in the delivery of the YMI programme. This has given many musicians employment in difficult times and has also allowed them to develop skills in classroom management and forward planning, working in a formal education situation.

There is also an evaluation and monitoring process, which, along with training, ensures a professional attitude to their work in schools. Several tutors have taken this a step further and continued with training in education.



Fèisean nan Gàidheal
Taigh a' Mhill
Port-Rìgh
An t-Eilean Sgitheanach
IV51 9BZ

Fòn 01478 613355

Facs 01478 613399

Post-d brath@feisean.org

www.feisean.org