

TASGADH

Traditional Arts Small Grants



CASE STUDY Soisgeul – Gaelic Gospel Choir

Tasgadh Grant Awarded	£800
Total Project Cost	£3556
Tasgadh contribution as % of total	23%
No. of beneficiaries	55

Project Update:

The project sought funding for weekend workshop and performance in Inverness, led by Gareth Fuller, Mary Ann Kennedy and pianist Paul Watson. Each has worked and performed with Soisgeul and has a strong working relationship with the choir and with each other.

Soisgeul has established a core repertoire consisting of Gaelic spiritual ‘standards’, specially commissioned music for the choir, and gospel classics translated into Gaelic. This weekend’s focus is new repertoire, specifically four works – ‘Nach d’ Fhurtaich Mo Thighearn’ Daniel’, ‘Togaibh E’, ‘Ma Dh’Innseas Mi Do Dhia’ and ‘Alelùia, Dhè’.

Brief Resume:

Soisgeul is a nationwide choir, the first to step out from the preconceptions and expectations of Gaelic choral music’s Victorian roots, reclaiming a vibrant, communicative performance style that is as much in keeping with Gaelic traditional singing as it is with its gospel cousins.

Outcome/Aims:

A Soisgeul weekend workshop and performance in Inverness, on March 14th and 15th. It was led by Gareth Fuller and Mary Ann Kennedy, with musical accompaniment from pianist Paul Watson and technical support from Nick Turner. The sessions concentrated on the choir’s core repertoire and on learning new works commissioned for the choir.

The workshops took place on the last weekend before COVID19 lockdown. This meant that some aspects of the planned timetable had to be changed, to accommodate the prevailing government advice and conditions. Some vulnerable members of the choir chose not to attend, and a planned free public event at the Eastgate Centre was postponed. However the workshop learning sessions were extended, and the choir did support An Comunn Gàidhealach in their Mòd fundraiser cèilidh by performing on the Saturday night.

Overall, the weekend still achieved its twin aims in enabling the choir to make a significant step forward in repertoire and performance development, and to reinforce its unique presence in the Gaelic musical world and Gaelic language community, building on the reputation established with the Glòir (Edinburgh) and National Mòd (Glasgow) performances.