

TASGADH

Traditional Arts Small Grants



CASE STUDY MAEVE MACKINNON

Tasgadh Grant Awarded	£500
Total Project Cost	£1,059
Tasgadh contribution as % of total	47%
No. of beneficiaries	1



Project Update:

The project sought funding for Maeve's professional development to enable her to attend the high-profile Bel Canto School of Singing in Dublin, Ireland, for 4 days of vocal training. The schedule included a compulsory vocal assessment and 3 lessons per day for four days.

Having toured extensively she has suffered from voice problems from time to time during performances and strongly believed that specialist tuition from the Bel Canto School would give her a greater insight into how to take care of and preserve her voice.

Furthermore she believed it would help to inform and influence her singing style and give her a greater confidence in her ability to execute performances and recording sessions with ease and confidence. She felt that this further training would enable her to garner broader audiences at home and overseas than previously, thereby contributing on a wider scale in celebrating the rich cultural heritage existing within Scottish music today.

Brief Resume:

Maeve travelled to Dublin in October 2016 and undertook a 4 hour vocal assessment by Edwin Williamson (an opera singer and tutor who co-owns the Bel Canto School of Singing). She also had daily lessons and received access to a group session.

Outcome/Aims:

The teachings she learned from her time at Bel Canto have been enormously valuable to her as a musician.

1. She was able to get past particular vocal issues, gain awareness of the reasons behind the issues, and identify solutions to these issues.
2. On her first week back in Scotland her vocal range had expanded considerably. Her vocal pitching was much higher and there was greater clarity in her voice than she had realised was possible.

3. Her confidence in her own voice has increased due to her time at the Bel Canto School. She has had two international tours confirmed and is currently planning a third album. She is confident that her singing will attain greater confidence, clarity and presence in her natural voice that will in turn be reflected in her performances at home and abroad, and future recording projects.

She has already started to put into practice some of the teachings of the Bel Canto School in her work both as a performing artist and also as a tutor of song.

She has had the opportunity to implement the practices and teachings of her newly acquired vocal skills (obtained in her lessons) on the two choirs she currently runs, the Maryhill Heritage Choir at Maryhill Burgh Halls, Glasgow as well as Horsecross Arts' Glè Seniors choir in Perth. This will therefore be continuing the "carrying stream" of passing on songs and skills as is inherent in the Scottish Traditional Music scene.