

The Contributors

I am enormously grateful to these talented Manx composers who have allowed me the privilege of arranging their tunes for use in this book. As you will see, they have varied backgrounds and extensive credentials, but they all share one thing in common: through their joy of making music together, they are ensuring that Manx music and culture will endure for all the generations to come!



Robert C. Carswell
(Eileen My Vyrneen)

Bob is well known around the Island as a musician, composer, writer, radio presenter and general Manx culture advocate. In 2013 his achievements were recognized when he received the prestigious *Reih Bleeaney Vanannan* award for outstanding contributions to Manx culture. In addition to composing songs, he enjoys dancing with the *Manx Folk Dance Society*, *Bock Yuan Fannee*, and *Bock Bane*, and playing with the *Calor Gas Ceilidh Band*. Many local groups have recorded his tunes.



Sharon Christian
(Sharon's Jig)

“I play flute, whistle, piano and guitar. I have composed a few tunes varying from hymns to jigs. I enjoy singing with Manx choir *Cliogaree Twoaie* and playing flute at the Greens traditional music session.” Sharon works as a Teacher’s Aide at the *Bunscoil Ghaelgagh* Primary School, where all classes are taught in Manx Gaelic.



Simong Heath
(Grandma's Pea Pie)

“I started playing flute at the tender age of 10, and dabbled with mandolin and guitar, but stuck with the flute in the end! Whilst at the University of Wales, where I got my Bachelor of Music degree, I started a folk group called *Bwganod* with some friends, and this sparked my love for folk music. Back home [from University] to the Isle of Man, I started up a folk group with some local musicians, and *Skeal* was born! Performing with fellow Manxies [including Breesha Maddrell], we put an interesting twist on music and songs from the Island, and have released two albums. We are all passionate about our culture, and enjoy sharing the songs and tunes from our beautiful island, and have lots of fun on the way!”

Annië Kissack
(Eubonia Soilshagh and Mish as y Keayn)

“I was born on the IOM and have lived and worked there all my life apart from a period at university in Wales. As a child, I learned Manx traditional music and dance from Mona Douglas. I now teach at the *Bunscoill Ghaelgagh*, the Manx-language primary school at St. Johns. I am the director of Manx Gaelic choir *Caarjyn Coidjagh* for whom I arrange traditional Manx music and compose new songs in Manx. I play the piano, tin whistle, and, occasionally, sing solo.”



Dr. Breësha Maddrell
(Creggyn Scarleode and Mam's Waltz)

Breësha Maddrell began working for the Manx Heritage Foundation in 2008 as Manx Music Development Officer, and in April of 2014 was appointed Acting Director of *Culture Vannin*, the name of the newly reorganized Manx Heritage Foundation. She has a BA in Music and Germanic Studies from the University of Sheffield, an MLitt in 20th Century German Society from the University of St Andrews and a PhD in sociolinguistics and Manx Studies from the University of Liverpool, her thesis looking at aspects of cultural revival in the Isle of Man. She started playing traditional music at school, and learned Manx Gaelic on her return to the Island in 1996. Breësha plays flute and whistle and sings with various groups including *Caarjyn Coidjagh*, *Moot*, *Skeal* and *Sheear*. She organized *Feailley Ghaelgagh/Cooish* from 1998-2012, and has been on the *Yn Chruinnaght* committee since 2007. Breësha is also a government-elected member of *Bing Ymskealley Gaelgagh* (Gaelic Broadcasting Committee) and the IOM Arts Council.



Dr. Laura Rowles
(Sheena's Waltz and You're Never Too Old)

Laura started playing Manx music on the fiddle at the age of six, and never stopped! She has a first class honours degree in music, specializing in performance and musicology. She also has a PhD from the University of Liverpool, and did her thesis on “The Identity of Fiddlers in the Twenty-first Century.” After leaving university she worked as Musician-in-Residence at King William’s College, a private school on the IOM. She and her husband now own a private music teaching business -- www.manninmusic.com. Laura performs with *Paitchyn Vannin*, *Shenn Scoill*, *Ny Jinnyn*, and *Mooijerrey*. In 2010 she was selected as one of the final six fiddlers in the prestigious Amber Fiddle Award. She has written a Manx fiddle tutor, called *Fiddyl*, which is currently used by all the violin students in the state schools on the Island.





Dr. Chloë Woolley
(Dreem Beary)

As Manx Music Specialist for *Culture Vannin* since 2004, Chloë promotes Manx music within the Island's schools, working with classroom and instrumental music teachers, extra-curricular groups, the Youth Service, and the general public, to encourage a greater awareness of Manx music and culture within the Island and beyond. As well as running the extracurricular *Bree* youth movement, she helps organize the annual Manx Folk Awards and *Yn Chruinnaght* inter-Celtic festival. She has a BMus in Composition and Performance from the University of Huddersfield, and an MMus in Composition and Ethnomusicology from the University of Edinburgh. She went on to earn her PhD in 2004 at the School of Scottish Studies in Edinburgh, with her thesis, "The Revival of Manx Traditional Music: From the 1970s to the Present Day." In addition to performing folk music, she is also a classically-trained pianist, violinist, and singer.



Frank Woolley
(Chloë's New Baby)

Frank Woolley is a well-known piano teacher and composer in the Isle of Man. He has written many tunes in the Manx idiom, choral pieces for local choirs and for the Scottish national festival, *The Mod*, as well as many piano works, including a book of arrangements of Manx traditional tunes called *Eisht as Nish*.



Dr. Cinzia Yates
(Lhiam Lhiat)

Cinzia, who now resides in Cardiff, Wales, began playing music at age 11, and has performed as a singer and whistle player (and sometimes dancer) with *Whistle in the Dark*, *Sheear*, *Caarjyn Cooidjagh*, *Paitchyn Vannin*, *Corragh*, and *Ny Fennee*. She developed the Manx Music Database during her employment as Manx Music Resource Coordinator with the Manx National Heritage. She recently earned her PhD in Ethnomusicology, her thesis looking at Canon Formation in Manx Traditional Music, at Cardiff University.