

BBC Radio Scotland

Young Traditional Musician 2008

SEMI-FINALS CONCERT

An Inspiring Evening Of Traditional Music

Saturday 6th October

Coulter Hall, Coulter

7.30pm

Welcome to the BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician 2008 semi-finalists concert. Thanks to you all for turning out to Coulter Hall in beautiful South Lanarkshire for this very special event in Scotland's Traditional Music Calendar. You can all look forward to a fantastic evening of top traditional music performed by talented young musicians from the length and breadth of Scotland.

So far this weekend there have been workshops in relaxation techniques, creating publicity materials and stage presentation - all in the wonderful surroundings of Wiston Lodge. Add to that rehearsals, sessions, photographs and great food and you will get an idea what a good time participants have had so far.

Following this concert 6 of the performers will get the opportunity to take the stage at Glasgow's prestigious Celtic Connections festival on Sunday 27 January 2008. One of them will go to become the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician 2008. Put this date in your diary now!

RUNNING ORDER:

Introduction from Simon Thoumire

Opening remarks from Aileen Campbell MSP.

Iain Angus MacLeod - Accordion (Isle of Harris)

Iain Angus is a young accordion player gaining plaudits from all over for his fine expressive playing. He was just fourteen years old when he played at the Lairg Music Festival in 2005, but his promise was there for all to see. Iain Angus leads his own ceilidh band and their west-coast style of playing is becoming increasingly popular with dancers all over Scotland. He has already recorded his debut CD titled Chi Mi'n Tir.

Fraya Thomsen - Clarsach (Arisaig)

Music has always been a big part of Fraya's life and her introduction to Gaelic music came through her involvement with Feis Rois. She gained an honours degree in Scottish Music from her studies at RSAMD. She also enjoys composing and wrote music for an RSAMD production of 'Twelfth Night' which was performed at The Arches in Glasgow. She currently performs with Gillian Fleetwood in 'The Duplets'.

Adam Holmes - Guitar, song (Edinburgh)

Adam is a young musician from Edinburgh. His material consists of his own songs and traditional material. He has passed through the Edinburgh Youth Gaitherin and Tinto Summer School playing with other young musicians such as Kevin Murphy and David Foley.

Steven Blake - Pipes (Livingston)

Steven is a fine young piper with an interest in contemporary Scottish folk music. He is a founder member of the folk band 'Flow' so named because their music 'flows'. He cites amongst his influences, Fred Morrison, Martyn Bennett, Finlay MacDonald, Michael McGoldrick and folk band Back of the Moon. Steven not only plays Highland pipes, Small pipes with the band he also enjoys composing tunes for them.

Gillian Fleetwood - Clarsach and song (Inverness)

Gillian studied on the Applied Music course at Strathclyde University after a year at the acclaimed National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music in Plockton where Dougie Pincock was an important influence alongside Ingrid Henderson and Mary Ann Kennedy. She is a member of the Danny Award-winning band 'The State Broadcasters' and one half of the duo The Duplets with Fraya Thomsen.

Lorne MacDougall - Pipes, Whistle (Argyll)

Lorne is a product of the renowned Argyllshire piping scene and is adept on Highland Pipes, Smallpipes, Border Pipes and Whistle. Since moving to Glasgow he has been busy carving a name for himself with musicians such as Brian McNeil with whom he has played and toured on the 'Baltic to Byzantium' show. Lorne has a very lyrical and Gaelic style to his playing which befits his Kintyre background. He performs regularly with the band 'Canterach', a pipe music and song-based band.

INTERVAL

RAFFLE

DAVID ROBERTS MEMORIAL PLATE

This is an award in memory of David Roberts, a great supporter of traditional music, who died suddenly in 2005. The David Roberts Memorial Plate is awarded annually to a promising young traditional musician from South Lanarkshire (under 16). This year the award will go to fiddler Tom Gold from Douglas. Tom is doing really well for himself. He won the prestigious Musselburgh Festival Band Competition in 2006 as well participating in a challenging nine day tour of Northern Germany and performing to a full "Ceilidh Tent" at T in the Park. His future career looks a certainty.

James Duncan MacKenzie - Pipes, smallpipes (Isle of Lewis)

James has just completed a year's study of traditional music with bagpipes at the University of the Highlands and Islands in Benbecula under the guidance of Iain MacDonald of Glenuig. He has won solo bagpipe competitions at both local and national level, the most notable being the Scottish Junior Championship in both 2005 & 2006 when his prize was a two week trip to the USA for master class tuition at the Balmoral School of Piping.

Ewan Robertson - Guitar, song (Carrbridge)

Ewan's original instruments of choice were fiddle and bagpipes, but, whilst studying at the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music, a lack of guitar accompanists at the school caused him to become interested in this instrument. He helped form the band Breabach, winning a Danny Award with them at Celtic Connections Festival in 2005. The band released a CD 'The Big Spree' on the Veritcal label in 2007.

Amy Lord - song (Dunblane)

Amy started singing in her early teens at Dunblane Folk Club. Greatly influenced by her mother who is also a traditional singer, Amy obtained a BA Honours degree in Scottish Music at the RSAMD. Amy runs her own successful women's singing group in Dunblane called 'The Liltin' Lassies'. and was the winner of the 'Women's Traditional Singing' cup at Auchtermuchty Folk Festival in 2006.

Robert Menzies - Accordion, piano (Dumfries)

Robert has been offered a scholarship at RSAMD to study on the BA (Scottish Music) course. He has played music since he was 8 years old and has already won many competitions including 'The Highlands and Islands Accordion Masters' title this year. He has his own band and performs regularly at festivals and events, locally, nationally and internationally.

Ailie Robertson - Clarsach (Edinburgh)

Ailie, the winner of the first prize at the London Harp competition and four consecutive Gold Medals for clarsach at the Royal National Mod, is involved in a number of teaching projects and is co-founder with Rosie Morton of the Borders Harp Weekend. She has most recently has been touring with "The Outside Track" a band featuring artists from Ireland, Scotland and Canada.

David Garner - Fiddle (Thornhill)

David is from a musical family and grew up in Brandon, Co. Durham. He took up the fiddle aged nine and moved to Dumfriesshire when he was thirteen. He successfully auditioned for the Junior RSAMD in Glasgow and joined the St. Roch's, Glasgow branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, competing in various fleadh's winning All-Scotland and All-Britain titles.

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THANKS:

Tonights accompanists - Aaron Jones, Harris Playfair, Hamish Napier, and Brian Haitz.

Tonights judges - Mark Maguire, Lori Watson, Simon McKerrell, Elizabeth hepburn.

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Workshops - Rob Adams, Des Lawton, .

Last but not least - Chris and Soundsense PA, Coulter Hall, Wiston Lodge, Lindsay Addison (photography) and Jennifer McGlone.

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