

## Fiona Mackenzie and Band

**Saturday 16th February 2008**

**The Loreto Club, Houston Street, Greenock**

**£10.00 Members & Guests**

Harborlite Music and Inverclyde Folk Club have got together to bring Hebridean Singer Songwriter **Fiona Mackenzie** to Inverclyde, direct from **Celtic Connections** and live sessions at the **BBC**.

Fiona, from the Isle of Lewis, began singing at an early age – at home with her family and in her local Gaelic choirs. After leaving the island to study in Glasgow, she joined the Edinburgh-based Celtic band, **Seelyhoo**, with whom she recorded two albums. She then went on to join, and record with, the internationally acclaimed band, **Anam**, whilst continuing to sing, in the trio **Mackenzie**, with two of her sisters, Eilidh and Gillian. **Mackenzie** have released two albums and are still doing various recording and performance projects.

Fiona has been writing songs since her early teens and has used a mixture of her own material and traditional song in

her recordings with Seelyhoo, Mackenzie and Anam. As a professional singer, Fiona has also featured in many radio and television broadcasts.

Although a large part of Fiona's musical background draws upon her Gaelic culture, she has always taken an interest in music from other genres. Most of her own songs have been written in English and are influenced by many different types of music – rock, pop, world, country...

On **Elevate**, her debut solo album, all tracks are Fiona's own compositions (music and lyrics) except the lyrics in the three Gaelic tracks; two of these use lyrics by her sister, Eilidh Mackenzie, while **An Roghainn** is a poem by Sorley Maclean. The album was recorded and produced by the acclaimed producer **Calum Malcolm** and is released on Linn Records in 2008.

Although this is Fiona's first Solo venture she has played and features on around 12 different albums. Although the album is being previewed live by the BBC we can confirm the actual release date is 18th February.

*my own style out of those inherited materials...I've always been into dynamic emotionally charged music you could use to tell a story or paint a picture. So in other words, yes."*

We received another CD of Peter Case and we can tell you this guy is incredible. **Bruce Springsteen** is a fan and any of you who know those behind the scenes at **Harborlite Music** will understand when we say this guy is as good a songwriter as **Bob Dylan**, sounds as good as **John Lennon** and can play as good as **John Martyn**! Enough of the comparisons though.

To put it in simple terms **Peter Case** is on the same musical level as **Dylan**, **Elvis Costello**, **Bruce Springsteen** and others of the same pedigree. This one is not to be missed!

**Limited Tickets £10.00 for Members & Guests**

## Peter Case

**Saturday 8th March 2008**

**Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club**

**£10.00 Members & Guests**

Grammy Award Nominated for the new album '**Let Us Now Praise Sleepy John**'. We asked Peter, if he was a Folk-singer, a rocker or a Punk these days? *"I tell people now I play folk-rock, & they seem to understand ...but the whole truth is more complex: I'm a singer/ songwriter that uses all the American styles to get my stories across : Blues.*

*Rock.nRoll. Country. Soul. R&B ...& Folk..plus some rhythmic influences from around the world. I'm trying to forge*

### LIVE MUSIC DATES 2008

Who	When	Where	Cost
Fiona Mackenzie & Band with support from Inverclyde Folk Club	Saturday 16th February	The Loreto Club	£10.00 Members & Guests
Peter Case with support from Davy Nicol	Saturday 8th March	Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club	£10.00 Members & Guests
Olav Larsen and The Alabama Rodeo Stars	29th March	Greenock Wanderers Rugby Club	£10.00 Members & Guests
Laura Boosinger with Josh Goforth	Friday 4th April	Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club	£10.00 Members & Guests

**JOKE**

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**Harborlite News for February 2008**

January and February are always difficult months. Trying to choose which acts to go and see at Celtic Connections is never easy and to make things even more difficult there's two bands coming direct from **Celtic Connections** to Inverclyde at the same time. With **Iain Morrison** and **Yvonne Lyon** also playing choosing which shows to go to was even harder this year.

So far the best we've have been, **Steve Earle** and **Allison Moorer**, **Lau**, **The Boston Tea Party** and some acts at the **Open Stage**.

The Open Stage has thrown up some amazing home-grown talent over the years. With the wealth of talent available and the mixture of music this has to be one of the best years ever for **Celtic Connections**. As with all Open Stage events you never know who or what you're going to hear. This has given **Inverclyde Folk Club** the impetus to host their own **Open Stage** events at **The Loreto Club**. More details on Page 3.

We would like to thank the **BBC** and **Celtic Connections** for allowing **The Packway Handle Band** the opportunity of some warm up gigs prior to their sold out performance at **The Wallace Bennett Theatre**. After flexing their musical muscles live via a webcast on the **Travelling Folk** radio show and a gig at **Oran Mor** they finally got to Inverclyde on 30th January for what turned out to be one of their best performances on this mini tour! The band would like to thank the **sellout** crowd for their enthusiasm. This night will be talked about for a long time to come and we're sure there will be a review from our resident reviewer sometime soon!

The new clubhouse has been opened at **Greenock Wanderers Rugby Club**. We've had a preview of the facilities prior to the official opening by **HRH The Princess Royal** and we can tell you it's a great venue, a multipurpose hall with the capability to host all Rugby related events and private functions. Weddings, Christenings etc catered for.

**Harborlite Music** have been looking forward to this new venue for a long time and we can reveal the first big name to play at the

new Wanderers is the amazing Country band, **Olav Larsen & The Alabama Rodeo Stars**. These guys are from Norway and will put any Nashville bands to shame with their talent, energy and commitment. Saturday 29th March is your the diary date and we can promise you this will be the first of many top name acts that will be available at **The Wanderers**. Tickets **£10.00 for Members & Guests**.

What else for 2008? **Laura Boosinger with Josh Goforth**, by popular demand the return of **The Hunger Mountain Boys**, **The Groanbox Boys**, **Duncan Chisolm and Ivan Drever**, **Michael Marra**, **Bruce Molsky** and many more. 2008 certainly promises to be the best year ever for Roots / Folk / Americana type music in Inverclyde! There are other acts being looked at with a few **very well known names** already being lined up. There's something very special for August already booked and this will be announced during April!

**Dick Gaughan** will be returning to Inverclyde after a seven year break. Last time he played we were treated to the very best traditional Scottish Folk and hearing him live at Edinburgh Folk Club at the start of January we can promise you a night to remember. More details next month.

Had a dig around for **Laura Boosingers** CD 'Let Me Linger'. After playing continually for three days straight it was confiscated by the management and will be returned at a later date! Laura will play with Josh Goforth on Friday 4th April at **The Royal West Amateur Boat Club**. Tickets **£10.00 for Members & Guests**.

News has arrived from one of our favourite Irish bands, **The Sick and Indigent Song Club** from Dublin. **Angie McLaughlin** formerly of Greenock and the band have had a major feature in **The Times**! Maybe they'll be coming later in the year with their Old Timey, Folk, Trad, Blues and Vintage Pop.  
[myspace.com/sickandindigentsongclub](http://myspace.com/sickandindigentsongclub)

**West Coast Bluegrass** have organised a Bluegrass session every second Wednesday at **The Arts Guild** starting on 6th February.

**Inverclyde Now** **The Black Cat Bar**

## Inverclyde Folk Club Open Stage

Date: March

Venue: The Loreto Club



We've been asked quite a few times if we would organise a Folk Music Open Stage event and when, where and how it would work. Due to the many and varied musical commitments with **Harborlite Music** we had a think about it and came up with the idea of approaching **Inverclyde Folk Club** for their wit and wisdom. With the many years experience and knowledge of these type of events they were only too happy to step forward to set it up.

**Please pass the Newsletter on to anyone you know that may be interested in Live Music in Inverclyde or ask them to sign up to the Mailing List.**

The first **Inverclyde Folk Club Open Stage** will be at The Loreto Club, Houston Street, Greenock during March and will be open to **Members & Guests**.

Their regular session is upstairs at **The Loreto** on a Tuesday night from around 9pm until closing with an informal feel to proceedings. In setting up the **Open Stage** it was felt that this would be an ideal opportunity to promote Folk Music in Inverclyde to a wider audience while not taking things too seriously.

A full PA system will be set up with microphones and inputs available for budding folk stars to show their stuff. It's then up to the individuals attending to provide the entertainment. Whether you are a novice learning the art of Traditional Folk Music, a well established Musician or a Folk singer songwriter you will be made more than welcome. Even if you can't play a note get along to what promises to be a regular night of **Traditional Music**. If your good enough you may get a support slot at one of the **Harborlite Music** gigs!!!

This is the opportunity to have a great night out and the chance to perform alongside the top **Traditional Folk Musicians** in Inverclyde. Turn up, put your name down, tune up and play when it's your turn.

### Alison & Fiona McNeill

Gourock soprano and fiddle player, **Alison McNeill**, is jetting off to Mexico to perform a programme of Spanish and Latin American song in Mexico City. Alison will sing in two concerts, on the 1st and 4th April, accompanied by **Javier Hernandez Tagle** (guitar) and **Clare Howard** (piano). Alison said, "*I feel honoured to sing this repertoire in its homeland and, indeed, thought worthy enough to sing Spanish to Spanish speaking people*"

Classically trained in voice and violin, Alison met, Mexican born, Javier in Granada Spain last year while studying the Interpretation of Spanish Song with legendary mezzo soprano **Teresa Berganza**. While in Spain Alison and Javier appeared on Spanish Television and performed in the **Manuela de Falla** concert hall and in the wonderful Alhambra Auditorium.

Javier will travel to Scotland in July and on the 31st July Alison, Clare and Javier will perform another Spanish concert in the **Columba Gaelic Centre** near Bowmore on the island of Islay.

**Fiona McNeill** and **Scott McLean** performed at the Nazrulâ Burns Centre in the Gilmorehill Centre, Glasgow University on Friday 25th January. This special multi-cultural concert took place to celebrate **Robert Burns** and Bangladesh's national bard **Kazi Nazrul**.

Fiona opened her set of songs by explaining the similarities between the Bangladeshi National poet and Robert Burns, the audience were then treated to a selection of Kazi Nazrul lyrics put to music by Fiona on guitar. Fiona was accompanied by Scott on the Djembe Bongo for the delightful song 'Laughter' and the very catchy 'Mountain Song' which had every foot tapping in the building. Fiona's other beautifully delivered song 'Butterfly' had everyone picturing the scene through the magical lyrics of this wonderful poem.

The evening ended with a meal of haggis and curry which was enjoyed by all!

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**REVIEW** "All Music is Folk Music. I ain't never heard no horse sing a song." - Louis Armstrong

## St Andrew's Night Celebration with Ian Davison and Cruachan @ The Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club - 30th November 2007.

This review is a little bit late however here's what you missed if you were one of the many unlucky people we had to turn away from the door!

It's a historical fact that St. Andrew's Day is second only to St. Patrick's Day in terms of saints' days renowned for alcohol consumption and good music. I don't know why St. David doesn't get a similar remembrance, but right now that's not an issue. St. Andrew's day 2007 saw Ian Davison and Cruachan come to Greenock and ordered us to embrace our cultural heritage, through some damn fine music.

Cruachan got the liquor flowing with a good humoured set of traditional Scottish songs. Proving that the Scots are among the most influential people in the world, a growling version of Matt McGinn's "Get Up, Get Out" was to be followed by the Burns song, "Dainty Davie". Although reluctant to perform anything but traditional Scottish folk songs, Cruachan brought plenty of colour to the songs, with mandolin, mandola, harmonica and bodhran all featuring during the set. "Fisher's Horn-pipe" was sounded as much like the Dubliners as is clinically possible for a Scottish band to do. The audience reaction was indication enough that this band put on a fine show. Sure, they don't play their own material, but when you can make the songs of others sound as good as they do, who's to moan?

Received by as many people as likely he has years to his name, Ian Davison approached the stage. Twenty seconds into "Muttonheid Wearies" and the entire crowd are damn near drowning out Davison with their laughing. To be fair, it was his fault. Ian Davison has a knack for writing songs that, at times, are too clever for their own good. "Hogmanay Party" followed, and again, more through simplicity than anything else, Davison had the crowd in stitches in the form of a scarcely-chorded folk gem. "The Dentist" was a tongue-in-cheek song that everybody could relate to. Even those who never knew his name before "Swally for the Bears" (thankfully, not an ode to Glasgow Rangers) were singing along like age-old groupies, such was the appeal of Davison's musical and lyrical dexterity.

Matters only got worse when Davison spoke of a "London Orgy", but the lyrics were of such subtlety that you could be singing the song to your own grandchild without them being any the wiser. In the most simple of ways, Davison's music struck a bond with his audience. A key factor in this rapport was the importance of the Scots brogue that Davison has given added life to. "Room for us all in the Dance" wound up an expertly-executed set that had the crowd clutching for their inhalers.

Davison's apology for "imposing two songs on us" was largely laughed at. Returning with "My Joy of You", we were almost fooled into thinking Davison had written a fully serious song. In all its minimalist allure, it was nonetheless delivered in a humorous and eloquent manner. Davison bade farewell with "Politeness", a track that owed as much to Rio as to Glasgow. The terrific applause was no less than what was deserved. Davison is a seasoned performer and low-key Scottish folk bard.

The evening was brought to a close with a fiercely patriotic set from Cruachan. Roping in songs of the Jacobites, Burns, Runrig, and a host of others, Cruachan made sure that everybody left with their sense of national identity intact.

Review courtesy of "Big" Peter McGee (The Entertainment Industry's Hardest Working Reviewer) [www.bluesbunny.com](http://www.bluesbunny.com)

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