

Folk Club Feast in store

Alistair McDonald and Sangsters in double header

The Balerno Folk Club is a founder partner in the Balerno Music Festival and right from the off has always put on a tremendous show as its main concert each year at the Festival. This year is no exception as the Club and the Festival welcome Alistair McDonald and the Sangsters in a double header.

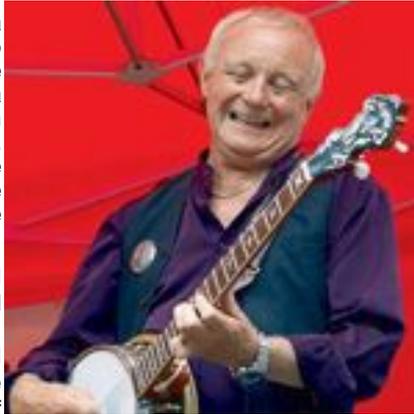
Alistair McDonald is well established as Scotland's leading musical minstrel. In addition to Television, Radio & stage appearances world wide, he is a prolific recording artist & can be heard on a variety of labels, situated in his native Scotland. Alistair's programme is selected from a vast repertoire of traditional, contemporary & original material. Born in Glasgow in 1941, Alistair emigrated to Australia with his family at the age of eight and growing up there, during a period in the outback, developed an interest in "home made" entertainment.

Four years later he returned to Scotland just in time to be excited by the emerging pop scene

& in particular, skiffle" music, a fusion of American folk song with overlaid jazz influences, spearheaded by Lonnie Donegan.

With a variety of local groups, he played in hospitals, old folks' homes, Churches, ceilidhs & even back court concerts for political campaigns & for many of his young years was a leading banjo player in the jazz scene of the period. A TV career followed from 1973 and Alistair has never been out of the limelight since then.

"Give them what they want..." is a maxim that he finds quite



unacceptable. He strives instead to offer that which he considers to be wholesome, helpful, uplifting, cautionary, loving & entertaining - "Filling time for an audience & not just passing it!", says Alistair.



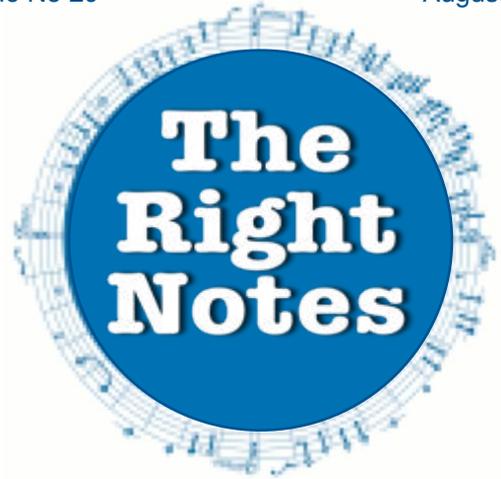
Sangsters are Anne Murray MBE, John Blackwood & Fiona Forbes, all from the Kingdom of Fife. They have two CDs on the Greentrax label, both produced by Ian McCalman: Sangsters Begin, Greentrax CDTRAX 065 and Sharp and Sweet, Greentrax CDTRAX 207.

Since 1991 they have been entertaining audiences with their songs and humour at festivals (including Celtic Connections, Celtic Colours in Cape Breton, Edinburgh Folk Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Orkney, Stonehaven, Killin, Irvine, Keith, Kirriemuir, Girvan and Auchtermuchty) and at gigs from Stornoway to Melrose, from Girvan to Aberdeen, as well as visits to Germany, Ireland, England and Canada.

Their repertoire is almost exclusively Scots, and includes traditional song, Burns, and contemporary songs from the likes of Andy M Stewart and Jim Reid.

"They are Scotland's number one harmony group. They are indeed the sultans of Scottish song. Stunning close harmonies, well chosen material and some awfy funny asides - that's Sangsters." - Ian McCalman

The Folk Club Concert is on Friday 9 October from 8.00pm



The Newsletter of the Balerno Music Festival Society
www.balernomusicfestival.org.uk

THE TOURIE BAND

This year we will welcome back the Tourie Band for a fourth year. The Band are firm favourites in Balerno, and will again this year be compered by the incomparable Jim McCall who will also introduce Colette Ruddy.

Colette has also been a regular with the Band on their tours to Balerno. She trained at the then Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, and has sung in all the major concert halls in Britain and Ireland, as well as having broadcast on both television and radio

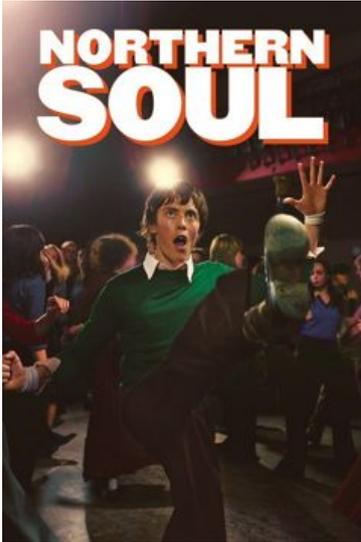
The Tourie Band was formed about 20 years ago to play at the Port William Gala, and draws its members from across the length and breadth of Scotland, from Galloway to Aberdeen; it is quite a thought that they are all prepared to come to Balerno for a concert! That enthusiasm, however, and the sheer ability of the group, along with their clear love of traditional Scottish Fiddle Music, produces a truly individual and unique sound across a programme featuring a mixture of new tunes and old favourites. On their first visit the band presented a special gift in the form of 'The Tourie Band's visit to Balerno', and who knows, perhaps their fourth visit will produce another new classic! Jim McCall tried to get people dancing in the aisle a couple of years ago, and we suspect he may try for that again this year.

The Tourie Band concert is also the inaugural Richard Dennis Concert, and is on Friday 2 October at 7.30pm.



The Tourie Band at their 2012 Festival concert

Northern Soul on screen



If you liked Good Vibrations - BVS offering at the 2014 Festival - then you'll love Northern Soul. As Guardian critic Mark Kermode wrote, 'There's something of the authentic period charm of Good Vibrations about photographer turned director Elaine Constantine's evocation of 70s Lancashire, where retro American records and Dexedrine-driven dancing offer a much-needed escape from the humdrum realities of teenage life. Elliot James Langridge and Josh Whitehouse are up-and-coming DJs John and Matt who dream of travelling Stateside in search of rare vintage vinyl; Antonia Thomas is the smart soulgirl who fires young John's imagination and sends him twirling through time and space.

The highs and lows of the narrative may be predictably hyperbolic (rushes, busts, tragedy, etc), but Constantine catches the energy of the dancehall with aplomb, transporting her audiences from the empty floors of our neighbourhood youth clubs to the throng of the Wigan Casino with urgent ease. Steve Coogan and Ricky Tomlinson add sly cameo support. Definitely worth a spin.

Northern Soul is on 10 October at 7.30pm at Ogston Hall - entry by donation

Film rated 15

Dinner Discussion with Paul Stubbings

The Festival has developed a tradition of starting with a Dinner Discussion event held in St Joseph's Hall with distinguished guest speakers from the world of music. The 2015 Festival maintains the tradition with our speaker being Paul Stubbings, Director of Music at St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh.

Paul is a former organist and master of music at St Martin-in-the-Fields in central London, and has been in post since 2011, having succeeded Francis Cummings, the Festival's 2013 distinguished speaker.

Our speaker attended Manchester University where, he remembers, James MacMillan, as a young lecturer, introduced him to music by Scottish composers as diverse as Robert Carver and William Sweeney. "James's passion for this music really rubbed off on me, and I'm looking forward to learning more about Scottish music."

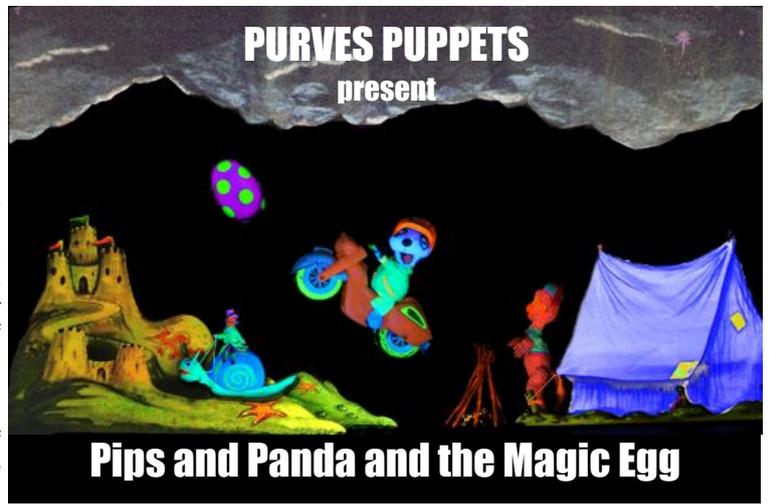
Dinner discussion is on 23 September at 7.30pm - advance booking essential

In the next issue...

In the September issue of Right Notes, we'll preview both the Gala Concert and the visit by Borders Big Band as well as giving the latest on the Jazz Party and generally set the scene for the 8th Balerno Music Festival Festival.

Getting tickets

Tickets for all Music festival events can be obtained from the Balerno Parish Church Office, as well as by post. You can find out the details of the programme by picking up the familiar yellow booklet at the Mill, Post Office, Balerno Library amongst other places.



Pips and Panda and the Magic Egg

Purves Puppets made their first visit to Balerno Music Festival in 2013 playing to a packed house in the Ogston Hall, and Jill Purves has told us that the team are really looking forward to taking the show on the road again when they come to Balerno for a return visit in October.

Purves Puppets established the Biggar Puppet Theatre company more than 40 years ago and they have since then toured the world, visiting France, Italy, Spain, Poland, Germany, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Jordan, Syria and Singapore, presenting shows which really are quite unlike any other puppet show you may have seen.

Biggar Puppet Theatre is the first and only fully working puppet theatre of its kind in Scotland. As well as staging a thrilling variety of puppet shows for children and families throughout the year, the theatre runs puppet workshops where you can learn to make a puppet and perform your own show.

Purves Puppets performances are given by large scale puppets (designed specifically for full-size theatres) and manipulated in Bunraku style by professional puppeteers. The term Bunraku referred only to the particular theatre established in 1805 in Osaka in Japan. Most productions are performed in 'Black Light', where both the puppets and scenery glow like magic, while the operators seem to disappear among a kaleidoscope of fluorescent colours. Thanks to the installation of blackout blinds earlier this year, St Joseph's Hall can now provide the perfect environment for Purves Puppets performances, and the organisers are anticipating another sell-out show. 'We've been to see the Hall', says Vickie Purves, 'and we really think that with the new blackout arrangements we'll be able to put on a great show. So we're really excited about appearing in the Balerno Music Festival for a second time.'

In this Pips and Panda show, Pips and Panda are camping on the beach and Panda has built a big sand-castle. They are about to have their tea when something odd happens and they notice something strange up in the sky! Later they discover a magic egg which begins to cause some trouble and lots of fun! What's inside? Where does it come from? You'll have to wait and see!! Lots of music and songs to keep little ones busy! For ages 1-7 years

Purves Puppets are at St Joseph's Hall on 4 October

Festival Busk!

Did you get to Festival Busk last year? If you missed it then you missed a real treat, and we're hoping that the 2015 version will be even bigger than 2014's.

So if you fancy a little street entertainment whether as a performer or as part of a free performance audience put Saturday 10 October in your diary right away! If you'd like to perform at the busking then you can simply turn up on the day, although it makes it easier for the organisers if you contact us in advance

Festival Busk - 10 October at 10.00am - Main Street - free!

Our sponsors

The Festival costs a fair bit to put on, and we are forever grateful to our sponsors for their help and support. We thank them all on your behalf also for their continuing support.

