Royal Conservatoire of Scotland | 30 Years of Traditional Music

TRADITION IN MOTION:
Celebrating 30 Years of Traditional Music at Scotland's National Conservatoire

Tuesday 31 March - Thursday 2 April 2026
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, 100 Renfrew Street, Glasgow, G2 3DB

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 31 MARCH: TRAD IN RCS

12.00 - 12.45 **Delegate Registration and Welcome Lunch**
Jack Bruce Space

12.45 **Welcome**
Ledger Recital Room

Prof Jeffrey Sharkey
Principal, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Keynote: Reflecting on the Journey, Part 1
Dr Jo Miller
Co-founder of the BA (Scottish Music), Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Chaired by Prof Joshua Dickson
Head of Traditional Music, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

13.45 **Tea and Coffee to Go**
Jack Bruce Space

14.05 **Presentations and Papers Session: RCS Masters/Doctoral Students and Alumni**

	R6	R7	M2
14.05	**Dr Andrew Bova:** *Post-Pandemic Pipe Bands: Music, Repertoire, and Ecology*	**Neil Wood:** *An Approach to Sounding Scottish on the Harp*	**Emma Tomlinson:** *The Viola in Scottish Traditional Music*
Transition			
	R6	**R7**	
14.40	**Connor Civatte:** *Scottish Traditional Music, Video Game Music, and Breaking Cultural Codes*	**Bede Patterson:** *Toward Critical Artistry in Bagpipe Composition, Arrangement & Performance: A Comparative Investigation of Piobaireachd and Other Music*	

Transition			
	R6	**R7**	**M2**
15.15	**Prof Fred Freeman:** *Burns, Hamish Henderson, and Music*	**Prof Margaret Bennett:** *Addressing the Challenges of UNESCO in 21st Century Curriculum Development*	**John Mulhearn:** *Let Piping Flourish*

15.45 - 16.10 **Tea/Coffee and Networking**
Jack Bruce Space

16.10 **Keynote Reprise: Reflecting on the Journey, Part 2**
Ledger Recital Room

Alistair Anderson, Founder of the BA Folk & Traditional Music, Newcastle University
Dr Jo Miller, Co-founder of the BA (Scottish Music), Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
Dr Mark Sheridan, Founder of the BA Applied Music at the University of Strathclyde (1991) and the University of the Highlands and Islands (2011)

Chaired by Prof Simon McKerrell
Professor of Media and Music, Glasgow Caledonian University

Summing up
Prof Joshua Dickson

17.00 - 18.00 **Free Time for Delegates**

18.00 **Delegate Dinner**
Maldron Hotel, 50 Renfrew St, Glasgow, G2 3BW

The Maldron is a one-minute walk from RCS. Included in the delegate rate is a 3-course dinner with tea/coffee and a half bottle of wine per person.

A copy of the evening's menu can be found here.

20.00 - 23.00 **Delegate Ceilidh**
National Piping Centre Auditorium, 30-34 McPhater Street, Glasgow, G4 0HW

The venue is a two-minute walk from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. The National Piping Centre is a national and international centre of excellence for the instrument and its music. They offer world class bagpipe education, as well as a large event space ideal for celebrations and sharing music, and the Museum of Piping which features treasures of the piping world.

A cash bar will be available for the evening until 23.00

WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL: TRAD IN EUROPE

09.30 - 10.00 **Delegate Registration and Welcome Tea/Coffee**
Jack Bruce Space

10.00 - 11.00 **Leaders' Panel: Exploring the relationship between music education, intangible cultural heritage, and the trad/folk scene in Nordic and Celtic Europe**
Ledger Recital Room

Steve Byrne, Chief Executive, TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland)
Dr Vilma Timonen, Lecturer in Folk Music, Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki
Anna Wikenius, Folk Department, Royal College of Music Stockholm

Chaired by Dr Lori Watson
Lecturer in Scottish Ethnology, University of Edinburgh

11.00 - 11.30 **Tea/Coffee and Networking**
Jack Bruce Space

11.30 **Traditional, Folk, and Global Music Working Group: 2025-26 Survey Results Presentation and Discussion**
Ledger Recital Room

Presented by **AEC Traditional, Folk, and Global Music Working Group members**

Prof Joshua Dickson, Head of Traditional Music, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

12.00 - 13.00 **Networking Lunch**
Jack Bruce Space

13.00 **Presentations and Papers Session 1**

	R6	R7	M2
13.00	**Hanna Ryynänen:** *Embodied Practices as a Tool to Deepen the Connection to Tradition and Personal Expression*	**Colleen Savage and Leandro Pessina:** *Niche Participatory Tourism on the Border: Experiencing Oriel's Intangible Cultural Heritage*	**Emma Reid:** *Teaching Folk Fddle at Conservatoire Level- In Search of a Methodology*
Transition			
13.35	**Pauliina Syrjälä:** *Into new Pastures and own Paths: Observations on the Archival Work of Finnish Folk Music Doctoral Researchers*	**Dr Daithí Kearney and Dr Adèle Commins:** *'Yer one down the road': The Persistence of a Local Focus in Music Research*	**Prof Susanne Rosenberg:** *Kulning now!: Higher Education in Folk Music as an Ecosystem for Today's Music Development*

14.05 - 14.20 **Tea and Coffee to Go**
Jack Bruce Space

14.20 **Presentations and Papers Session 2**

	R6	R7	M2
14.20	**Emilia Lajunen:** *An Artistic Case Study on the Significance of Gender in Archival Recordings*	**Darren Culliney:** *More than just a 'Comhaltas Sound': The Ulster Accordion in Popular Culture*	**Prof Dr Sven Ahlbäck:** *Why do they Tap their Feet? About Foot Tapping as a Tool for Communicating Meter in Polska*
Transition			
14.55	**Dr Vilma Timonen:** *Professionalism in Traditional Music as a Form of Dialogical Boundary Work*	**Dr Jack Talty:** *On the Record: Exploring the Irish Traditional Music Album as a Distillation of Creative Process in a University Music Department*	**Olof Misgeld and Ami Dregelid:** *In Motion – Mediations of Interplay*

15.25 - 15.40 **Tea and Coffee to Go**
Jack Bruce Space

15.40 **Presentations and Papers Session 3**

	R6	R7
15.40	**Tim Macdonald:** *Historically-Informed Tradition? Lessons Learned from the Early Music Movement*	**Sarah-Jane Summers:** *A Found Archive of Scottish Hardanger Fiddle Music*
Transition		

	R6	R7	M2
16.15	**Prof Fred Freeman:** *New Reflections on Scottish and European Music and Culture*	**Petri Prauda:** *Teaching Playing for Dancing at the Sibelius Academy*	**Laura Ellestad** *Exploring Teaching and Learning Cultures in Higher Folk/Traditional Music Education in Europe: Experiences from the TUNE Project*

16.45 - 20.00 **Free Time for Delegates**

There are a wide variety of restaurants close to RCS and the Events Team will be able to provide delegates with a list of suggestions.

20.00 **Delegate Concert**
National Piping Centre Auditorium, 30-34 McPhater Street, Glasgow, G4 0HW

Included in the delegate rate is a welcome drink, served with sweet canapes and Scottish cheese boards. A cash bar will be available for the evening until 22.30.

THURSDAY 2 APRIL: TRAD IN MOTION

09.30 - 10.00 **Tea/Coffee and Networking**
Jack Bruce Space

10.00 **Leaders' Panel: Future Challenges to Traditional, Folk, and World Music programmes in Higher Music Education**
Ledger Recital Room

Dr Decker Forrest, BA Gaelic and Traditional Music, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
Caterina Plana Cerdà, Traditional Music, Fundació Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya
Rachael Sutcliffe, Academic Manager, BA Music (Folk, Roots, and Blues), Leeds Conservatoire

Chaired by Prof Dr David-Emil Wickström
Head of Pop Music Design & Global Music, Popakademie Baden-Württemberg

11.00 - 11.30 **Tea/Coffee and Networking**
Jack Bruce Space

11.30 **LOERIC x Limerick x Glasgow**
Ledger Room

LOERIC is a probabilistic rule-based music performance system developed through practice-led research that models an expressive and interactive performance of Irish traditional dance music. Initially developed by Marco Amerotti, Steve Benford, Bob Strum and their teams at the University of Nottingham and the KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, the project has been realised amongst traditional musicians at the Irish World Academy, University of Limerick over the past year.

In this closing performance of the conference, LOERIC will perform with a group of undergraduate musicians from the BA Irish Music in UL, pointing towards some ways AI can be utilised by traditional musicians to add new dimensions to their performance practice.

Closing Address
Prof Joshua Dickson
Head of Traditional Music, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

12.15 **Conference Close**

Please contact the RCS Events Team on events@rcs.ac.uk if you have any questions.