

Media Release for immediate use: 19 March 2025



Meet Vikings & Pirates at an Edinburgh festival next month!

Vikings & pirates and a rich mix of cultures feature in the **Northern Streams Festival of Nordic & Scottish Music, Song & Dance 2025** in Edinburgh.

Taking place 18-20 April, this year's festival features artists with backgrounds and repertoire from Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Scotland:

We have invited the following artists to the festival now in its 20th (+2) year:

- **Christine Kammerer (Song, Story, Lyre, keyboard) - Denmark** Celebrated for her fusion of Nordic & Celtic folk music, blending symphonic elements with ancient songs and cross-cultural storytelling Christine also specialises in early music/Viking Age music.
- **Joss Cameron, Amy Dudley & Steve Tyler (Song, Story, Keyboard, Guitar) - Scotland** Step aboard and join traditional singer, Joss Cameron, for an evening of rousing songs and captivating tales of Scotland's rich maritime history. They will take you on journey though the lives of sailors, fisherfolk and wanderers who braved the waves, with haunting melodies and audience participation - a celebration of our maritime heritage.
- **Gro-Marthe Dickson (Song & keyboard) - Norway** Gro-Marthe Dickson is a Norwegian singer that has been put in the big genre box called jazz; this is where she gets her musical freedom from as well. But her experience and background are also from folk, soul, and even pop music. During her upbringing there was gospel, jazz and Scottish folk tunes at home, and there was always an instrument available - including the voice - around the house. Her latest project is exploring connecting with the heritage of her Scottish granny!

- **Kristina Leesik, Anna Whiteford & Rose Logan (Fiddle, Accordion, Hardingfele) - Sweden & Scotland** This trio are active musicians in Scotland, Norway, Finland and Sweden and create a magical bond between these countries and traditions with polkas, reinländer, jigs and reels.

Event Organiser, Fiona Campbell, said: “*I’m really excited about this year’s Northern Streams line-up. We have amazing talent in Scotland who are exploring the music and song of Scottish and Nordic cultures and coming up with new sounds, whilst respecting the past. This was one of the founding ideas behind the festival. And we have a variety of ways people can take part with concerts, workshops and a session.*”

All events take place at **Scottish Storytelling Centre, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 1SR.**

For details of the Northern Streams programme, guest artists or for direct booking links, visit www.northernstreams.org. Ticket prices range from £8 for a workshop - £14 for the concert tickets, with concessions and all-in-one Festival Ticket which will save you up to £28 - definitely worth checking if you plan to attend more than one event.

Other ways to get details are by email: eltmsa@yahoo.co.uk or tel: 0795 191 8366, or Facebook - TMSAEdinburgh&Lothians

Tickets are being sold by our venue, the Scottish Storytelling Centre (SSC). They are available online www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com; phone 0131 556 9579 or at the Box Office. There is a booking fee of £1.50 per transaction (not per ticket) for online and phone bookings. In person sales at the Box Office do not attract a booking fee.

The Northern Streams festival is organised on a voluntary basis by the Edinburgh & Lothians Branch of the Traditional Music & Song Association of Scotland (TMSA) and acknowledges support from Tasgadh Traditional Arts Small Grants Scheme.

ENDS

Notes to Editors & performer details

- Publicity photos of all the performers are available electronically https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kmMmYMHALJK_DMKkw-yDP7K24vclxYXE?usp=drive_link or at the Media page on www.northernstreams.org - please tel: 0795 191 8366 (Fiona) or email: eltmsa@yahoo.co.uk for any queries e.g. if you require any recordings.
- The Festival Programme and Biographies of the guest artists are included below if you are looking for more information for articles etc...!
- Described as “...*something out of the ordinary*” by The Herald, throughout the years Northern Streams has showcased performers often new to Scottish audiences, offering opportunities to learn about different cultures around the North Sea through a mix of concerts and workshops.
- Northern Streams is organised on a voluntary basis by the Traditional Music and Song Association (TMSA) Edinburgh & Lothians Branch. Details about the Branch at: www.eltmsa.org.uk and TMSA - www.tmsa.scot
- The Traditional Music & Song Association of Scotland (TMSA) was formed in 1966 as an organisation to promote, present and preserve the traditional music and song of Scotland. Its first events were annual festivals based in Blairgowrie, bringing

together many of the finest exponents of the traditions as well as new faces. Current projects include the annual TMSA Event Calendar, an interactive Music Map of Scotland and TMSA Young Trad Tour of the BBC Radio Scotland Young Musician of the Year finalists. The TMSA is registered as a Scottish Charity SCO03819 & a company limited by guarantee No: 199976. Registered Office: The Signal Box, Edinburgh EH14 1JL. Website: www.tmsa.scot

THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME IS:

Friday 18 April

Songs, Shanties, Sagas & Stories about Vikings, Pirates and the Sea Evening Concert, 7.00-9.30pm, The Scottish Storytelling Centre, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 1SR

Featuring:

- Christine Kammerer (Song, Lyre, Piano) - Denmark
- Joss Cameron, Amy Dudley & Steve Tyler (Song, Piano, Guitar) - Scotland

Saturday 19 April

Workshops:

10.30am - 11.45am

Joss Cameron ***Pirates, stories and songs of the high seas - Family Workshop***

Join Joss for a sea-faring workshop with hands on experience that brings maritime history & songs to life. With her expertise in maritime history, sea shanties and storytelling, the immersive experience welcomes all sailors and explorers to join in!

10.30am - 11.45am

Rose Logan ***From Shieling To Støl***

From the Isle of Raasay to the mountains of Norway, explore & learn the music which accompanied traditional farming life at summer grazing pastures.

12.00pm - 1.15pm

Kristina Leesik ***Swedish Tunes***

Kristina is a "Riksspelman" (national folk musician) of tunes from Södermanland in Sweden. In this workshop you'll be learning tunes from Kristina's repertoire, with focus on Swedish fiddle techniques and groove.

2.15 - 3.30pm

Christine Kammerer ***Viking & Danish Songs & the lyre***

Christine specialises in early music/Viking Age music. This workshop will take you back to the Viking Age with songs and tunes on the Lyre as well as Danish folk songs of today. No prior knowledge of the Danish language is required!

3.30 - 4.45pm

Joss Cameron ***Trad Songs & Sea Shanties***

Joss is a traditional Scots singer from Leith, known for her deep connection to her traveller cultural roots. She has performed internationally sharing her rich heritage of traditional music with audiences around the world. Her repertoire often includes folk songs, ballads and more recently - Sea Shanties - a breadth of knowledge she will share in this workshop.

Evening Concert & Ceilidh

7.00-10.30pm, The Scottish Storytelling Centre, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 1SR

The Concert features:

- Gro-Marthe Dickson (Song & Piano) - Norway

- Kristina Leesik, Anna Whiteford & Rose Logan (Fiddle, Hardingfele, Accordion) - Sweden & Scotland

Finishing with a **Ceilidh** in the Storytelling Court with the Trio above playing for dances being taught from Scotland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark (possibly Viking 'steps') plus we expect a few songs from the guest singers at the Festival.

Sunday 20 April

Workshop

12.30 - 1.45pm - Gro-Marthe Dickson ***Songs and singing of Norway***

Join this inspiring workshop and get a glimpse of the rich traditions of Norwegian folk music. Learn how to bring ancient melodies to life through voice and storytelling. We'll also explore the beauty of traditional vocal style called *kveding*, and you might find a few similarities to Scottish folk music as well. No prior experience is needed – just curiosity and a passion for music. Perfect for anyone eager to explore the soul of Norwegian folk traditions.

Open Music & Song Session 2.00 - 5.00pm - Storytelling Court FREE entry

Round off the festival by playing, singing, maybe dancing or simply enjoying great music made together. Free entry *!

(*NB: If venue capacity is reached we may have to restrict entry. Donations are welcome to help cover the room hire costs)

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES



CHRISTINE KAMMERER is a Danish-born, award-nominated artist celebrated for her fusion of Nordic & Celtic folk music, blending symphonic elements with ancient songs and cross-cultural storytelling. Specializing in early music/Viking Age music, Kammerer has for the past 7 years collaborated with choirs, national museums, festivals and universities across Europe; including a performance for Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. Using her background in Musicology and Comparative Cultural Studies, and skills as a Music Producer, her forte is developing concepts focusing on curating cultural heritage and strengthening intercultural connections through music and performance. Her work includes 2 albums, EP's, and music videos, and she is currently embarking on another Nordic/Scottish project.

Read more, listen to her music and watch performances on www.ckammerer-music.com

Link to her music: <https://christinekammerer.bandcamp.com/>



JOSS CAMERON is a traditional Scots singer from Leith, with a first-class (Hons) Degree in Music Performance and is an award-winning songwriter. Known for her deep connection to her traveller cultural roots and authentic musical expression. Beginning her career in 1988, Joss has performed internationally sharing her rich heritage of traditional music with audiences around the world. Her repertoire often includes folk songs, ballads - always delivered with a passion that honours the past while resonating with contemporary audiences. Whether performing at festivals, teaching or cultural events, Joss's music is a testimony to the enduring power of tradition in a rapidly changing world. Joss also teaches sea shanties and runs 'The Tally Toor Shanty Crew' choir, as well as penning her first book 'The Caul Bearers', honouring Scotland's maritime heritage and superstitions. Joss produces and performs in stage shows such as 'Where the Feather Falls (2022), 'Tales from the Witches' Sabbath' 2023, The Whales' Tale, Herring & Sail (2024), The Bonnie Bunch O' Roses. 2025. Joss excels at 'catching the past' before it's gone.

AMY DUDLEY, a versatile composer and performer from Galloway, now residing in Edinburgh, specialising in piano, harp, and harmonium. With a First-Class BA (Hons) in Music Composition and Performance from the University of West London, she excels in neoclassical and Scottish folk music, as well as media production. Her acclaimed projects include Creative Scotland-funded works such as "Tales of the Witches Sabbath" and the upcoming "The Whale's Tale, Herring, and Sail," alongside original compositions for animation and media. Amy also offers bespoke performances and compositions for weddings and is dedicated to mentoring students and leading workshops, passing on her creative legacy. Her expertise spans composition, arrangement, recording, and performance, enriching both traditional and contemporary music. Follow her journey on Instagram: @amy_dudley_music.

STEVE TYLER grew up in a house full of guitars, mandolins, bouzoukis, and bandurrias and has taught himself to play guitar since the age of eight. His father was a performer of Spanish and South American music which led Steve initially to develop a fondness for nylon string guitar. However, In the 90s an American guitarist introduced him to the DADGAD tuning on the steel string guitar which was an epiphany and led to a major change of direction playing acoustic fingerstyle guitar in different tunings. Notwithstanding, Steve studied and performed flamenco for years as part of a collective in Glasgow and then fulfilled a long- held ambition by studying Indian music for 3 years culminating in performing on sitar at the Edinburgh Mela festival in 2009. Latterly and after 2 years post grad jazz studies at St. Andrews University, Steve now plays jazz professionally (particularly the gypsy jazz of Django Reinhardt) in the pubs, clubs and restaurants of Edinburgh and Glasgow. He also runs a club in Glasgow devoted to gypsy jazz as well as promoting gypsy jazz concerts by well-known performers from Europe. Lastly, add 10 years gigging in a ceilidh band and you've got a guitarist who's been round the houses.



GRO-MARTHE DICKSON is a Norwegian singer that has been put in the big genre box called jazz; this is where she gets her musical freedom from as well. But her experience and background are also from folk, soul, and even pop music. During her upbringing there was gospel, jazz and Scottish folk tunes at home, and there was always an instrument available - including the voice - around the house.

"Christina - letters to Grannie" - Inspired by her late grandmother, Gro-Marthe Dickson's new musical endeavour is a heartfelt journey to reconnect with her Scottish roots and to honour her grandmother's memory. At the heart of this project is the creation of new and old songs

that tell the poignant story of a young woman who, following the Second World War, left Scotland for the sake of love and a better life. Sadly, she passed away a decade after, leaving behind her husband - a seafarer and Norwegian wartime sailor - and their four children. Dickson also seeks to build a musical bridge between Norway and Scotland, somewhat merging cultural traditions through original compositions alongside fresh reinterpretations of Scottish folk songs. This fusion of new and familiar elements aims to evoke the spirit of the past whilst engaging contemporary audiences. It is not only a tribute to a grandmother and honouring the family, but also a celebration of the enduring ties between Norway and Scotland. It invites listeners to experience a rich tapestry of history, love and legacy in a musical dialogue that resonates across generations and borders.



ANNA WHITEFORD is a Scottish accordion player. She spent a year in Finland immersing herself in the music, song and dance traditions of Finland whilst studying at Sibelius Academy. With a deep interest in both Nordic and Celtic folk music, Anna has sought connection between the two traditions, weaving together arrangements of Finnish folk tunes with the Celtic influences of her background resulting in a rich intertwined musical tapestry. She has performed at various festivals including Celtic Connections, Blas Festival, Kaustinen Folk Music Festival and Haapavesi Folk.'

KRISTINA LEESIK is a Swedish riksspelman, singer, teacher and composer from Stockholm, based in Glasgow. Kristina studied at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm during 2015-2020 where she completed her Bachelor and pedagogical studies in fiddle and traditional Swedish Music. Her love for Irish and Scottish music, which began after a trip to Ireland in 2013, has led her to studying and completing a master in Scottish traditional music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow in 2023. Kristina performs solo and in bands such as: Woodlands, Cuan a Tuath, Tern and Slängpolskekompaniet. She has performed at festivals in Sweden and internationally: Celtic Connections, Urkult, Saltofolk, Umefolk, Lugo Festival and the Jerash Festival.

ROSE LOGAN A Perthshire fiddler, Rose is a founding member of Scottish-Scandinavian folk band Tern and has spent the past five years immersed in the traditional music of Scotland and Norway. Her creative practice is informed by the rich tapestry of history, folk and stories surrounding traditional tunes. Time spent in nature and summer work as a goat herd in the Norwegian mountains are a source of inspiration for Rose's writing and arrangements. Alongside performing, Rose is a passionate educator. Through her work with music charities such as Youth Music Initiative, The Benedetti Foundation, Mull Music Makers and Dunedin Consort, Rose is driven to widen access and opportunity for young people to experience music making.