

Andy Thorburn CV 2014 to 2018

From having been one of the busiest Scottish musicians I am now working part-time, with all the various bands and performers of many years, as well as teaching, groups and individuals.

In September 2014 the large-scale production of Macbeth took place at Brodie Castle Moray. In December the Traditional Music Awards night was in Inverness and I was inducted to the Hall of Fame.

In 2015 I played keyboards on tour dates with Patsy Reid and Signy Jakobsdottir.

The same year and following years, played keyboards with the Loveboat Big Band, at the Spiegel tent during the Edinburgh Festival, and in the autumn, at the Findhorn Bay Arts Festival.

In 2017 the Loveboat Band switched to the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival, as a more amenable promoter.

Over the same time, the Bevy Sisters and the Bad Boys has performed around Edinburgh, notably at Club Vegas, and at the Traverse Christmas Party. Now with a new album to promote the Bevy's play at the Queen's hall Edinburgh in June this year (2018).

I play with 3 bands up north primarily for Scottish dancing and ceilidh dancing. The Ghillies have played for the Northern Meeting balls and parties for many years and continues.

The Highland Ceilidh Band is a more recent activity, stepping in for Ruaridh Campbell who is away for a while.

JaMaTha is the official Isle of Eigg ceilidh band. We have played every year since the buyout of the island from the absentee landlord. A special treat this year was a performance at the Eigg night at Celtic Connections in Glasgow, January 2018.

That same Celtic Connections also hosted the 20th anniversary of Blazin Fiddles, and we played to a full house in the Royal Concert Hall.

In May 2017 I gave a house concert at Newe Strathdon, in celebration of the memory of Elspeth Hardie, on her beloved Bluthner piano. I played a lot of my own pieces, and some Chopin and ragtime.

My teaching work continues as ever with regular hours at Plockton Centre of Excellence, mainly with individual piano students, but some classes of NC students, and group work. Also regularly with Feis Nairn, Feis Mhoreibh, Feis Rois, Feis Latharna, and Feis Eige. Last year I also was Musician in Residence for one week on Eigg just before the Feis.

My longterm work with George Gunn continues, as he writes voluminously and I contribute, as most recently, with improvised piano to his poetry reading. 'Leaving Caithness' and 'After the Rain'. His play 'Badbea Waterloo' was treated to an open rehearsal at the Tron in Glasgow, with my incidental music.

I continue to write my book 'Andy's Handy Music Book' which may never be published. The summer season looks varied, with performances from all of the afore mentioned bands.

Andy Thorburn Biography @ February 2014

Andy Thorburn works throughout Scotland in many areas of music, performance and education, as he has done for some years, and from time to time also in England and Europe. A recent work with Blair Douglas (An Aifreann , Gaelic Mass) premiered in Inverness Cathedral at the Blas Festival 2009 with 50 performers, and was highly acclaimed.

The Loveboat Big Band is the main band (having left Blazin Fiddles after 17 years), 21 piece swing band at full strength with McFall's strings, the Horn Dogs and Orkestra del Sol brass, fronted by the wonderful Bevvv Sisters, and has packed the Queen's Hall for an annual Saturday night at the Edinburgh Fringe in recent years. At the 2013 Edinburgh Fringe the Loveboat played 4 Friday nights at Summerhall venue, gaining 5 star reviews and full houses.

In the Highlands The Ghillies has been complimented as sounding their best ever, the premier Highland Dance Band, with Duncan Chisholm on fiddle and Melanie Simpson on accordion, Duncan MacGillivray on bagpipes whistles guitar and mouthorgan.

The Andy Thorburn Ceilidh Band (ATCB) is recently formed and does what it says, and plays for weddings, parties and dances in the Highland style.

Training and teaching are both prominent work themes, with Plockton Music School, Feisean nan Gaidheal and specific weekend and residential workshops in performance and technique.

Music for theatre and poetry is a constant theme also, and that context ensures a variety of subject matter and realization, from solo piano, improvised and written, to full digital scores.

Recent song compositions reflect life and art in Scotland, and will form in due course a song cycle - 'Moonrise', performed by the Sax Ecosse ensemble at Edinburgh Fringe 2007, and 'In the Pictish Navy,' performed at the Distil concert in Stirling 2008, A Crofter's Dream, 2012.

Current work is for a play 'Red Fish' in development with George Gunn and Iain Macdonald.

'Tuath gu Deas', a substantial choral work with lyrics by Aonghas MacNeacail was reprised in concert at Kelvingrove Gallery at 2013 Celtic Connections Festival in Glasgow, to great acclaim on its second major outing. Further similar work and concerts are planned.

At Celtic Connections 2014 AT played keyboards in a new composition project, Metta, by Damien Helliwell, and performed to very appreciative audiences, first performances, with Eilidh Shaw, Donald Hay and Jenn Hill.

In September AT will conclude the season's work with the Musical Direction of

'Macbeth' to be performed at Brodie Castle, a community production of sound and lights and original music.

AT is just back from Moscow having played at a number of Burns' suppers, for expats and Russians alike.

Recent CDs are

Babelfish 'International Disgrace',

Loveboat Big Band 'Songs in the Sea of Life', Blazin Fiddles 'Thursday Night at the Caley', Steele the Show 'Tribute to Davy Steele'

also

'Tuath gu Deas', various singers

'piano', Andy Thorburn

Andy Thorburn

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Andy Thorburn lists of bands, albums, shows, festivals

Bands (from 1989)

Eat the Seats

Just the Very Donkeys

Ceolbeg

Mouth Music

Blazin'Fiddles

The Ghillies

Loveboat Big Band

ATCB (Andy Thorburn Ceilidh Band)

Salsa Celtica

Speedboat

Bevviies and the Bad Boys

venues from village halls and kitchen ceilidhs to Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Edinburgh Usher Hall, London Albert Hall, playing with soloists and bands.

Teaching

Jewel and Esk Valley College, Edinburgh developed and taught HND Modern Music
RSAMD, now RCS Royal Conservatoire of Scotland developed and taught new
module 'Performance Studies' served as External Examiner (BA Scottish Music) 2000 to
2005

Feisean nan Gaidheal developed and taught Music Tutor Training Course (with Val
Bryan), since 2003

Plockton National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music developed and taught
Traditional Piano and Accompaniment, and groupwork

Edinburgh Youth Gaitherin weekend music seminar

Festivals and workshops

Edinburgh Fringe
Belladrum, Highlands
Feis an Eilean, Skye
Feis Rois, Highlands
Hebridean Celtic Festival, Isle of Lewis
Celtic Connections, Glasgow
Feis Lochabair, Highlands

Performances

Lifting the Lid	two pianos
Tuath gu Deas	12 unaccompanied voices
An Aifreann	choir, chamber orchestra and 23 soloists
Moonrise	saxophone quartet and soprano voice
Double Helix	string quartet and piano (and 4 dancers)
St Kilda	rehearsing and conducting 2 Gaelic choirs, and chamber group (with National Theatre of Scotland and Scottish Opera)
Highland Wedding	at the Millennium Dome as part of Our Town celebration
Macbeth	with Findhorn Bay Arts Festival, 40 singers
In the Pictish Navy	voice and small group, for Distil Concert Stirling 2008
Salsa Celtica	Latin Big Band

with Grey Coast Theatre

Song of Wick with groups from 4 primary schools
Song of Sutherland with groups from 7 schools
Songs of the Grey Coast (includes tune 'Marni Swanson')
Flags

tunes etc

Marni Swanson of the Grey Coast
Jig of the Clan Beag
The Walking Nightmare
Silver Tree
Gold Tree
My Compliments to the Biochemist
The Star of the Wedding (Reul na Bannse)
Control
Loch Insh
Plockton High School Hornpipe
Easy Jig
The Boat to Islay

CD music producer for

Ishbel Macaskill	Essentially Ishbel
Breabach	Bann
Fiona Mackenzie	Orain na Rosaich

CDs

Music in the Sea of Life	Loveboat Big Band
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International Disgrace	Babelfish
Piano	Andy Thorburn
Blazin Fiddles	Fire On
	The Old Style
	Magnificent Seven
	Live
	Thursday Night at the Caley
	with Charlie McKerron
Explosive Fiddlers	
Paul Anderson	
Ian Hardie and Andy Thorburn	Spider's Web
The Ghillies	volume 1
	volume 2
Lorne MacDougall	
Ceolbeg	Not the Bunnyhop
Betty Burnett	Queen o the Mouthie
Tuath gu Deas	Andy Thorburn
Those Women of the Vaudeville Blues	Marilyn Middleton Pollock

recent performances

with Ya-Ma-Tha Ceilidh Band, on Eigg
with Patsy Reid and Signy Jakobsdottir, in Kingussie and Skye
with Loveboat Big Band, Valentine's Dance, Edinburgh
recital at Steinway Hall London, with Plockton piano students (to celebrate the adoption of Plockton as an All Steinway School)