

PRESS RELEASE
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INTERNATIONAL RECORDING ARTIST TO LEAD WORKSHOPS

Tulsa, OK, August 15, 2007 -- Christine Primrose, international recording artist, headlines the faculty at the Fourth Annual Tulsa Gaelic Language and Music Weekend October 13-14, 2007. The Weekend consists of two days of language, music, and song workshops exploring the life and culture of the Scottish Highlands.

The workshops on Saturday, October 13 are focused at a variety of learners, including those with no prior knowledge of Gaelic or Celtic Music. Primrose will team with language instructor Muriel Fisher for Tales of the Highlands and Islands, stories of growing up in Scotland's Hebridean Islands. Primrose was raised on the Isle of Lewis and Fisher on the Isle of Skye. Both are fluent in Gaelic and both witnessed the changes that electricity and automobiles brought to the Islands. Primrose will also teach three workshops on Gaelic singing and Fisher will teach three language workshops.

Rick Ewing, a versatile singer and musician who is a member of several area bands, will take audience members on a Musical Tour of Scotland, illustrating through music a variety of songs and instruments.

Other area musicians will teach workshops for those interested in learning a variety of Celtic styles and instruments. Julia Harris of All Strings Attached will teach Scottish Fiddle. Ewing will teach two bodhran workshops, and Steve VanLandingham, of Arabesque and Banish Misfortune, will teach Celtic guitar. Two whistle workshops will also be offered - one for beginners and those wishing to review the basics, and one focused on tunes. Miranda Arana, of Arabesque and Banish Misfortune, will teach the introductory session and John Norvell of Kilkenny Road will teach the tunes workshop.

Students in the Scottish Fiddle, Celtic Guitar and Tunes for the Tin Whistle workshops are expected to know how to play their instruments. Beginners are welcome in the Bodhran and Intro to Tin Whistle workshops. All students are expected to provide their own instruments.

Sunday, October 14 will be dedicated to those wishing to study the Gaelic language in more depth.

The Tulsa Gaelic Language and Music Weekend is sponsored by the Tulsa Gaelic Studies Group, part of the Scottish Club of Tulsa, The University of Tulsa Music Department, and The University of Tulsa Language House. All events will be held in John Rogers Hall on The University of Tulsa campus. For more details, including registration forms, see <http://personal.utulsa.edu/~melissa-tatum/gaelic.html>. Most workshops are limited to 12 participants, so advance registration is encouraged.

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Instructor biographies and websites:

International Faculty:

Christine Primrose

Christine Primrose, a native Gaelic speaker, and internationally renowned traditional singer, comes from Carloway on the west side of the Island of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides.

She has been singing for as long as she can remember, and has won major awards at Gaelic Mods (competitive Festivals) since she was seven years old. She also won the coveted Traditional Singing Competition at the Pan-Celtic Festival in Killarney in Ireland where singers from all other Celtic nations, Ireland, Isle of Man, Brittany, Cornwall and Wales were taking part. She has frequently appeared on television, mainly as a singer, but has also presented a 12 series Gaelic magazine programme, as well as numerous radio programmes. In 1995 she was part of the cast as a singer in a Tag production (Theatre Company in Glasgow) which ran for three months.

Christine has toured extensively in Northern America and Canada, Australia and Europe, conducting workshops, giving concerts and recitals. She also took part in the prestigious Smithsonian Folklife Music Festival in Washington USA, as part of 'Scotland at the Smithsonian', along with the renowned harp-player Alison Kinnaird.

Christine is currently teaching Gaelic song at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic College on the Isle of Skye, and frequently gives Gaelic song presentations at the various conferences and events which are held at the college.

<http://www.myspace.com/primrosechristine>

Muriel Fisher

Currently Director of the Tucson Gaelic Institute, Muriel grew up a crofter's daughter on the Isle of Skye. She didn't learn English until she went to school at age 6. For twenty years now, Muriel has taught Gaelic around the world, including at the University of Arizona and Sabhal Mor Ostaig. She is the author of three Scottish Gaelic textbooks and is working on Level IV. Muriel is also Senior Research Specialist on an NSF grant designed to gather information about Gaelic grammar, a critical first step in preserving the language.

<http://www.murielofskye.com/muriel/Welcome.html>

National and Regional Faculty:

Miranda Arana

Arana grew up in western New York, and began playing the flute in her early teens. After receiving classical training at Eastman School of Music, she went on to discover her passion for improvisation and world music. She spent her twenties traveling, working and living in Southeast Asia, always with her trusty flute in tow. She received a master's degree in Ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University in 1996, and she has happily "settled down" in Norman, Oklahoma, where she currently teaches world music at the University of Oklahoma. Since coming to Oklahoma, she has become an active member in three outstanding traditional music ensembles: Alma Latina, a Norman-based folkloric Latin American ensemble; Nur, Oklahoma's premier Middle Eastern ensemble, and Banish Misfortune, one of Oklahoma's longest-lived Celtic music ensembles.

<http://www.ourarabesque.com/>

<http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=120398831>

Rick Ewing

A versatile musician, Ewing is the Pipe Sergeant of the City of Tulsa Pipes and Drums and is also a member of Men in Skirts and All Strings Attached. He will lead the Musical Scotland tour and teach the bodhran classes.

<http://www.cotpd.com/>

Julia Harris

Harris is a regular at various area contra dances and is also a member of the Celtic band All Strings Attached. She has studied Scottish fiddle with such luminaries as Alasdair Fraser.

John Norvell

Norvell, a member of the Tulsa based traditional Irish band Kilkenny Road, specializes in Irish flute and whistle. He will teach the Tunes for the Tin Whistle class.

<http://www.kilkennyroad.com/>

Steve VanLandingham

VanLandingham grew up in Oklahoma and began playing the guitar in college, learning the blues and ragtime styles of early folk musicians. He took up the 5-string banjo, inspired by the music of the Appalachian Mountains, and learned the claw-hammer styles of Uncle Dave Macon, Grandpa Jones and others. One thing led to another and before long Steve had traced the roots of American Traditional music to Ireland and deeply immersed himself in Celtic music on a variety of string instruments. Along the way he studied archeology and received a BA from the University of Oklahoma in 1978. When not on an archeological survey, Steve plays guitar, bouzouki, mandolin, banjo, 'ud and various percussion instruments. He founded Oklahoma's premier Celtic band, "Banish Misfortune," in 1980 and is also a member of the duo Arabesque.

<http://www.ourarabesque.com/>

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