

Ethnomusicology at the University of Aberdeen

Ethnomusicology is a growing area of research and teaching at the University of Aberdeen. Increasing numbers of courses are being offered within the BMus programme in the Department of Music, and there are opportunities for postgraduate study and research at The Elphinstone Institute and in the Department of Music. Ethnomusicology course options include Introduction to World Music, Scottish Musical Traditions, Soundscapes and Soundmapping, and Ethnomusicology Theory and Practice.

Relevant Modules and Programmes involving Ethnomusicological Material

BMus (Department of Music)

Level 2 (2nd year Undergraduate)

MU2901 - Introduction to Ethnomusicology

Level 3 (3rd year Undergraduate)

MU 3010 - Soundscapes and Soundmapping

MU 3013 - Introduction to World Music

Level 4 (4th year Undergraduate)

MU Scotland's Musical Traditions

MLitt in Ethnology and Folklore in the Scottish context (The Elphinstone Institute)

EF 5001 History and Core Genre of Ethnology and Folklore

EF 5501 Oral Traditions

EF 5002 Intellectual Backgrounds and Methodologies

EF 5502 Scottish Contexts and Practical Fieldwork

MPhil/PhD Programmes (The Elphinstone Institute/Department of Music)

Student Numbers

The Department of Music: 260

The Elphinstone Institute: 23

Staff and Research Interests

Dr Frances Wilkins

Lecturer in Ethnomusicology

Research Interests: Scottish music including traditional and sacred traditions. Music of the Scottish diaspora in North America, Scottish and James Bay fiddle music, traditional music performance and transmission in the British Isles, Gaelic music traditions. North-East Scottish culture and traditions.

Professor Ian Russell

Director of The Elphinstone Institute

Research Interests: Sacred singing traditions, free-reed instrumentalists, singers, and monologue performers. Flute bands, 'soirées', 'Sankey Nights', and concert parties in North-East Scotland.

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Dr Thomas McKean

Deputy-Director of The Elphinstone Institute

Research Interests: Ballad singing, The Carpenter collection

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Research Interests: Scotland's fire festivals; creativity within traditional forms; the effects of field collection in the North-East; macaronic song traditions; the relationship of memory and song in west coast Gaelic communities. Dr McKean also works as part of the James Madison Carpenter Project team.

Financial Support

For information on financial support available for study, please contact the University of Aberdeen directly.

Performance Opportunities

The Department of Music has an active gamelan ensemble, fiddle ensemble, and gospel choir.

The Elphinstone Fiddlers (which includes other instruments such as accordion, flute, and piano) meet weekly during term time and regularly give performance in and around Aberdeen.

Individual performance opportunities are linked to the activities of the Elphinstone Institute.

Research Projects, Activities, Resources

'The North' Research theme is university-wide and links directly into the activities of the Elphinstone Institute and research into subjects such as northern temperament, timbre in Northern European traditional singing, transatlantic musical flow between Scotland and the Arctic and Sub-Arctic.

The North Atlantic Fiddle Convention (NAFCo) initiative (including the convention, academic conference, and publications), was started by Professor Ian Russell and is based at the Elphinstone Institute.

Other research projects/activities include:

Transcribing and publishing the James Madison Carpenter Collection

The oral and cultural traditions of Scottish travellers

Scots fiddle music performance

Sacred singing in North-East Scotland

James Bay fiddle music

Scottish step-dance traditions

Scotland's intangible cultural heritage
Tradition and culture promotion in Shetland
Lullabies: a study of form and function

Contacts and Further Information

For further information, please visit:

www.abdn.ac.uk/music

www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone

or contact:

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Date of Submission

22 March 2013