



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22

WWW.CLARSACHSOCIETY.CO.UK

CHARITY NUMBER: SC011819



Accusound

Microphone Systems

The Natural Choice for Acoustic Live Music

The Harp Collection

Bespoke amplification equipment, made in the UK, designed to enhance the unique sound of your instrument.

"I love my amplifier and pick-up microphone. I have full volume control and it doesn't impact the stunning sound of my electric and acoustic harps at all. It picks up the entire harp evenly and has plenty of effects to add a bit of fun into performances. I will never gig without it again. It is such an exciting time to be a harpist!"
Fran Barsby



07774 782503 info@accusound.com www.accusound.com

The Clarsach Society

Annual Report 2021-22

Contents

4	Office Bearers, Trustees & Staff
5	Standing Committees
6	Honorary Members; Notice of Annual General Meeting
7	Convenor's Foreword
8-19	Branch Reports
20	Advert: Niebisch & Tree
21-23	41st Edinburgh International Harp Festival Report
24-27	Adverts: Clive Morley, TRACS, Creighton's Collection,
28-30	Finance and Administration & Music Committee Reports
31-32	2022 Bursary & 2021 Mod Results
33	Advert: Royal National Mod
34-36	The Iain Macleoid Young Composer's Award
37-38	The Clarsach Society Folios
39	Advert: Wales Harp Festival
40-41	Adverts: Salopian Strings, Pilgrim Harps

Office Bearers, Trustees & Staff

(at 30th June 2022)

President	Isobel Mieras MBE																																
Vice-President	Allan Campbell, President An Comunn Gaidhealach (ex-officio)																																
Executive Council	<table><tr><td>Charles Hope</td><td>Convenor</td></tr><tr><td>Corrina Hewat</td><td>Vice-Convenor</td></tr><tr><td>Màiri Macleod</td><td>Gaelic Adviser</td></tr><tr><td>Jayne Jones</td><td>Argyll Branch</td></tr><tr><td>Frances Younson</td><td>Bristol & WE Branch</td></tr><tr><td>Wendy Stewart</td><td>Dum & Gall Branch</td></tr><tr><td>Margaret Collin</td><td>Edinburgh Branch</td></tr><tr><td>Gwen Yorke</td><td>Glasgow Branch</td></tr><tr><td>Vacant</td><td>Highland Branch</td></tr><tr><td>Mairi Macleod</td><td>Isle of Lewis Branch</td></tr><tr><td>Felicity Merchant</td><td>London & SE Branch</td></tr><tr><td>Irene Watt</td><td>Nrth E Scot Branch</td></tr><tr><td>Morag Pugh</td><td>Northumbrian Branch</td></tr><tr><td>Gill Beeley</td><td>Transpennine Branch</td></tr><tr><td>Mary Evans</td><td>Wales Branch</td></tr><tr><td>Flora Bramwell</td><td>Wire Branch</td></tr></table>	Charles Hope	Convenor	Corrina Hewat	Vice-Convenor	Màiri Macleod	Gaelic Adviser	Jayne Jones	Argyll Branch	Frances Younson	Bristol & WE Branch	Wendy Stewart	Dum & Gall Branch	Margaret Collin	Edinburgh Branch	Gwen Yorke	Glasgow Branch	Vacant	Highland Branch	Mairi Macleod	Isle of Lewis Branch	Felicity Merchant	London & SE Branch	Irene Watt	Nrth E Scot Branch	Morag Pugh	Northumbrian Branch	Gill Beeley	Transpennine Branch	Mary Evans	Wales Branch	Flora Bramwell	Wire Branch
Charles Hope	Convenor																																
Corrina Hewat	Vice-Convenor																																
Màiri Macleod	Gaelic Adviser																																
Jayne Jones	Argyll Branch																																
Frances Younson	Bristol & WE Branch																																
Wendy Stewart	Dum & Gall Branch																																
Margaret Collin	Edinburgh Branch																																
Gwen Yorke	Glasgow Branch																																
Vacant	Highland Branch																																
Mairi Macleod	Isle of Lewis Branch																																
Felicity Merchant	London & SE Branch																																
Irene Watt	Nrth E Scot Branch																																
Morag Pugh	Northumbrian Branch																																
Gill Beeley	Transpennine Branch																																
Mary Evans	Wales Branch																																
Flora Bramwell	Wire Branch																																
Elected Members	Helen Forster, Calum Macleod, Margaret Collin, Isobel Mieras, Laurina Strachan																																
Hon. Secretary	Mary Scott																																
Hon. Treasurer	Andrew Melville																																
Administrator	Sheena Walker																																
National Office	Studio G43, Out of the Blue Drill Hall 36 Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh EH6 SRG 01315540212 office@clarsachsociety.co.uk																																

Standing Committees

(at 30th June 2022)

Finance and Administration Committee

Charles Hope (Convenor)
Corrina Hewat (Vice-Convenor)
Mary Scott (Hon. Secretary)
Andrew Melville (Hon. Treasurer)
Màiri Macleod (Gaelic Adviser)
Calum Macleod (Elected Member)

EIHF Committee

Mary Scott (Co-ordinator)
Isobel Mieras (Joint Artistic Adviser)
Patsy Seddon (Joint Artistic Adviser)
Rachel Hair
Katie Harrigan
Stephanie Harrison-Boond
Charles Hope (ex officio)
Annette Lambourne
Calum Macleod
Màiri Macleod
Mary Macmaster
Neil Wood

Music Committee

Màiri Macleod (Convenor)
Mary Scott (Hon. Secretary)
Charles Hope
Margaret Collin
Isobel Mieras
Charlotte Peterson
Toni Russell
Gwen Yorke
Heather Yule

Honorary Members

Hon. Life Members Anne Macdearmid, Elizabeth Matthews, Isobel Mieras
Hon. Life Associate Prof. Edward Witsenburg

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 84th Annual General Meeting of
The Clarsach Society- Comunn na Clàrsaich
will be held on Monday 10 April 2023 at
7pm at George Watson's College

AGENDA

1. OPENING

- 1.1. Apologies for Absence
- 1.2. Welcome from Charles Hope, Convenor of The Clarsach Society

2. AGM2021

- 2.1. Approval of the Minutes of the 83rd AGM, 13 November 2021

3. AGM2023

- 3.1. Matters Arising
- 3.2. Hon. Treasurer's Report (Andrew Melville)
- 3.3. Election of Office Bearers & Trustees

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5. MEETING CLOSE

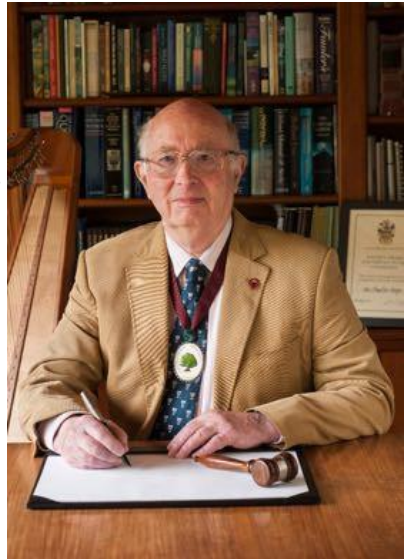
- 5.1. Date of AGM 2024

Convenor's Foreword

The Chinese have a saying "May you live in interesting times.". Well, we've certainly been having these over the last couple of years, but I don't think I'd wish these sort of times on anybody else. Apart from the various lock down effects, the Society has been through its own interesting times.

Our Vice Convenor, Irene Watt, found that her other commitments didn't leave her enough time to continue in office, so resigned from this role, but still continues with her North East Branch activities. Her place on the National Committee has been taken by Corrina Hewat.

The other 'interesting' event was the resignation of Toby Hawks, our Administrator, in the run-up to the EIHF. We have been very lucky to have appointed Sheena Walker, as a temporary measure, until we decided how to go forward. We now plan to appoint two administrators in future and hope to have done this by early autumn.



Another part of National Office work is hiring our Clarsachs. Not only does this require administration, but also a check on the condition of returned instruments including replacing broken strings. It makes one wonder how the hirer has managed to get a tune out of the instrument in the 'returned ' condition, (I look after the London & South East Branch instruments, so I understand the problem). We have appointed Ellie Evans to look after our hire stock. Conveniently, Ellie lives only a few minutes' walk from the office. Our Administrator still manages the paperwork side of hiring.

We are trying to get back to normal by holding our Annual General Meeting at the Festival again. The idea is to allow as many people as possible to attend without making a special trip. I hope to see a goodly number of you there.

Charles Hope, Convenor

Argyll Branch

Branch Officers:

- **Convenor:** Ania Zwozdiak
- **Secretary:** Alicia Chapple
- **Branch Rep.:** Jayne Jones

Contact & Links:

argyllbranch@gmail.com

Branch Website

Our small branch has managed to hold meetings most months throughout all the restrictions. Our fabulous regular tutor, Ingrid Henderson, has kept us quite busy with live streams, pre-recorded and now in person classes. We are especially appreciative of all the hard work she does to keep us progressing and adding such beautiful tunes to our repertoire.

We have slowly been returning to normality with classes in Connel and Lochgilphead, but there is still some work to be done to increase membership again. We are planning a series of 'Come and Try' workshops in the coming months and hope to travel throughout Argyll highlighting what the branch can offer to new learners.

Our online presence continues to develop with all our tutorial videos now available to branch members through our website. Most members also enjoy the use of Dropbox and access our Facebook group which has been a positive way to keep in touch with each other.

We are a small but very sociable branch and being able to meet up again has highlighted just how important playing music together is for mental health and well-being. With this in mind, we are aiming to plan a programme of events and classes next year that will involve reaching out to some of our more rural communities.

Alicia Chapple, Secretary



A rescued hearing-impaired new Argyll Branch member, Phoebe, age 2!

Bristol & West of England Branch

Branch Officers:

- **Convenor:** Julia Hammersley
- **Secretary:** Catherine Dack
- **Branch Rep.:** Frances Younson

Contact & Links:

clarsachbristolandwest@gmail.com

Branch Facebook Page

Again, it has been an unusual year, but we have made steps towards getting back to meeting in person. Our AGM in September was our first in-person meeting and included an option for members to join online.

Julia Hammersley has continued to lead our monthly harp workshops, which have taken place most months. We have learned a variety of new pieces, including Follow the Heron, Morpeth Rant, Angler's Song and John MacIntyre the Freebooter, as well as revising some pieces from previous workshops and learning some festive pieces in December. We hope to get together more in the coming year to play together some of the multipart arrangements that we have learned in our online workshops.

We were happy to receive a kind donation of harp music books this year. There are a large number of books of classical, traditional and popular music, as well as tutor books and exercises, which are a welcome addition to our library.

Catherine Dack, Secretary



Dumfries and Galloway Branch

Branch Officers:

- **Convenor & Branch Rep:**
Wendy Stewart
- **Secretary:** Lyn Walby

Contact & Links:

wendyharp@hotmail.co.uk
www.cairnwatermusic.com
lyn.walby@uwclub.net

A very different year as we got back to “live” playing sessions. We still had some practice sessions on Zoom, to enable distant members to take part, and also a number of “hybrid” sessions from places which had WIFI.

In July 2021 we had an excellent Zoom workshop with Eira Lynn Jones and in May 2022 a live day workshop with Karen Marshalsay. The attendance at these was a bit disappointing; Karen's (10 attendees), which was excellent, and so good to be playing together, reflected the continuing reluctance of people to travel, or to mix in groups. We are very blessed to have Wendy Stewart as our Convenor, and she has been involved in several projects which we've enjoyed as audience members. We give heartfelt thanks to Wendy for her enthusiasm and commitment to the group.

On Easter Saturday we gave a short concert in The Usual Place in Dumfries, with group pieces and some solos, and the group was enhanced by “visiting” musicians, a saxophonist and a flautist! We had a small but discerning audience and we all found it quite a moving experience, being back together again.

Lyn Walby, Secretary



Edinburgh Branch

Branch Officers:

- **Convenor:** Morag Philips
- **Secretary:** Laura Jones
- **Branch Rep:** Margaret Collin

Contact & Links:

clarsac.edin.secretary@gmail.com

Branch Facebook Page

Since September 2021, we have enjoyed a great variety of music via Zoom from excellent tutors including Ingrid Henderson, Rachel Hair, Cheyenne Brown, Fiona Rutherford, Eira Lyn Jones, Isobel Mieras, Margaret Collin and Rosemary McKerchar.



Also, for a second year, both our Open Platform concert and Burns Bash were first class, online events. Whilst all of these were appreciated and enjoyed by everyone who took part, we were all delighted when we could resume in person sessions. Regrettably, we couldn't hold our Harps of Gold concert, but we did celebrate the music of Christmas in the impressive setting

of George Watsons College together with a group of singers, pupils at the school, and family members. The excitement and magic of Christmas was tangible as we performed together for the first time in two years. We have also enjoyed live sessions with tutors Toni Russell, Iain Hood and Charlotte Petersen and with a group of harp players on a tour of Scotland with Sunita Staneslow. We've organised follow on sessions for new players who attended the adult beginner classes at EIHF, and most recently, have had sessions led by Isobel Mieras, Margaret Collin and Rosemary McKerchar who are helping us "brush up" our performance and ensemble playing skills after such a long interruption to our normal Na Clarsarean programme. While "normal" once again being meeting in person, we appreciate that some people are unable to attend. Therefore, whenever possible, we have and will continue to run our regular meetings as hybrid sessions allowing people to participate online.

Morag Philips, Convenor

Photo: Meeting with Sunita Staneslow and harpers from USA

Glasgow Branch

Branch Officers:

- **Convenor:** Sam MacAdam
- **Secretary:**
- **Rep.:** Gwen Mairi Yorke

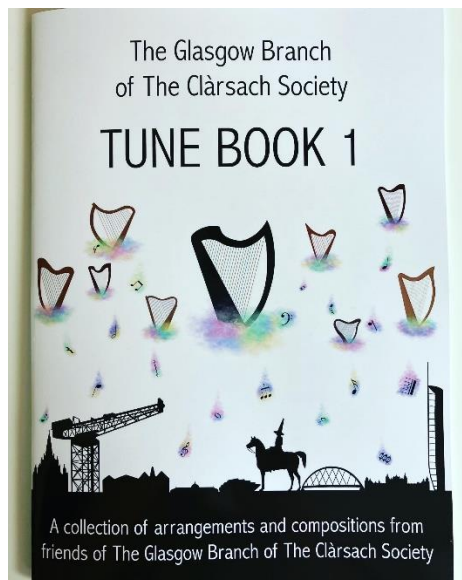
Contact & Links:

- harpsglasgow@gmail.com
- [Branch Facebook Page](#)

This year we had the pleasure of reintroducing face-to-face sessions which were really welcomed! We had a nice mixture of hybrid monthly sessions, a switch back to online only, and culminating in the gala day in June where we had workshops, a come and try session, and a concert!

Along with this, we have also recently published and released our first tune book and composer's competition. It features tunes from composers connected to the branch, from branch members, along with our branch history. Our young person's competition had three winners - two in the under 12s and one in the under 18s, and these are printed in the book.

Sam MacAdam, Convenor



Highland Branch

Branch Officers

- **Convenor:** Cheyenne Brown
- **Secretary:** Kirsty North
- **Rep:**

Contact & Links:

- highlandbranch.cs@gmail.com
- [Branch Facebook Page](#)
- [Branch Website](#)

In autumn of 2021 we continued our popular virtual workshops: we enjoyed a Latin theme from Diego LaVerde and Karen Marshalsay, an historical lecture/demonstration from Bill Taylor, and our traditional Christmas themed workshop with Isbel Pendlebury and Cheyenne Brown. Keeping the momentum going into 2022, our spring workshop sessions featured Elinor Evans, Rachel Hair, Fraya Thomsen, Gillian Fleetwood, Isbel Pendlebury and Cheyenne Brown.

We had our 4th year of the Susanne Lloyd Jones Young Composer's Competition, this year adjudicated by Gillian Fleetwood. All ten submissions were wonderful, but huge congrats to the first-place winners Elizabeth Walsh for category 1 and Isabella Sommerville for category 2.



With the world opening up again, we have enjoyed getting back into the community. In February, around 17 pupils were involved with solos, duets and ensembles at the Inverness Music Festival. Emma Wright did a couple of sessions of come-and-try at the Gathering in Inverness in

May and Emma and Cheyenne each did a slot at Belladrum in July. We love getting the clarsach back into these big music festivals! At least one come-and-try participant has already started lessons!

Cheyenne Brown, Convenor

Ensemble performers from the Inverness Music Festival, February 2022.

Back row: Jane Parkinson, Kathleen Keir, Nancy Kinloch, Anne Macleod, Kirsty Windle, Margaret Livingstone, Robert Ciastko, Egbert Efting Dijk, Cheyenne Brown Front row: Ava Williams, Daisy Crossley, Hunter Williams, Jemma Sinclair

London & South-East Branch

Branch Officers:

- **Convenor & Branch Rep:**
Felicity Merchant
- **Secretary:** Anne Chorley
- **Treasurer & Harp Hire:**
Charles Hope

Contact & Links:

secretarylondonse@clarsachsociety.co.uk

[Branch Facebook Page](#)

[Branch Website](#)

During this last year branch face to face group meetings have restarted, albeit spasmodically and with attendance somewhat fitful. Some areas in our branch have no groups currently running. One new group has been established on the Isle of Wight. We are hoping to get the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire group going again. Members have been informed about the support packages available if they want to start a group in their local area.

Last September we held a play day that was led by Ellie Evans. It was an enjoyable day with the sun shining. Lunch was provided and mostly eaten outside. For some people it was their first harp outing since lockdown.

In October we will again have a stand at Harp on Wight. Last year's event attracted a lot of interest. Also, the Clarsach Course at Benslow Music will be running again this year, over the first weekend in December, with tutors Elinor Evans and Steph West.

Felicity Merchant and Anne Chorley, Convenor and Secretary

North East of Scotland Branch

Branch Officers:

- **Convenor & Branch Rep:**
Irene Watt
- **Secretary:** Alison Bremner

Contact & Links:

nesclarsach@gmail.com

[Branch Facebook Page](#)



Towards the end of 2021 our Branch came together to produce a fantastic Harps of Gold, a mix of live and pre-recorded performances which we put online. Our charity was Alzheimers & Dementia Centres around Aberdeenshire.

We were joined by the joint choirs of The Mearns and Deveron Singers, both recorded live then broadcast along with with our harp ensemble. It stitched together beautifully and became part of another Youtube premier.

The highlight of 2022 for us must be the lovely Harp Retreat we had in March in the beautiful village of Gardenstown. My co-tutor was the lovely Wendy Stewart and we held the retreat in the old infant school fondly known as the Liittle Schoolie which has only 2 classrooms with lots of their original features. It proved so popular that some participants immediately booked for 2023!



We increased our Clarsachs for hire, recently purchasing 2 Starfish and another Bohemian harp. Our ensemble is practising again in person and on zoom through our blended sessions. We continue to promote and teach clarsach, widening our area of players as we look forward to a live Harps of Gold this December where we will also be live streaming. So NES Branch continues to push boundaries and create new opportunities.

Irene Watt, Convenor

Northumbrian Branch

Branch Officers:

- **Convenor:**
- Margaret Thompson
- **Branch Rep:** Gill Martin
- **Secretary:** Morag Pugh

Contact & Links:

clarsachnorthumbria@hotmail.com
[Branch Website](#)

The past year has seen our activities return to normal after 2 difficult years. Our tutored monthly Saturday mornings are very well attended, and we continue to have monthly morning and evening meetings where we explore new repertoire and

prepare for performances. The Harp Festival in its new hybrid format was very successful. Some of our members attended in person, others participated in online workshops.

The concerts were very enjoyable. In March we had a course taken by Janet Bennett and Isobel Mieras which was very popular. In June

we also enjoyed a course taken by Patsy Seddon. Harps Northumbria started the year in September

playing to Hepscoth WI and have had opportunities during the year to play in various venues throughout Northumberland. Even Storm Arwen didn't stop us in November!

Following our success in Felton last year we again played at the Feltonbury Music Festival - we were asked to play twice during the day! We appear to be very popular. We also played at a wedding for the son of one of our members - a lovely occasion. The Clarsach is well and truly alive in Northumberland.

I would like to thank Gill Martin for taking on the role of Membership Secretary and to thank all of the committee for their hard work. We are looking forward to the coming year.



Veronica Gilbert, Morag Pugh, Margaret Thompson, Jaqui Deans, Gill Martin, Claire Steele.

Margaret Thompson, Convenor

Wales Branch

Branch Officers:

- **Convenor & Branch Rep:**
Mary Evans
- **Secretary:** Sheila
Evans-Pritchard

Contact & Links:

secretary.clarsachwales@gmail.com

[Branch Facebook](#)

Covid certainly curtailed our activity. So, we were very grateful to be invited to join a joint zoom branch meeting with Edinburgh and Lewis and I think five of us attended. As soon as the restrictions were relaxed, I prepared a risk assessment to enable us to hold actual classes from September 21 when Meinir Heulyn returned followed by Elinor Evans in October, Robin Huw Bowen in November and Harriet Earis in December. Robin returned in February, and we had a revision workshop in March before welcoming Monika Stadler back in April. Shelly Fairplay joined us in May introducing us to modes which are so much easier to grasp on the harp. Meinir returned in June. I have been very encouraged by the turn out at these workshops and hope to build on it from September.

Mary Evans, Convenor



Wire Branch

Branch Officers:

Contact & Links:

- **Convenor:** Pamela Nairn wirebranch@gmail.com
 - **Branch Rep.:** Flora Bramwell
 - **Secretary:** :Marianne McGhee
-

This year, most of our activities took place online, including monthly workshops and a multi-session course, as well as an in-person playing session.

We held eight monthly workshops between September 2021 and June 2022. Since the founding of the Wire Branch in 2000, we have given workshops aimed at all levels, but this year we chose to split the levels into elementary and intermediate players, which has been successful. We looked at quite a mix of historical and traditional tunes, including medieval sacred melodies and dance tunes, Scottish Renaissance airs, a Scottish baroque variation set, a Neil Gow fiddle tune and a Scott Skinner song.

Wire Branch members from across the world joined our third annual online course in playing music from the Robert ap Huw manuscript, containing the oldest harp music from anywhere in Europe. The course took place in six sessions between January and April 2022, with the intention of playing two contrasting pieces directly from the original tablature. Because the participants were so skillful, we were able to examine a third piece as a bonus! For our 2023 course we will split the levels, as we had done with our monthly workshops.

Bill Taylor, Treasurer

An oil sketch of a man playing a harp. The man is depicted from the chest up, wearing a green tunic and a dark cap. He is looking down at the harp with a focused expression. The harp is a large, wooden instrument with many strings. The background is dark and textured, suggesting an indoor setting. The overall style is expressive and somewhat somber.

Niebisch & Tree Harps

Est. 1986

Helping you perform at your best

Servicing

Strings

Repair

Restoration

New & Used Harp Sales

"We had no idea that this amount of improvement was possible.
We got the only harp we could afford to buy and,
to be honest, just thought that this was all it could do."

Alexis Le Due

NT Harps 11a Terry Road, High Wycombe HP13 6QJ

Tel 01494 913 686 email ntharps@outlook.com

Oil sketch by Lewis Hazelwood-Bonner

The 41st Edinburgh International Festival

April 8-11th 2022

After 2 years of online Festivals, we were delighted to be able to welcome performers, teachers and audiences back to a live, in person Festival in April with the help of our sponsors and supporters.

Our worst fear, while in the initial planning stages, was that a new strain of the corona virus would result in another lockdown. As the Festival dates approached, that fear was replaced by the worry that people might not have the desire to travel or return to concerts, workshops or attend courses for many reasons. The decision was made to have a 3 day Hybrid Festival with live concerts and workshops recorded and made available for some time post Festival, and our courses to be both live and online.

On April 8th we welcomed a large number of students and enthusiasts to our excellent new venue at George Watson's College to our seven concerts, five workshops, a Masterclass and 22 courses at all levels. While it was essential and excellent to be able to share these very varied concerts and workshops with a worldwide online audience, there is no doubt that nothing can replace the sheer joy experienced by players and live audience meeting in each other's company in a concert hall. Very positive feedback indicates that our hybrid model may well have managed to please both audiences and allowed us to have the best of both worlds!

Our concerts featured music from the Irish tradition in the amazing hands of **Cormac de Barra** and expert in the ancient music and wire strung harp, **Siobhan Armstrong**, who also accompanied Sean-nos singer **Doiminic Mac Giolla Bhridhe**. Classical harpist **Gabriella Dall'Olio**, originally from Italy, took us on the wings of her harp on an enchanting journey through time while harpist **Ben Creighton Griffiths** in the company of the Transatlantic Hot Club swept us along in Gypsy jazz classics and we heard the breadth and scope of Breton harping from **Tristan le Govic**.

As we are organised by The Clarsach Society, it is not surprising that the Scottish harp and its music are kept firmly at the heart of the Festival and particularly so as we find our way out of the past two difficult years for all musicians, including many here in Scotland. Innovative composer and harpist, **Savourna Stevenson** combined her talents with those of saxophonist **Steve Kettley** to open the Festival with new and classic pieces from her repertoire. **Corrina Hewat** was joined by **Mary Macmaster**, **Wendy Stewart**, **Heather Downie**, **Bill Taylor** and Brittany's **Tristan le Govic** in a performance of her composition, *The Oak and the Ivy* first commissioned 10 years ago by the Clarsach Society to mark its 80th Anniversary and the 30th Harp Festival. Like the best whiskies, this music has matured through time and become even more delightful.



This was matched by a long awaited stunning performance of a newly commissioned piece from Edinburgh born **Maeve Gilchrist** now resident in the USA, to mark the 90th Anniversary of the Society and the 40th harp Festival in 2021. The premier performance had to be postponed for a year because of Covid restrictions. Maeve's composition, inspired by the delight she felt as a child visiting the exhibition of kinetic sculptures by Eduard Bersudsky displayed in Sharmanka in Glasgow, was performed by herself and 4 well known Scottish based musicians: **Aidan O' Rourke** on violin, **Ruth Nelson** on viola, **Su-a Lee** on cello and **Fergus McCreadie** on harmonium. Film of several of the sculptures was projected throughout this unique performance. We are grateful to **Creative Scotland** for agreeing to the postponement and continuing to support this project to its completion.

Sister and brother **Màiri and Calum Macleod** gave us new insights into Gaelic music, **Wendy Stewart** played music from both sides of the Borderlands and winner of the 2021 Princess Margaret of the Isles Memorial Prize, **Fraya Thomsen**, played music from her prizewinning performance.

Our aims are to present the best in harping from Scotland and around the world and to offer opportunities to young performers This year we invited three talented young players, **Phoenix Zhang** from China, currently resident with her family in Edinburgh, **Stephanie Humphreys**, now studying music at Edinburgh University and **Romy Wymer**, originally from Holland now based in Glasgow, to take part in our well received **New Generation** concert.

We also had the pleasure of hearing the winner of Iain Macleòid Young Composer Award 2021, **Rhiannon Ramsey-Brimberg** from USA perform her winning composition.

In addition to the concerts, we presented 5 Workshops on harp related topics, a Masterclass featuring young students at various stages, and 22 three day courses at all levels from Beginners to Advanced, in person and online.

A major part of EIHf is the Harpmakers' Exhibition. Fifteen makers or harp-related businesses from all over UK and Ireland joined us this year.

Audience numbers showed a real appetite for attendance at live performances and to take part in our in person courses. By our online courses and recorded events we also kept in touch with, and reached out to, those unable or as yet unwilling to travel or participate in events.

We faced and coped with all the problems presented by a hybrid event and thank those committee members with the technical knowledge, dedication and flexibility required to make it work.

Without our wonderful sponsors and supporters, including Branches of The Society there could be no Festival. We thank them all and look forward to their continuing support.

While benefitting from support and help from 2 excellent Festival assistants specially hired for the Festival, it is safe to say that the whole committee was on a steep learning curve adapting to a new venue, with new skills to acquire, not to mention dealing with the uncertainty of the last 2 years. It would be easy to take for granted their commitment over the whole year preparing for the Festival and that of the volunteer stewards who so cheerfully and efficiently offer their services during the Festival. Grateful thanks to them all.

Building on the experience gained over so many years, we have already begun making plans for the 42nd Edinburgh International Harp Festival at George Watson's College from 7-11 April next year.

Isobel Mieras, Joint Artistic Director



Dusty Strings New FH 34S - Staved Back

Now available from Morley Harps



Light-weight 34-string harp at around 8kg.
Sleek, petite shape and easy to transport.
Solid wood construction produces the sophisticated
sparkle that is characteristic of the Dusty FH range.

Available with either Loveland or Camac levers
and in Walnut, Cherry, Maple and Bubinga woods.

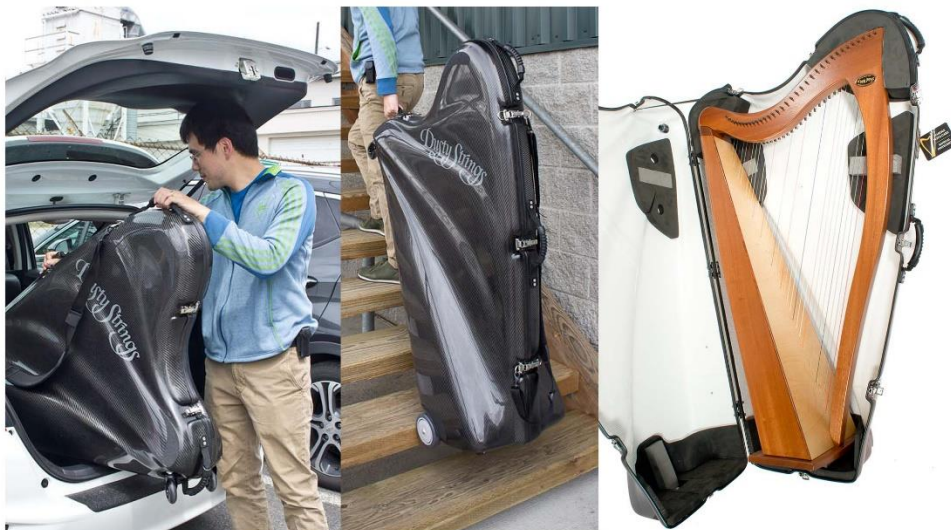


www.morleyharps.com

harps@morleyharps.com

Tel: (44) 01367 860 493

Dusty Strings Carbon Fibre Flight Case



Keeps the harp safe from rough treatment during transit
Avoid over-weight baggage fees
Makes the trips to and from the airport as stress-free as possible

Shell is shaped for maximum rigidity
Scuff pads protect contact points on the case
Recessed safety latches lock in the shut position
Heat-reflective interior coating adds a layer of protection from the sun
Rubber seal will resist a moderate rain shower

Carbon fiber provides a high degree of strength with light weight
Flight case weighs about 10.2kg (22.5 pounds)

Fits a variety of 34 string harps, not just Dusty Strings models
Approx outside dimensions 137cm x 48cm x 86cm (54" x 19" x 34")

A worthwhile investment in security and stress-free travel.



Now available from Clive Morley Harps

Serving the harp community for over 200 years, today we represent some fantastic harp makers.

We hope to be able to look after your harp playing dreams for the next 100 years.

www.morleyharps.com

harps@morleyharps.com

Tel: (44) 01367 860 493

Knowledge
Practice
Access
Advocacy



Traditional
Music
forum

TRACS / TRADITIONAL
ARTS-CULTURE
SCOTLAND

office@traditionalmusicforum.org

www.cccd.co.uk



Creighton's Collection

Specialist Printers,
Publishers, Distributors
& Retailers of Harp Music

We are really looking forward
to exhibiting at the 42nd
Edinburgh International Harp
Festival in Spring 2023

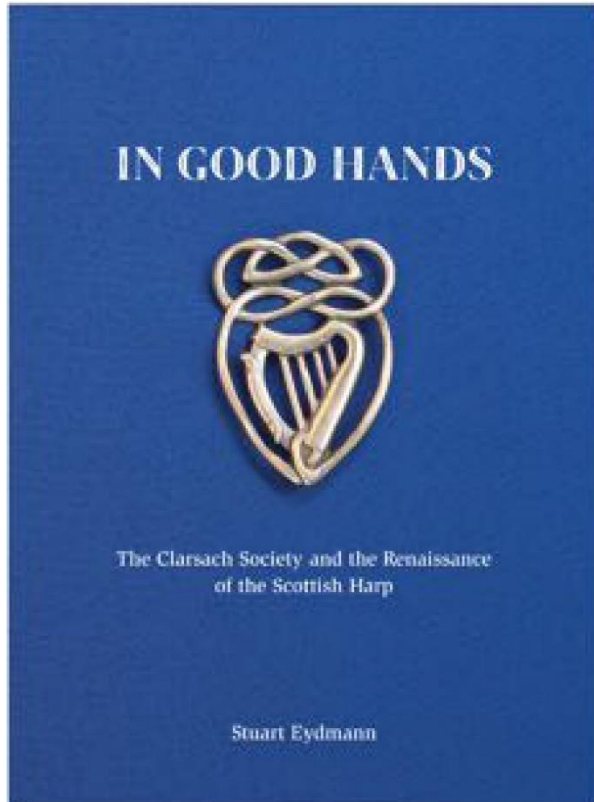
but in the meantime.....

our secure online shop is open at

www.cccd.co.uk

244 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9JG, Wales, UK
Tel: +44 (0)29 2009 7711 Fax: +44 (0)87 0487 7687
Email: tim@creightonsoollection.co.uk

ESSENTIAL CLARSACH READING!



In Good Hands is the first comprehensive exploration of the small harp in Scotland.

Musician and ethnomusicologist Dr Stuart Eydmann charts the rediscovery of Scotland's oldest national instrument through a captivating text, packed with rare photographs and manuscripts.

£12 from clarsachsociety.co.uk

Finance & Administration Committee

The biggest upset the F&A Committee faced was the unexpected resignation of Toby Hawks, our Administrator. Members of the Committee rolled up their sleeves and got on with all the various tasks. We appointed a temporary administrator, Sheena Walker, to run things for us until we decided the best way forward. After some thought, we decided that in future, we will have 2 people in the role, allowing cover for holidays and sickness and avoiding the problems if one of them leaves. Sheena is mostly working from home - in Tobermory - and has coped wonderfully well with the various 'systems' and quirks in our operation.

Early in the year we decided that our hire instruments should be covered for insurance purposes by the Society rather than leaving it up to the hirer to arrange. This avoids the difficulties involved when an instrument is returned in a damaged state and the former hirer ignores any requests to pay. Toby, before he left us, managed to arrange a discounted rate from our insurer which also benefits the branches who have a stock of hire harps. We have had to increase our charges to cover our extra costs and also to cope with inflation. Since most hirers pay by Standing Order, it will take some time to get everybody paying at the new rate. New hirers now pay by Direct Debit which allows the Society to make alterations to the amount paid - if we need to again.

Charles Hope, Convenor of the F&A

Music Committee Report

The Music Committee meetings have continued to be held on Zoom this year, due to the pandemic, meeting on the 12th November 2021 (again due to the AGM being scheduled for the following morning) and again on the 14th May 2022.

The winner of the Iain Macleòid Young Composer Award 2021 was Rhiannon Ramsey-Brimberg from Stonnington, Connecticut, U.S.A. We were delighted to have Rhiannon in-person this year to perform live at the 41st Edinburgh International Harp Festival. Her piece ‘Asrai, The Coin, The Hound’s March, and Waterfall Jig’ was very special and was performed on the Saturday afternoon concert. Rhiannon has studied with society-linked teachers at Berklee College, Maeve Gilchrist & Màiri Chaimbeul. Perhaps you could follow in the footsteps of Rhiannon and the 10 previous winners? Be creative, be brave, just start writing and you never know where it might take you.

As is understandable, the pandemic has still affected many events & yet another year has passed when the Pan Celtic Festival has not been held. There is still no chair for the Alba National Committee but we have restored contact with the festival and I am positive that in time, it will be appropriate to start sending a young clàrsach player to compete as a representative of our society.

The Royal National Mòd in 2021 finally went ahead in Inverness but the decision was made to keep the Clàrsach day completely online as this would guarantee entry numbers. With entry fees this year and back to the usual format of the online entry system for competitors, players were asked to submit one own-choice piece in video format for the following categories: Elementary (Grade 1-2), Intermediate (Grade 3-4), Advanced (Grade 5), Duet & Self-accompanied song. We also wanted to make sure that everyone was catered for and that plenty of Clàrsach playing would be available to see online that day so we created an introductory “competition” where we collated entries for anyone under Grade 1 level to play us a piece and every single one of them would be broadcast, not just the first 3 places in each competition. I was delighted to put these together where I was able to introduce each player and they got a taste for performance by seeing others & themselves perform from the comfort of their own home. Our youngest entry was one of Jennifer Port’s girls! There was also a Senior competition available but set for any age at any level. Ingrid Henderson adjudicated, and entries were given a category of Exceptional, Highly Commended & Commended. They were also sent Gold, Silver & Bronze badges. Only first names of children’s entries were allowed to be

published. The Mòd this year will be held in Perth and it is back to being in-person again. It will be a different day than usual, as can be expected, as people are still working their way back to full confidence at large-scale events again. The plan is to be able to offer future Mòd prescribed music folios as digital downloads from the Mòd website. Look out for details in due course.

Don't forget to apply for our Bursaries (previously known as the Annual Scholarship). The maximum support awarded will be £500 (an increase of £200 from previous years) to help with clàrsach hire, lessons or courses with Scottish content. Applications close on November 1st each year and are specifically aimed at supporting members of any age & level, who are facing financial hardship, especially helpful during these uncertain times we face.

We still continue to update our Music folios, replacing hand-written copies with printed typeset copies. Please take a look at pages 37 & 38 for further information. Don't forget to take a look on Creighton's Collection's website to see which folios we've added recently.

Màiri Macleod, Music Committee Convenor



2022 BURSARIES

- Awards of up to £500
- Open to clarsach players of all ages
- For instrument hire, private lessons or courses with Scottish content

Deadline **1st November 2022**

Further information and application form available from
www.clarsachsociety.co.uk/the-society/awards/

Each year The Clarsach Society offers bursaries to encourage promising players at any level who have limited resources, financial or otherwise. Bursaries up to five hundred pounds are awarded for use towards the cost of tuition and accommodation at an approved course with Scottish content (e.g. Edinburgh International Harp Festival), or alternatively the use of a harp provided free for one year. Any member of The Society, with the exception of trustees, may apply. The closing date for receipt of applications is 1st November each year.

Scholarship Award 2020-21

“I love playing clàrsach because it makes me feel free and happy. When I first heard clàrsach music I realised that I liked the sound of this instrument and I felt like I am in a fairytale story. I wanted instantly to learn how to play it. I have been playing clàrsach for roughly two and a half years now. When I first started playing, I did not know that I would get this far in short time. I was successful at both local and national Mòd. This was a surprise because I can only practise half of the week. I am still not confident to play in front of other people, but I am learning it.

Currently we borrow the instrument from the Clàrsach Society and I used the award for paying for the hire. One day I am hoping to have my own one. I am very grateful for being able to play this amazing and beautiful instrument with my family and friends by my side, without their support I do not know where I would be. And I am grateful to have a supportive teacher, Elinor. “

Zorka Mitrovic, Age 11

Royal National Mod 2021, Virtual

Online performances listed below are still available on YouTube.
Subscribe to An Comunn Gaidhealach.

C1 Elementary

- 1st – Hazel, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce
- 2nd - Ava, Bun-sgoil Inbhir Nis
- 3rd - Lachlan, Acadamaidh Inbhir Pheofharain

C2 Intermediate

- 1st - Amy, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu
- 2nd- Heidi Sophy, Dùn Èideann
- 3rd - Zorka, Dùn Èideann

C3 Advanced

- 1st - Nadine, Sgoil Chiùil Obar Dheathainn
- 2nd - Mairi Anna, Na Hearadh
- 3rd - Xiatong, Dùn Èideann

C4 Duet

- 1st - no placing
- 2nd - Hazel & Sandy, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce
- 3rd - Ava & Hunter, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

C5 Self-accompanied song

- 1st - Isabella, Inbhir Nis
- 2nd - Maria, Àrd-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu
- 3rd - Hazel, Bun-Sgoil Taobh na Pàirce

IC2 - Clàrsach, open to all ages and levels

- 1st – Hazel, Dùn Èideann

AN COMUNN GÀIDHEALACH - ORGANISERS OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL MOD

AM MÒD NÀISEANTA RÌOGHAIL

THE ROYAL NATIONAL MOD



2022 MÒD PHEAIRT | PERTH
14-22 DÀMHAIR | OCTOBER 2022

2023 MÒD PHÀISLIG | PAISLEY
13-21 DÀMHAIR | OCTOBER 2023

2024 MÒD AN ÒBAIN | OBAN
DÀMHAIR | OCTOBER 2024

FOR PROVINCIAL MOD DATES AND MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.ancomunn.co.uk

LE TAIC BHO | WITH SUPPORT FROM



Composer? Aged 16-25?
**Win £500 and a premiere at the Edinburgh
International Harp Festival 2023**



The Iain Macleòid

Young Composer Award 2022

Open call for composers aged 16-25 to present an original piece of music, 8-10 mins in length, for clarsach or lever harp. **Deadline: 5pm, 28th October 2022**
Further details from www.clarsachsociety.co.uk

The Iain Macleòid

Young Composer Award 2022

The Young Composer Award is an annual composition competition, issued by The Clarsach Society. In 2018, the award was renamed The Iain Macleòid Young Composer Award, in memory of the late John Macleod, who served as Vice President and Gaelic Adviser to The Society over many years.

Composers aged between 16 & 25 years of age are invited to submit an original piece of music lasting no longer than 10, and no less than 8 minutes, suitable for either:

- a) Solo Clarsach / Lever harp, or
- b) Clarsach / Lever harp and up to 3 other instruments and/or voices

The composition should be for the standard-sized lever harp: 34 strings with a range from C two octaves below middle C to A three octaves above middle C.

The award is £500 plus a premiere performance at the Edinburgh International Harp Festival 2023.

Competition Rules:

1. All entries must be received by 5pm on the closing date of Friday 28th October 2022.
2. The work must be the unaided work of the entrant and be an original composition. It must not have been previously performed, published or disseminated in any way.
3. The full score in pdf format plus recording of the composition in MP3 format must be submitted together.
4. The recording must match the score.
5. The composer's name should not be stated on the score or MP3 file.
6. Entrants under 18 years of age must have permission to enter this competition.
7. The successful entrant must also be willing to write a short report on winning the award for publication in the Society's Annual Report and on its website.
8. The copyright of the music shall remain with the composer.
9. The cost of the premier performance only, including travel costs for musicians involved (limited to travel within the UK) will be met by Edinburgh International Harp Festival.
10. The composer must be available to perform their composition at the Edinburgh International Harp Festival 2023, date of concert TBC.
11. In the case of a non-harpist submitting a work, it is the composer's responsibility to find the artist(s) to perform the work at the premiere performance.
12. The judges' decision will be final.

2021 Winner: Rhiannon Ramsey-Brimberg

I am honoured to have been awarded the Iain Macleòid Young Composer Award and to have played my piece, 'Asrai, The Coin, The Hound's March, and Waterfall Jig' at the Edinburgh International Harp Festival. My piece was completed with the competition in mind, but segments of my composition had already been written and just needed to be expanded. I poured my heart into my composition and was ecstatic to receive the email confirming my first place and offer to perform my work in person.

The Festival was a wonderful experience, and I really enjoyed taking the courses and workshops that were offered. I learned many tunes, but the course on Irish music was especially helpful in knowing what to expect when I begin my Masters in Irish Music Studies at the University of Limerick this September 2022.

At the Saturday concert, I was presented with a large cardboard cheque by Charles Hope of The Clarsach Society before I performed.

From the stage, I was able to see some old as well as new friends smiling from their seats, as I played 'Asrai, The Coin, The Hound's March, and Waterfall Jig'. I am extremely honoured that my piece was chosen by the judges for this competition and that the audience enjoyed listening to me play as much as I did performing it.

I would like to thank everyone who made this possible, and I hope to continue to make you proud.



The Clarsach Society Folios

Folio 1 Simple Airs for Beginners arr. Jean Campbell	CC £10.00
Folio 3 Twelve Gaelic Songs with Clarsach Accomp. arr. JC	CS £6.00-*
Folio 8 More Solos for the Celtic Harp arr. various	CC £10.00
Folio 9 Sangs o' Court and Luve arr. various	CC £10.00
Folio 13 Ten Scots Songs arr. MF	CS £6.00-*
Folio 15 A Selection of Airs for the Clarsach (Jubilee Book) arr. Anne Macdearmid	CC £10.00
Folio 17 Songs and Solos arr. Gwen McGill	CS £6.00-*
Folio 18 Beginner's Choice arr. AM	CC £10.00
Folio 19 Solos and Songs arr. various	CS £6.00
Folio 21 First Steps AM	CC £10.00
Folio 23 Party Pieces AM	CC £10.00
Folio 28 Scottish Airs arr. & comp. Isobel Mieras	CC £10.00
Folio 29 Eight Songs of Love and Longing arr. IM	CC £10.00
Folio 30 Clarsumbria arr. & comp. Janet Bennett	CC £10.00
Folio 31 Musical Arrangement from "Airs & Melodies" Cpt Simon Fraser, arr. Stephen Nash	CC £7.50
Folio 33 Jean Campbell Memorial Folio	CC £10.00
Folio 34 Millennium Folio: Twenty pieces, composed/ arranged by well-known artists	CC £15.00
Folio 35 "The Solitary Reaper" by Wordsworth S. Nash	CS £7.50
Folio 36 "Trois Kartiennes" for Clarsach, Op. 52 A. Smith	CS £7.50
Folio 37 "Celtic Quest" Six Pieces for Celtic Harp S. Nash	CS £7.50
Folio 38 "For Robbie the Pict", Op. 43 Archibald Smith	CS £7.50-*
Folio 39 75th Anniversary Margaret Daunt Memorial Folio	CC £10.00
Folio 40 Lullabies, Airs and Dances. Vol 1, Elementary	CC £10.00

Folio 41	Lullabies, Airs and Dances. Vol 2, Elementary	CC £10.00
Folio 42	A Tapestry of Scottish Tunes. Vol 1, Intermediate	CC £10.00
Folio 43	A Tapestry of Scottish Tunes. Vol 2, Intermediate	CC £10.00
Folio 44	A Tapestry of Scottish Tunes. Vol 3, Intermediate	CC £10.00
Folio 45	Flying Fingers, Advanced	CC £10.00
Folio 46	Esme's Adventure: The Girl with the Purple Harp various composers	CC £10.00
Folio 47	The 40th Edinburgh International Harp Festival & The Clarsach Society 90th anniversary folio	CC £15.00
Folio	Royal National Mod test pieces 2020 (see note)	CS £7.00

Notes:

CC= Creighton's Collection: www.creighton-griffiths.co.uk
Email: tim@creightonscollection.co.uk, Tel. 029 2039 7711.

CS = The Clarsach Society National Office: www.clarsachsociety.co.uk
Email: office@clarsachsociety.co.uk, Tel. 0131 554 0212. Please note that only limited quantities of these Folios remain: those marked with * will be discontinued, once stock is gone.

The 2020 Royal National Mod test pieces will be used in 2022. Contact our Gaelic advisor on gaelic@clarsachsociety.co.uk for further info/queries on test pieces.

All prices exclude P&P.

Copyright:

The Clarsach Society owns the copyright of all listed folios and music, unless stated otherwise.

No fee is payable, but due acknowledgement is requested when music is performed.

Please contact the copyright holder if in doubt.

GŴYL
DELYNAU
RYNGWLADOL
CYMRU

WALES
INTERNATIONAL
HARP
FESTIVAL



Cyfwrwyddwraig / Festival Director: Elinor Bennett

Bywyd mewn Cerddoriaeth

A Life in Music

Cystadlaethau-Cyngherddau-Dosbarthiadau Meistr
Competitions-Concerts-Masterclasses

Ebrill / April 5 - 11 2023

Galeri Caernarfon, Gwynedd

Taith lansio o amgylch Cymru – Hydref 2022

Festival Launch Tour of Wales – Autumn 2022



CANOLFAN GERDD
William Mathias

01286 685230 | www.cgwm.org.uk
Rhif Elusen / Charity no: 1084271

WWW.WALESHARPFESTIVAL.CO.UK



ARIENNIR GAN
Y LOTERI
LOTTERY FUNDED



Salopian Strings

**Wound strings for Grecian, Gothic,
Clarsach, and Pleyel Harps.**

Cases for all Harp models.

Established in 1978, at Salopian Strings we specialise in the manufacture of wire bound bass strings for the harp. Our customers include most UK harp makers and many worldwide.

Best quality gut and nylon strings supplied.

Our harp cases evolved as a direct result of harp makers and harpists being unable previously to obtain the quality they required.

Individually patterned and tailored carrying cases and dust covers for all harps.

**dinah@salopianstrings.co.uk
01386 750631**

For more information or to place an order visit:
www.salopianstrings.co.uk



THE SKYLARK

The Original

The Best

Stansted House, Tilburstow Hill Road,
South Godstone, Surrey RH9 8NA
Tel: (01342) 893242 email: info@pilgrimharps.co.uk

Pilgrim harps

Pilgrim
HARPS