



NORTH, WEST AND HEBRIDES
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An Lanntair

BA Applied Music Showcase

An Lanntair Stornoway
April, 2025

A week of performance
events celebrating
BA (Hons) Applied Music

nwh.uhi.ac.uk

“



It gives me great pleasure to share our concert programme introducing our BA (Hons) Applied Music students who have travelled to the Isle

of Lewis from across Scotland for a week of assessments at An Lanntair in Stornoway.

”

Corin Anderson

Programme Leader BA (Hons) Applied Music

Now in its second decade, our award-winning BA (Hons) Applied Music is the first degree programme in the UK to deliver a combination of online and face to face activity enabling a flexibility where students can access the course from their local communities.

Our awards including the 2021 Collaborative Award in Teaching Excellence and four consecutive 100% scores in the National Student Survey are testament to this. The impact of the Applied Music programme is evident with so many graduates successfully employed in music and the arts across Scotland, including self-employed performers gracing international stages, community

musicians and trustees, and CEOs of organisations with important roles for the future of culture in Scotland.

We continue to innovate and are responsive to the demands and opportunities in music. We have a diverse and dynamic student cohort – from school leavers to professionals – and invite applications from all musical backgrounds, from rock to classical, traditional to electronic.



Performances

Welcome Ceilidh:

Stornoway Town Hall, Monday 21st April, 7pm

2 hours of dancing and meet-and-greet. Delivered by the UHI Applied Music ceilidh band.

Honours Performances:

The Stornoway Applied Music Showcase is a celebration of student achievements during the academic year. It is a particularly momentous occasion for our Honours students who choose to focus on performance for their final project. They must perform their own concert, bringing with them other collaborators and musicians from within Applied Music and/or their own communities across Scotland. We would like to extend a special welcome to these external collaborators.

Some of our Honours students opt to compose a portfolio of original musical works for their final project. The programme will include presentations from our composer students, in which they will explain their creative process and share excerpts from their portfolios.

In the following pages you can read more about our Honours students' performances and presentations, along with some context for their study and musical life.

The public are very welcome to attend An Lanntair performances.



Honours Performances – Running Order

Martin Adil-Smith	Presentation	Tuesday 22nd April	7pm
Steven Sinclair	Performance	Tuesday 22nd April	8pm
Stéphane Barbey	Presentation	Wednesday 23rd April	7pm
Lauren Kelly	Performance	Wednesday 23rd April	8pm



Showcase Concert



Thursday 24th April, 7pm

A multi-genre feast of music showcasing the talent from the University of the Highlands and Islands' BA (Hons) Applied Music degree. Pipes, fiddles, singer-songwriters, rock bands – and more!



BA (Hons) Applied Music Honours Performances

Martin Adil-Smith

Dagon Rise

Martin Adil-Smith is the songwriter, instrumentalist, and arranger for the North European folk band "Skorum". Meaning "I Invoke", Skorum weaves folk tales from across the continent, focussing on the magickal and outlandish. The forthcoming "Dagon Rise" looks at the stories told by HP Lovecraft and how they have impacted modern storytelling, songwriting and art. Join us for an evening where we get an exclusive listen to the new album, and a short talk on the stories behind each song.



Performance: Tuesday 22nd April, 7pm – An Lanntair, Stornoway

Steven Sinclair

The Sir Jimmy Shand Story

Steven Sinclair, from Caithness, is looking forward to bringing the Sir Jimmy Shand Story to you. The performance will celebrate the life and music of Jimmy Shand (1908-2000), who was a celebrated Scottish Accordionist, Composer and bandleader, whose music played a pivotal role in popularising Traditional Scottish Dance Music. Born in East Wemyss, Fife, Shand grew up in a coal mining community, and his passion for music emerged early, despite his family's modest means. He initially learned to play on a Melodeon before transitioning to the Accordion, an instrument that would become synonymous with his name. Shand's career took off in the 1930s when he began recording with Beltona Records. His distinctive playing style, characterised by its precision, rhythm and lively energy earned him widespread acclaim. He composed over 300 tunes many of which became staples in the repertoire of Scottish Dance Bands, including classics and his signature tune the 'Bluebell Polka'. Through a live performance that will combine music and storytelling, Steven Sinclair on Accordion will be joined on stage by Kate Bain on Piano, Richard Bain on Drums and Ellen Grieve on 2nd Accordion and will pay tribute to Jimmy Shand's legacy and introduce his work to a new generation.



Performance: Tuesday 22nd April, 8pm – An Lanntair, Stornoway

Stéphane Barbey

Arthos: A Story of Identity and Courage

My name is Stéphane Barbey. Born in France, I moved to England some 30 odd years ago to pursue my studies – a venture that didn't really go to plan. My life's story is very much one of fighting against the odds in order to see brokenness turn into triumph. Which is very the same as the story of my music's hero: Arthos. This final year of my degree was an opportunity for me to write something that would announce my intentions as a classical composer, both to myself and to the public at large. The story takes place in Romano-Britain sometime between 400ad and 500ad. Rome is fading, the barbarian Saxons are invading. Who will stand up and unite the fractious and beleaguered Britons? And who will lead them to victory?

From the mist of our distant past a hero rises in the story this composition tells and shows us the way to finding a sense of identity and purpose in our modern age, where we too might feel like a fractured and beleaguered nation. Pay attention to the chorus singing in Latin (the official language of the day), particularly in the first movement, who represent the Romano-Britons and to some extent the hopelessness many must have felt, especially mothers losing their husbands and sons. The rougher male chorus sings in my best expression of Anglo-Saxon. They represent the invading barbarian hordes who respond to the Latin choir demonstrating a battle of cultures.

Performance: Wednesday 23rd April, 7pm – An Lanntair, Stornoway



BA (Hons) Applied Music Honours Performances

Lauren Kelly

Ballads, Breakdowns & Breakthroughs

Ballads, Breakdowns & Breakthroughs is a deeply personal and emotionally charged live performance by Lauren Kelly, designed to take audiences on a journey through the stages of love, heartbreak, and healing—through the power of genre-diverse music. Blending classic covers with original songwriting,

Lauren explores how musical genre shapes our emotional perception. From the soaring vulnerability of musical theatre and soul to the grit of blues rock, the elegance of jazz, and the intimacy of folk, each song in the setlist represents a distinct emotional milestone. The story begins with the hope and tenderness of new love, moves through the pain of loss, anger, and self-reflection, and finally lands in a place of empowerment and growth. Accompanying herself on both piano and guitar, Lauren delivers each piece with rich, emotive vocals, compelling phrasing, and dynamic musical expression. Ballads, Breakdowns & Breakthroughs offers a powerful and relatable experience that invites audiences to feel deeply, reflect sincerely, and connect through shared emotional truth. Her vocal performance is at the heart of the journey—capturing subtle vulnerability one moment and raw power the next, demonstrating both control and soul-stirring artistry. The programme includes music by Jennifer Hudson, Joni Mitchell, Ella Fitzgerald, Patsy Cline, and Natasha Bedingfield, alongside five original compositions by Lauren herself, showcasing her vocal versatility, songwriting skill, instrumental ability, and expressive storytelling. From heartbreak to hope, this performance highlights the transformative power of music as both an emotional outlet and a universal language of healing.



Performance: Wednesday 23rd April, 8pm – An Lanntair, Stornoway

Linda Campbell

Exploring the role of the 'accompanist' in the context of a musical ensemble

A recital demonstrating the versatility of the Chromatic (Piano Key) Accordion in the roles of both melodic 'lead' and 'accompanist', across different genres.

Performance: Monday 7th April, 12pm – Greyfriars
Kirk, Edinburgh



Student Profiles

Martin Adil-Smith

Where are you from?

North Coast of Isle of Lewis via London

What instruments do you play?

My instrument is my Digital Audio Workstation. I programme and perform virtual instruments

What or who inspired you to start playing?

My current inspiration is Heilung, who are within the North European Folk Tradition, singing songs and poems about the viking age.

What does your musical practice look like?

Most days I draft lyrics around a hook before expanding into songs or tone poems.

What do you love about music and being a musician?

The freedom it affords me and the opportunity to explore esoteric subjects.

What drew you to Applied Music?

My desire to explore music in greater detail.

What have been the highlights of your musical career?

Getting airplay on BBC Radio 2.

What has been the best experience/what did you learn most about on the course?

Understanding and implementing four part harmonies under the tutelage of Peter Noble.

What will you take away – favourite memory?

Selling Allan Henderson the idea of a pagan rock festival on the moors of the Outer Hebrides.

What are your future aspirations?

To dominate the world.



Steven Sinclair

Where are you from?

I'm from Dunbeath in Caithness

What instruments do you play?

I play piano and accordion, and I sing.

What or who inspired you to start playing?

I have always had a keen interest in music from a very young age. My granny from Dunbeath would always put on music for me to listen to and I think that's where my interest came from to learn an instrument at an early age. I then started to get piano lessons from Kate Bain at age 7 and accordion lessons from Addie Harper Jnr at age 10.

What does your musical practice look like?

I love Country and Traditional Scottish music. I mainly play solo gigs around Caithness and further afield. I sing and play piano and changeover and play some sets on accordion and then back to singing and playing piano.

What do you love about music and being a musician?

I love how it opens doors for you, and I love the social aspect of being a musician.

What drew you to Applied Music?

As I would like to go into teaching, I applied for the course so that I could learn new skills that I can use in future employment.

What have been the highlights of your musical career?

I have played in the Orkney, Inverness and Ellon Royal British Legions for dances, and I played in Aberchirder near Aberdeen for Hogmanay a few years ago and had great nights playing. I have released 3 singles to date. I have recently put some of my music videos onto TikTok and I'm delighted with the response and views.

What has been the best experience/what did you learn most about on the course?

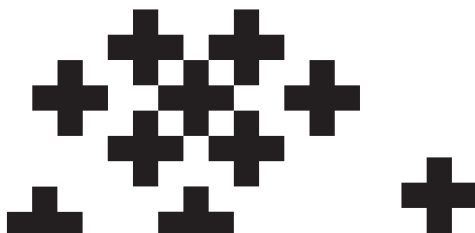
I have had the opportunity to be back having regular accordion lessons with my great teacher Addie Harper Jnr since 2021. I hadn't had a lesson from Addie for about 8 years, so it's been a great opportunity to be getting lessons again. I learned a lot about academic writing and referencing and I feel my essay writing has improved. I'm also more knowledgeable about recording music from home and using a DAW.

What will you take away – favourite memory?

My favourite memory would have to be the Stornoway residencies, meeting up with all my fellow students in all years and lecturers in person.

What are your future aspirations?

I'm going to continue playing music and would like to record and release an album in the next year. I would also like to start teaching music.



Stéphane Barbey

Where are you from?

I was born in the Pyrenees in France, but have lived in Salisbury, south England, for over 30 years.

What instruments do you play?

I am mainly a composer, but I also play the French Horn.

What or who inspired you to start playing?

Ever since my father started buying and selling electronic pianos and keyboards, I became fascinated with their capacity to record one's own compositions. My mother was a trained concert pianist, and the ethereal sounds that came from her playing when trying to master Debussy or Chopin became a profound source of inspiration to me.

What does your musical practice look like?

I divide my time between composing personally tailored music for individuals who have commissioned me to compose a piece based on their name, and composing music that I like to listen to, that I like to hear, that gives me pleasure.

What do you love about music and being a musician?

Music has this ability to convey vast landscapes of ideas and emotions in ways that word and visuals can't. Because music isn't in visual form, anyone of us can conjure up any world our imagination is capable of. And being a composer allows me to create something that will elevate people out of their hopelessness into a place of relief and hope.

What drew you to Applied Music?

Practically, the online study aspect. Musically, the applied aspect of the course. I love the practical and thoughtful approach to learning that the course has achieved.

What have been the highlights of your musical career?

Recently having my compositions played by a live orchestra, in a local town. Not a high quality orchestra, but good enough to pull off my piece, which I was able to conduct.

What has been the best experience/what did you learn most about on the course?

I was astounded to learn mostly about myself when I was doing one to one composition studies with Mark Sheridan. And in learning about myself, I was able to unlock a far greater capacity than I knew I had.

What will you take away – favourite memory?

Hopefully my presentation this year in Stornoway. Otherwise, my growing as a composer.

What are your future aspirations?

I will carry on as a composer, creating large scale musical productions that touch the heart, elevate people out of the drudgery of life and give hope. I am re-launching my "You Are Music" composition project, where I compose individually tailored music based on the person's name who has commissioned me to do so, and I will start the creation of an orchestra dedicated to veterans from the British forces.

Lauren Kelly

Where are you from?

I'm from a town called Coatbridge, just outside Glasgow.

What instruments do you play?

I sing and play guitar, piano and ukulele.

What or who inspired you to start playing?

I grew up with musical family members – my cousin is in a band in Ireland called Ham Sandwich who are quite well-known. I developed a love of music from an early age due to this.

What does your musical practice look like?

10 mins of warmups (vocal/instrumental), 30-45 mins on song practice, 10 mins of technical work (scales/arpeggios/lead playing, etc), 5 min cool down (especially vocals).

What do you love about music and being a musician?

I feel very free and confident when performing onstage, particularly through singing original songs. I love the fact that music is universal in many ways – many people will feel thoughts/feelings/memories surrounding songs/soundtracks/artists in our lives. I love to connect with people through my role as a musician.

What drew you to Applied Music?

I was really keen on exploring the Honours year and enjoyed the various modules of Applied Music. Besides the opportunity to attend residencies such as Inverness and Stornoway, I was excited to explore the Education module as this is something I'm passionate about.

What have been the highlights of your musical career?

In 2023, I was keys player and backing singer for Lewis Capaldi's opening band at OVO Hydro. I had the chance to speak with Lewis after the performance. In 2019, I also worked at the OVO Hydro, working as part of a choir for Jack Whitehall's comedy show. My song 'white lies, wicked eyes' from my debut EP 'for you' was featured on BBC Introducing Scotland in 2023.

What has been the best experience/what did you learn most about on the course?

My favourite modules have been Music & Culture and Sustainable Creative Endeavour. I loved hearing about Cities of Music and how music works alongside various disciplines – such as theatre, dance, film, etc. I loved learning about ways in which you can create a sustainable career in the music industry.

What will you take away – favourite memory?

It was fun meeting current students and lecturers at the Inverness induction in September. It was great to get the opportunity to perform music with students of all backgrounds musically and connect in this way together.

What are your future aspirations?

I have many goals for my musical career – my biggest being that I can continue writing, recording and releasing original work and performing to live audiences. I am also passionate about teaching, having worked as a private music tutor since 2019. I hope to continue this and potentially explore further avenues such as music therapy.

Linda Campbell

Where are you from?

Edinburgh, Scotland

What instruments do you play?

Mainly piano accordion. Started on guitar, have dabbled with many other stringed instruments and vocals.

What or who inspired you to start playing?

Accordion - Eddi Reader in John Byrne's Comedy Drama Serial "Your Cheatin' Heart" (BBC Scotland, 1990).

What does your musical practice look like?

I mostly enjoy accompaniment - specifically enabling less confident players to participate in community music making activities. I host 'trad' sessions in Edinburgh pubs for the enjoyment of collaborating players and the audiences. Over the years, I have taught accordion playing skills to private students and community music classes. I am also an 'activist', challenging the 'status quo' and the damaging societal expectations of music-making abilities, particularly folk with learning disabilities. Identifiable by their visible markings and ostracised from the mainstream world, there is no formal, integrated pathway in music for this group - yet! Finally, through support from the UHI Student Development Fund, I have been able to source a 'mentor' to guide me through the role of 'Artist Manager' for my son.

What do you love about music and being a musician?

I love being able to communicate with people through music - it is a great social conduit - most of my friends come from the music-making communities.

What drew you to Applied Music?

A friend and alumna told me she was studying the Applied Music course. She was heading to a residency somewhere - it sounded exciting. This was before the pandemic.

What have been the highlights of your musical career?

The small changes which have happened in response to my disruptive challenges to the status quo regarding EDI issues.

What has been the best experience/what did you learn most about on the course?

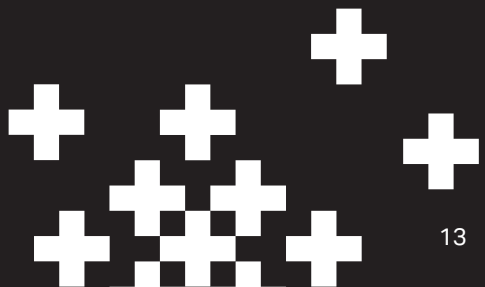
I loved the composition challenges. Contextual studies provided me with insights into music I wouldn't otherwise have listened to - introduced by both staff and fellow students. Opportunities to collaborate were fun too!

What will you take away – favourite memory?

Being invited to accompany a fellow student in her performance. We hadn't met at that time and she was in a different year group, however that was the start of a great, supportive, collaborative and sustainable relationship.

What are your future aspirations?

To see significant change in educational and professional opportunities for people with learning disabilities. To keep playing. To keep learning and follow up on the topics introduced during my studies in greater depth!



UHI Student Development Fund:

Many of our Applied Music students have received support during their studies from the Student Development Fund, which only exists thanks to the kind support of donors.

If you are interested in supporting future Applied Music students with a one-off or monthly donation, you can donate via the link below or contact development@uhi.ac.uk.

We value every donation we receive to help ensure our students have the best experience possible.

uhi.ac.uk/en/giving/donate/

Contact

For more information, please contact

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