

# HIPPODROME silent film festival

Our 10th festival celebrating silent film with music

ONLINE FROM 17-21 MARCH | HIPPFEST.CO.UK



## New Found Sound

Sunday 21 March 2021

A programme of three short films, preserved in the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive, accompanied by music composed and performed by young musicians from the Falkirk area.

- Music Score for **All On A Summer's Day** By: Chloe Ashe, Jamie Harrower, Abie Laurie, Evie MacDonald, Sophie Morrison, Jasmine Milne, and Joseph Steel
- Musical accompaniment for **The Log Cabin** By Falkirk Schools Junior Trad Band
- Musical accompaniment for **Schoolboy Hostellers** by Falkirk Schools Senior Trad Band

### Composition project with pupils from Grangemouth High School: *All On A Summer's Day*

Colin Broom, composer and mentor: "The New Found Sound Orchestra project was a fascinating one with a lot of moving parts! This was my third year being involved with it as a composer/mentor, previously having worked with Bo'ness Academy and St Mungo's High School.

This year it was the turn of Grangemouth High School, and seven pupils collaborated together to compose the score to a silent movie picked from the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive.

We took the film and broke it into sections. The pupils then chose the part they wanted to work on. Some worked in pairs, some on their own. They would watch the film, and then try ideas out, sometimes on piano, sometimes guitar and later on music notation software.

Composer Fergus Hall and I acted as mentors for the pupils, assisting them to get their ideas down, offering suggestions, and helping them work out the tricky parts. The pupils worked hard and enthusiastically, all the while listening to each other's work and offering encouragement.

Once the pupils had completed their music, Fergus and I took it away and arranged it, all ready to be rehearsed by the Falkirk Schools Orchestra the following week.

But the work wasn't finished for the Grangemouth pupils. Now they had to learn how to conduct an orchestra, and in a manner resembling a relay race how to, quite literally, pass the (conductor's) baton onto the next pupil while the orchestra kept playing, without skipping a beat! It all had to be carefully choreographed. It's no small feat to stand up in front of an orchestra of your peers for the first time and

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lead them through music you have composed, but they absolutely rose to the challenge, and were doing a fine job.

Sadly, due to the pandemic, we weren't able to have the performance. A shame, as the pupils had worked extremely hard - they were ready, and the orchestra was ready. What you hear on the video is the software interpretation of the music, which does give a fairly good idea of it. It is testament to the hard work of the pupils at Grangemouth High School and they have every reason to be proud of what they achieved. It was a real pleasure to work with the pupils and fun hearing and working with them on their musical ideas.

Fergus and I are grateful for the support and assistance from Principal Music Teacher Annabel Stewart at Grangemouth High to David McLaren, Ian Boulter, and the Falkirk instrumental staff, and to the pupils of the Falkirk Schools Orchestra, who persevered with new (and sometimes tricky) music, and of course their parents who got them there each week.

## Section Composers:

Chloe Ashe and Evie MacDonald: from the beginning until about 2m 30s.

Joseph Steel: from 2m 30s (from the car horn being pressed).

Jamie Harrower: from 4m 58s (car leaving just after possibly the most dramatic game of golf the world has seen).

Abbie Laurie and Sophie Morrison: from 7m 37s (car driving after having left the swimming pool).

Jasmin Milne: from 10m 18s (night-time driving scenes)."

**All on a Summer's Day** (Meteor Film Producing Society) Filmed by Ian Ross | UK | 1933 | N/C PG | 13m 6s (incomplete end titles) |

**With:** Marjorie Saunders (The Girl), R Muir Glen (The Boy) | Screening material courtesy of the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive

Won the prize for best non-fiction film at the Scottish Amateur Film Festival's Open Competition in 1933. Swimming pool scenes were shot at Prestwick.

## Falkirk Schools Junior Trad Band: *The Log Cabin*

John Somerville, Falkirk Schools Trad Band Tutor: "We began working on the soundtrack to this silent film in February 2020. After watching the film through several times we discussed as a group the feel, energy, and atmosphere of the individual scenes. It was then up to the trad band participants to try and pick particular tunes that best represented the mood conveyed in each scene. In the case of this film it seemed appropriate to divide it into three parts.



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Opening the film, and to reinforce the peaceful, tranquil mood is a traditional Waltz, *Leaving Lismore*. Secondly, we felt we had to accentuate the 'cowboy/Indian' influence and so it seemed natural to pick a melody from across the Atlantic. *Cluck Old Hen* is an old time Bluegrass tune that has a strong American identity. The final tune *Pinch of Snuff* corresponds nicely to the theme of the last part of the film, with snuff being used to effectively ward-off the 'Indian' invaders. The upbeat and jovial nature of this tune cements the feeling of joy, relief, and happiness at the end.

Once the main framework of the piece was together, we worked on the transitions between the melodies, utilising musical techniques such as the bodhrans creating a heartbeat-like effect and taking fragments of the melody and adding drones underneath.

The challenge this year was to plan how to allow participants to contribute by remote recording. A backing track was recorded by the tutors that provided a map of the arrangement for the participants to play along to. Using a set of headphones they all recorded their parts via phone or tablet and then sent it by email to be included in the final soundtrack.

The final result is a culmination of several months' work. We hope you enjoy the film!"

**Junior Trad Band:** Jagoda Krawiec (Guitar); Finlay Davidson, Chloe Hughes, Lilliana Kosinka, Hayley Mckinlay, Megan Randall, Aneka Zub (Fiddle); Isla Duke, Ross Simpson, John Oscar Walker (Accordion); Lewis Myles, Bruce Wright (Bodhran).

**Tutors:** John Somerville (Accordion), Laura Beth Salter (Mandolin).

***The Log Cabin*** | Dir. Frank Marshall | UK | 1936 | N/C PG | 6m 31 | Featuring Muriel Marshall and Arthur R. Smith supported by Kenneth Jeffrey and Nairn Marshall | Screening material courtesy of the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive.

Regulars to HippFest will be familiar with the gently humorous work of prolific amateur filmmaker Frank Marshall (1896-1979). Usually starring his wife and children (Muriel and Nairn, both seen here) and later his grandchildren, his 120+ films won many awards at amateur competitions both in the UK and further afield. Not content with just directing, Marshall often produced, edited, and designed sets (and special effects) for his films and can even be occasionally glimpsed in front of the camera. During WWII he made instructional training films for women. He was elected Chairman of the Scottish Association of Amateur Cinematographers in 1949 and served on the Board of the Scottish Film Council until 1972. You can view more of Marshall's films at [movingimage.nls.uk](http://movingimage.nls.uk).



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## Falkirk Schools Senior Trad Band: *Schoolboy Hostellers*

John Somerville, Falkirk Schools Trad Band Tutor: “Much like the junior film, work began on this soundtrack in February 2020. A similar process was undertaken with all the trad band participants watching the film through and then deciding on tunes that matched and best represented the various scenes.

We have always liked films with motion and this particular film, with the theme of cycling and adventure at its heart, kept a positive and energetic mood throughout. Everyone felt this was best represented with a couple of upbeat melodies and so we picked a reel and a jig as our core theme tunes that are visited several times throughout. We had just finished working on a French-Canadian tune entitled *Le Air Mignone (Canadian Sunshine)* and as the title suggests it has a positive and buoyant mood that seemed apt for the film. The second tune *The Old Favourite* is a traditional Scottish jig, again with positive undertones.

The soundtrack also includes a tune familiar to many people, *Kate Dalrymple*, a simple traditional melody that provides the theme music for Radio Scotland’s *Take the Floor*. In the film this used in a slightly tongue-in-cheek way.

Our thanks go to our tutor Marc Duff for being the driving force behind arranging the melodies and the arrangement includes a short section penned by Marc himself.

We hope you enjoy the result of all of our work.”

**Intermediate/Advanced Trad Band:** Kayla Bennie, Zoe Bennie, Àine O'Donovan (Whistle); Ava Paterson (Guitar); Calum MacArthur, Jamie McGinley (Accordion); Sam Hughes, Isla Simpson, Edwin Walker (Mandolin); James McBurney, Rebecca Mitchell (Fiddle).

**Tutors:** Marc Duff (Whistle, Bodhran, Bouzouki), John Somerville (Accordion), Lorna Swan (Fiddle).

***Schoolboy Hostellers*** | Filmed by Charles McKenzie | UK | 1951 | N/C PG | 9m 47s | Screening material courtesy of the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive

With thanks to **Hostelling Scotland** for permission to screen this film.

This film shows Smithy and his friends, a group of young people on a cycling holiday in Scotland staying in various youth hostels. You may want to reach for a map whilst watching so you can see the sights without having to use any pedal power! You will follow them cycling through Dalmeny, Queensferry (with a view of the iconic Forth Bridge, which opened in March 1890) and Clackmannan, and stopping at



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Dunblane Youth Hostel where they play games with the warden before cycling to Creag Dhu, Doune and Callendar. The film ends with shots of the group climbing Ben A'an and looking down on Loch Katrine.

New Found Sound is supported by the Youth Music Initiative and Screen Education Edinburgh.



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