



## PRESS RELEASE

### Traditional Arts Apprentices Scheme to be Launched in Dundee

This summer will see the launch of the first Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Scheme in Scotland during the Living Tradition Summer School's Traditional Music and Dance Week being held in July at the West Park Centre in Dundee.

The Living Tradition Summer School is made up of a number of separate weeks, each concentrating on specific elements of traditional Scottish Arts. Between the 12th and 17th of July the West Park Centre will be host to both some of the best traditional musicians in the country, and eager students there to learn from them. The Living Tradition has secured funding from Awards for All to extend this learning experience throughout the next year for those wishing to take up the opportunity. Apprentice musicians will have access to master-classes as well as ongoing advice and support from established experts in their chosen field of traditional music. The scheme will work like any other apprenticeship, with those taking part learning their craft directly from those who are already masters of it and have the desire and ability to pass on their hard earned knowledge and experience in order to create the next generation of skilled musical craftsmen and performers.

The organisation behind this project is The Living Tradition, based in Kilmarnock, headed up by Pete Heywood. It was originally set up to run folk festivals and organise the teaching of traditional music. The Living Tradition magazine is now distributed internationally with the aim of raising the profile of traditional music across world. Over the last 15 years Living Tradition can claim some credit in this respect in Scotland, but can only do so because of the huge range of activities that take place at grassroots level. Sustained effort by enthusiasts throughout Scotland has meant that once again traditional music making is firmly embedded in a new generation of up and coming performers.

The Traditional Arts Apprentices Scheme will be great boost to this renewed fascination with our deep and wonderful musical heritage, and will provide a solid foundation on which our next generation of musicians can build.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACTS**

### **2009 SUMMER SCHOOLS**

This year (2009) there will be five distinct weeks at the Summer School:

Traditional Music, Dance & Song Week	July 12 – 17
Guitar & Instrumental Week	July 19 – 24
Creative Arts Week	July 26 – 31
Common Ground Scotland	Aug 2 – 7
Music Technology Week	Aug 9 – 14,

Traditional music, song and dance will be a common thread running throughout all of the weeks, with each having its own distinctive character and programme of instruction and performances.

#### **Public Contact details for the summer schools:**

Website: [www.livingtradition.org.uk/summerschools](http://www.livingtradition.org.uk/summerschools)

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