

The Traditional Music & Song Association of Scotland - Vision Statement

The TMSA is a membership organisation drawing support from performers, organisers, collectors, festival and ceilidh attenders, publishers, instrument makers and other enthusiasts concerned with fostering interest in the traditional arts of Scotland.

Established in 1966, the Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland (TMSA) is committed to promote, present and preserve the traditional music and song of Scotland - operating at a national and a local branch level.

Operating through the branches, the TMSA provides opportunities for participation (as performer and audience) for people of all ages and abilities by running festivals, ceilidhs, concerts, workshops, tours and competitions. These activities help create an environment in which old and new interpretations of traditional music and song can flourish and interact with other types of music and cultures.

Each year, the TMSA organises a national tour of the finalists of the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year Competition – a well-respected and successful showcase for young performers representing the breadth of Scotland's musical and song traditions and a flagship example to all of the strength, quality and vibrancy of Scottish traditional music and song.

The TMSA possesses a huge knowledge reservoir and is a point of contact for many external bodies seeking advice and information. Passing on the tradition from one generation to the next is central to the work of the TMSA.

Each year the TMSA publishes its Event Calendar. This internationally recognised publication gives invaluable information about traditional music festivals and events the length and breadth of Scotland. The Event Calendar is available on our website www.tmsa.org.uk The website also contains a wealth of other useful information, including local traditional music sessions.

The branches are each particularly involved in sustaining the specific cultural traditions of their area, as well as those of Scotland as a whole. The TMSA branches are spread between urban and rural bases, and reflect the complex nature of Scotland's cultural heritage of agricultural and industrial traditional music and song.

Local tradition bearers help to ensure that the wide diversity of Scotland's culture is maintained. The genre of traditional music is intrinsically inclusive and the TMSA believes that this internationally recognised heritage provides a core for the people of Scotland "to express our identity as individuals, as communities and as a nation". (Scottish Arts Council)

In essence:-

- V** -valuing and enjoying the cultural diversity of Scotland's heritage
- I** -inclusive, inter-generational and interactive - opportunities for all to participate
- S** -supporting and developing local community based branches
- I** -informing, advising and educating, nationally and internationally
- O** -old and new interpretations of traditional music and song
- N** -nurturing new talent and fostering artistic excellence