

Seinn Spioradail

Sacred Soundscapes of
the Highlands & Islands



6

Years

10

Islands

100

People

300

Songs

'S e taisbeanadh air a chur ri chèile le Dr Frances Wilkins agus Ronan Martin.
An exhibition curated by Dr Frances Wilkins and Ronan Martin.



1. Psalms
2. Precenting
3. Family worship
4. Learning the Psalms
5. Psalms in Popular Culture
6. Hymns in the Church
7. Eriskay Hymns
8. Christ Child's Lullaby
9. The Months of Mary
10. Sing to the Lord
11. The Wee Red Book
12. Personalised Hymn Books
13. Psalm Boats
14. Changing Soundscapes
15. The Bards and Composers



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Murdo MacMillan and Magaidh Smith - members of the Psalm Boat Project at the opening of Seinn Spioradail, January 2024. © Mairi M Martin.

Tour schedule

20 Jan - 13 Apr 2024	Museum nan Eilean, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
19 Apr - 14 June 2024	Kinloch Historical Society, Balallan, Isle of Lewis
21 June - 22 Nov 2024	Skye & Lochalsh Archive Centre, Isle of Skye
1 Dec - 28 Feb 2025	Taigh Chearsabhagh, North Uist
1 Mar - Summer 2025	Comunn Eachdraidh Nis, Isle of Lewis
Summer 2025 -	Additional venues to be confirmed

Exhibition specification

- A0 panels (9x portrait panels)
- A1 panels (10x portrait panels)
- A2 panels (13x portrait panels)
- Touchscreen Digital Archive (featuring over 300 songs from the Archive)
- Objects (over 50x objects including archive photographs, books, vinyl, cassettes and CDs)
- Audio listening stations (3x listening stations with samples from the Archive)
- Children's area (colouring in, song writing, pebble designs)
- Feedback area (visitor book, post-it-notes area, feedback form, online form)
- Ethnographic exhibition film (7 minutes)
- Bilingual (Gàidhlig/ English)



Curators Frances Wilkins and Ronan Martin at the opening of Seinn Spioradail Exhibition, January 2024. © Mairi M Martin.

Credits

Research	Frances Wilkins
Curation	Frances Wilkins and Ronan Martin
Design	Ronan Martin and Frances Wilkins
Translation	Gillebride MacMillan
Photographic work	Mairi M Martin and Frances Wilkins
Panel printing	Stornoway Media Centre
Film	Frances Wilkins and Ronan Martin
Digital archive/website	Open Virtual Worlds (University of St Andrews)
Video editing	Chris Nightingale, Frances Wilkins
Audio editing	Andrada Maries, David Fayle, Mary Stratman, Thomas Ramsay, Frances Wilkins

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Thanks especially to all the contributors who gave their time and helped to shape this project, and to members of the communities in the Hebrides and beyond who contributed in many ways to the research. The exhibition, Seinn Spioradail is one of the first outputs from the project and there will be a number of other publications and resources to follow.

'S e taisbeanadh air a chur ri chèile le Dr Frances Wilkins agus Ronan Martin a tha ann an Seinn Spioradail. Thathar a' taisbeanadh an t-sàr-bheartas de sheallaidhean, fhuaimnean agus chuimhneachain de sheinn agus sgrìobhadh òrain spioradail ann am beatha làitheil ann an coimhearsnachdan sa Ghàidhealtachd agus sna h-Eileanan, rud a tha air a bhith na phàirt de bheatha na Gàidhealtachd fad mìltean bhliadhnaichean.

Tha an taisbeanadh air tighinn bho shia bliadhna de rannsachadh air traidiseanan òrain chràbhaidh a chaidh a dhèanamh le Dr Frances Wilkins bho Ionad Elphinstone, Oilthigh Obar Dheathain.

Seinn Spioradail is an exhibition curated by Dr Frances Wilkins and Ronan Martin exploring the incredible wealth of sights, sounds and memories of spiritual singing and song writing in everyday life in Highland and Island communities, something which has been part of Highland culture for millenia.

The exhibition has emerged as a result of six years' research into sacred song traditions conducted by Dr Frances Wilkins of The Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen.

Contact

For more information or to enquire about the Seinn Spioradail Exhibition coming to your own venue please contact:

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