



UHI | NORTH, WEST AND HEBRIDES
A TUATH, AN IAR IS INNSE GALL

Uist Music Residency.



20th–22nd March





Introduction.

The first UHI North, West and Hebrides traditional music residency will take place in South Uist on 20-22nd March 2026. We would love to welcome you to our first music residency with UHI North, West and Hebrides at Cnoc Soilleir. Join us for an immersive experience where participants will take part in inspiring musical workshops in fiddle, piping, accordion, and guitar, led by renowned, top-class tutors Allan Henderson, Iain MacDonald, Ewan Robertson, and Pàdruig Morrison, alongside immersion in landscape and culture. Participants should be competent on their instruments.

At the edge of the Atlantic, where machair meets sea and the rhythms of land and tide still shape daily life, this remarkable Hebridean island is a place where creativity, and community naturally intertwine. Where Gaelic language, music, song and story remain living forces. From its rich oral traditions and vibrant music, South Uist offers a rare opportunity to slow down, listen deeply, and create work rooted in both environment and culture.

Tutors.

Allan Henderson: Originally from Mallaig, but now living in South Uist, Allan Henderson has been a well-kent face on the traditional music scene for many years. A multi-instrumentalist and composer, he was a founder member of Blazin' Fiddles and toured extensively with them for fifteen years. He is also a former Musician in Residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and is constantly in demand as a performer, teacher, composer, producer and broadcaster.

Allan joined the University of the Highlands and Islands staff in 2019, and has since taught on the HNC Music course and on the Music and the Applied Music (BA) degree.



Iain MacDonald: Iain MacDonald is a musician, composer and producer & tutor from Glenuig in Moidart in the West Highlands. Raised in a Gaelic-speaking community, he studied piping at Queen Victoria School in Dunblane under Pipe Major John M. MacKenzie.

He co-founded Fir Chlis, Scotland's first Gaelic Theatre Company, before touring and recording extensively with leading folk bands including Ossian, and The Battlefield Band. His theatre and film work includes collaborations with 7:84, Tosg and Bill Bryden's production The Ship.

Iain has collaborated with many of Scotland's foremost traditional musicians and has produced numerous recordings. He served for seven years as Musician in Residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and has taught internationally at He is currently Artistic Director of Ceòlas in South Uist and teaches at UHI NWH, alongside offering private tuition.

Ewan Robertson: Robertson is best known as a singer, guitarist and founding member of the highly successful, contemporary folk group Breabach. As a group, Breabach have carved out international recognition as one of Scotland's most innovative and creative acts. They co-curated 'Boomerang' a cross cultural collaboration performed at Womad Nz, the Sydney Opera House and on Glasgow Green for Festival 2014 during the Commonwealth Games. They have performed for Radio and Television and have received multiple awards and nominations for their recordings and live work. In September 2025 they performed for the Grand Ole Opry's 100 year anniversary celebrations in the Royal Albert Hall where they collaborated with Darius Rucker and performed alongside Luke Combs, Ashley MacBryde and other Country Stars. In a solo capacity Robertson has gained recognition for his guitar accompaniment, working with a diverse range of artists such as singer Siobhan Miller and folk fusion giants The Unusual Suspects. It is arguably as a singer/songwriter that his real talents are highlighted. In 2008 he was named BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year. His debut solo album 'Some Kind of Certainty' followed in 2010 showcasing his songwriting and his ability to interpret traditional songs in a subtle but creative manner. More recently he was commissioned to write for the Celtic Connections New Voices series. His 50 minute audio visual piece 'Chasing Blue' was inspired by his experiences of competing in the Ironman event 'Celtman' and received multiple 5 star reviews.



'wonderful artistry and movingly powerful results' *** The Scotsman**



Padruig Morrison: Dr Pàdruig Morrison is an acclaimed accordionist and composer from Grimsay. A 2020 finalist in the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year, Pàdruig's music is deeply rooted in the Gaelic oral tradition. He straddles the worlds of Scottish traditional music and contemporary classical composition, a synthesis he explored in his PhD research.

As well as performing regularly in Scotland and Europe with his band Beinn Lee, Pàdruig released his debut solo album this January, comprising of entirely self-penned music including four original Gaelic songs. Buin is a exploration and deep reflection of connections to place, history, and culture. Pàdruig has written music for the National Trust for Scotland, St Magnus International Festival, Edinburgh International Book Festival, members of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and has scored eight soundtracks for TV and radio.

Getting here.

Ferry: To get to the island you use the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry services from either Uig (Skye) to Lochmaddy or from Mallaig to Lochboisdale, there are also inter island ferries connections from Leverburgh (Isle of Harris) and Ardmere (Isle of Barra)

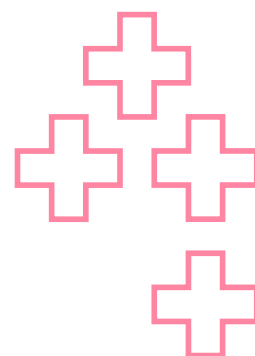
Visit the [CalMac website](#) for full information and timetables.

Flights: There are direct flights to Benbecula with Loganair from Glasgow airport. There is also a direct flight from Stornoway with Hebridean Air services.

Visit the [Loganair website](#) for full details.

Visit the [Hebridean Air Services Ltd](#) for full details

Getting about the island.



Once you're in Uist, Cnoc Soilleir Campus is located in the village of Daliburgh, South Uist. Cnoc Soilleir is a 10-minute drive from Lochboisdale ferry terminal, a 30-minute drive from Benbecula airport and a 60-minute drive from Lochmaddy ferry terminal.

Car Hire: If you're flying in, there's a car hire company located at Benbecula airport:

[Benbecula Airport | Car Hire Hebrides](#)

Do I need a car? There is no doubt that a car is the easiest way to get about and explore the island, however, although not having one may require a bit more planning, it's very feasible to come on this residency and use public transport, so long as you're happy to plan any travel days around the timetables.

Buses: There are bus services serving the islands, please see the attached links for the timetables that include these areas and visit the [Uists, Benbecula, Berneray and Eriskay Bus Timetables | Comhairle nan Eilean Siar](#) for more timetables and full details.

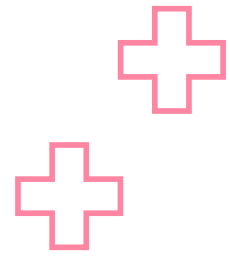
Accommodation: Uist Travel Accommodation is located a 4-minute walk from Cnoc Soilleir Campus and is offering a special rate for residency dates. For accommodation details visit: [Uist Travel Accommodation](#). *To access special rate please contact the owner directly by email to book and use the reference 'Uist Music Residency'.

Email: uisttravelaccommodationlimited@gmail.com

Daliburgh Village: In Daliburgh, there is a Coop, Hotel (Borrodale) and Chippy takeaway all within walking distance of Cnoc Soilleir Campus.



Things to see and do. ■



History & Culture

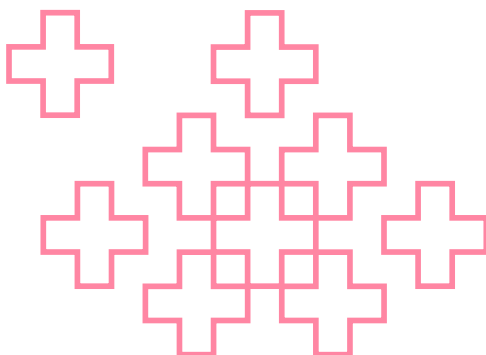
- + Cladh Hallan Roundhouses (Uist Unearthed Site) Uist Unearthed - [What will you Discover? - Outer Hebrides](#)
- + A must-visit archaeology site - this Bronze Age village's roundhouses are brought to life with the Uist Unearthed app's augmented-reality experience. Discover what ancient settlers' homes looked like and listen to stories as you stand on the machair.
- + Kildonan Museum
- + Learn about island life, crofting, fishing, Gaelic heritage and artefacts from South Uist's rich history. March is a great time to warm up indoors and absorb local stories.
- + Flora MacDonald's house
- + Historic site near Mingarry marking the birthplace of Flora MacDonald, famed for helping Bonnie Prince Charlie after Culloden.
- + Local Standing Stones & Ruins
- + An Carra Standing Stone – ancient monument set in traditional machair.
- + Ormacleit Castle – atmospheric castle remains to explore.

Nature & Wildlife

- + Beach Walks & Machair
- + Kildonan beach – scenic sandy stretch on the west coast.
- + Eriskay Beach and Prince Charlie's Bay – beautiful calmer sands with views to surrounding isles.
- + March is good for early spring bird migration including geese, lapwing and other coastal and machair species. Keep binoculars handy!
- + Wildlife Spotting Boat Tours
- + Uist Sea Tours – wildlife cruising around South Uist & Eriskay. Check seasonal availability as March can be off-peak.
- + Even if organised tours aren't running yet, coastal drives and loch edges are excellent for spotting otters, sea birds and deer.

Walking & Outdoor Adventures

- + Arinaban Woodland & Coastal Trails
- + Arinaban Woodland – lovely trail through rewilded woodland and machair, good for a refreshing walk in March.
- + Hebridean Way Section
- + Try parts of the famous Hebridean Way path from Daliburgh toward Howmore - a mix of croftland, moor, and coast.



Local Experiences & Relaxation.

Island Scenery & Solitude

South Uist's quiet lanes and wide skies make for peaceful drives and photography - especially in off-season March, with fewer visitors.

Local Cafés & Shops

While some tourist facilities are seasonal, cozy stops like the Hebridean Jewellery shop café or small village tea rooms offer warming food and local crafts.

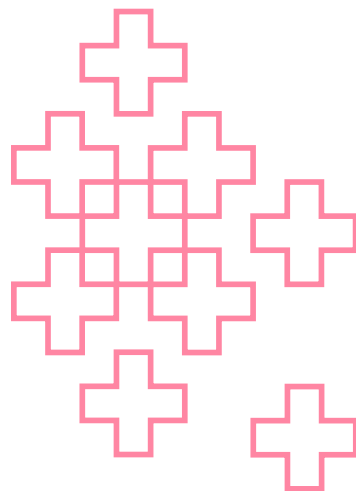
Practical March Tips

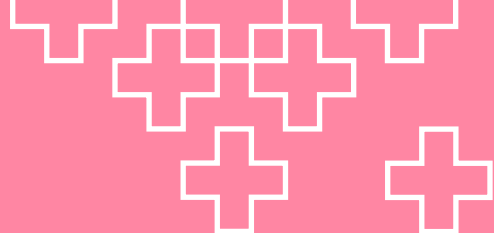
Weather: March can be cool, breezy and changeable — waterproofs and layers are essential.

Transport: A car or bike is very useful — public transport on the island is limited.

Facilities: Some tours and cafes may have reduced winter hours, so check ahead.

Please note: the 'StreetView' [A865 - Google Maps](#) on google maps is slightly dated so Cnoc Soilleir Campus looks slightly different now with a Phase 2 extension, but the gorgeous views remain the same!





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Timetable.

Friday

8.00pm Welcome and meet the tutors, enrolment followed by a music session.

Saturday

10.00am Music classes start at Cnoc Soilleir

12.30pm – 1.30pm Lunch

1.30pm – 5.00pm Music classes

5.00pm – 7.00pm Free time

7.30pm – 9.00pm Concert/music session @ Cnoc Soilleir

Sunday*

11.00am – 1.00pm Talk by Allan Henderson - Supernatural History of the Highlands and Islands

2.00pm – 4.00pm Talk by Dr Emily Gal and Dr Rebecca Rennel, Archaeology of the Islands, Uist unearthed app

* (both Sunday classes are optional)

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www.nwh.uhi.ac.uk

