

Scottish Fiddle Music has a long history. The earliest records go back to the mid-1450s. The word 'fiddle' might come from the medieval Romantic 'vidula', or the Old English 'fithela' or even the Gaelic 'fidhel'. Whatever, in modern times the fiddle is the violin. Fiddlers and fiddle music was often associated with the Scottish court and nobility on the one hand and with peasants on the other. After the Reformation Calvinists banned all music except church music. Indeed in 1591, a woman by name Agnes Thompson was put to death [she was accused of being a witch] for dancing "this reill or short dance". Fiddle music and dancing are inextricably entwined.

Early in the 1600s collections of dance music started to appear, much of it linked to popular songs of the times. By the mid-1650s tunes were being played that are still in vogue today. Indeed many of these tunes have the same name as the dance that was designed around them.

The eighteenth and early nineteenth century are often considered as a Golden Age of Scot's fiddle music, partly because of the vast number of players and partly because so many of the tunes composed during this time are still regularly performed today. Most old music enjoyed by ordinary people in the past, [folk music] is considered 'traditional'. However, in the case of Scottish fiddle music we know quite a lot about the people who composed the tunes. This evening I am largely limiting the music to reels, jigs, strathspeys and perhaps a hornpipe and the odd march and slow air. Composers of the played tunes include Niel Gow, 1727 - 1807 from Inver, possibly the most famous Scot's fiddler of all time; William Marshall, 1748 - 1833 from Fochabers; Nathaniel Gow, 1763 -1831, one of Niel's sons; James Scott Skinner 1843 - 1927; Angus Fitchet 1902 - 1999 - one of the greatest of the modern fiddle composers, and Ian Powrie b. 1924.

The programme will be taken from the following selections.

Introductory	Jim Anderson's Delight	Ronnie Cooper
Medley	Jig of Slurs Inver Lasses	John MacLennan
Medley	Belladrum House Tarbolton Lodge	

Jigs from the Gows	Miss Sally Hunter of Thurston Miss Margaret Brown Lady Charlotte Murray's Favorite [sic]	Nathaniel Gow Nathaniel Gow Niel Gow
Reels	Hon Capt. Elliot's Quickstep The Landlady of Inver Inn Mrs Coutts Trotter's Favourite Mrs Macdouall Grant	John Pringle Niel Gow William Logan Nathaniel Gow
Medley	Lament for Sir Harry Lumsden Archduke John of Austria James Duff, M.P.	William Marshall Atholl Collection William Marshall
Jigs in 9/8	Foxhunter's New Claret	
Medley	Alex McArthur of Biggar North of the Grampians James Millar - Bullionfield	Angus Fitchet Simon Frazer
Jig & Reel	Fr. Lennon's Jubilee On the Fiddle	Joseph Hornsby Joseph Hornsby
INTERVAL		
Marches	D. Morrison's Seven Thistles Mr. Mitchie	Scott Skinner Angus Fitchet
Strathspeys	The Laird of Drumblair Mackensie Hay Laird O'Thrums	James Scott Skinner Ditto Ditto
Pipe Medley	Donald McLean's Farewell to Oban Donald McClean Hugh Macdonald	Archie McNeil Peter MacLeod John Mackay
Canadian fiddle jigs	The Tea Gardens My Dunganon Sweetheart The Little Burnt Potato	Angus Chisholm Graham Townsend