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Welcome to NAFCo 2006

Following the great success of the first North Atlantic Fiddle Convention in 2001, the Elphinstone Institute will again be celebrating the excellence of traditional fiddlers, fiddle music and dance from countries around the North Atlantic. Focussing on the theme of *Connecting Cultures*, the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention is about cultural exchange, learning opportunities, future international links, and the celebration of artistic excellence and diversity.



Through our unique format of concerts, ceilidhs, workshops, academic conference, and informal sessions, the Convention will highlight the way the fiddle, fiddle music, and associated dance styles transcend boundaries of all kinds – geographical, political, and cultural – creating new traditions and fresh musical insights.

NAFCo 2006 will showcase some of the greatest traditional **artists** from countries around the North Atlantic, each representing unique and dynamic fiddle and dance traditions.

Connect with fiddle traditions from Canada, Denmark, England, Ireland, Lithuania, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, USA and Wales.

Join us from **26-30 July 2006**, and enjoy the cultural experience of a lifetime!
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University of Aberdeen · MacRobert Building · King's College · Aberdeen · AB24 5UA

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NAFCo Events 2006

Young People at the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention: Individuals of all ages are welcome to attend the events at NAFCo 2006. However, under Child Protection Law, individuals under 18 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or other designated responsible adult when attending NAFCo workshops. Under the licensing laws, we regret that the NAFCo Festival Club at the Lemon Tree will not be accessible to children under 14 after 7:00pm.

Level 1 - Basic - Suitable for the less-experience. Should have basic knowledge of the instrument and technique and know a few tunes.

Level 2 - Improvers - For those with some skill and capable of learning by ear at a moderate pace.

Level 3 - Experienced - For those with more confidence in their playing and who are accustomed to learning by ear at a faster pace.

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Wednesday 26th July

8:00-10:30

NAFCo Opening Concert – Lemon Tree Café [26-51]

Featuring: Paul Anderson, Aonghus Grant, Catriona Macdonald, Carmen Higgins, Douglas Lawrence, Iain Fraser, Karen Steven, Lauren MacColl, and Lori Watson, with Christine Hanson, Peter MacCallum, Dennis Morrison, Pat Ballantyne and Mats Melin

Showcasing a line-up of Scotland's finest fiddlers, this concert kicks off the excitement of the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention. The performers will take the audience on a journey through Scotland's unique regional fiddle traditions – past, present and future. Starting in the local North East style with Paul Anderson and Douglas Lawrence, and reaching North to the Highlands with Aonghas Grant, the Islands with Catriona MacDonald, South to the Borders with Lori Watson, and everywhere in between, this is a show not to be missed!

10:30-1:00

Late-night Dance: England, Scotland & Sweden – Lemon Tree Studio Theatre [26-71]

Featuring Emily & Sophy Ball, Karen Steven, Christine Hanson, Pete MacCallum & Friends, and Mats Nilsson & Ingegerd Sigfridsson with Göran Premberg, Karin Eriksson & Pernilla Stendahl

Try your hand (and feet!) at a variety of dances from England, Scotland and

Sweden. No experience needed! Our skilled callers will lead you through set dances and couple dances, enjoyable for all!

The Organisers reserve the right to make alterations to the programme.

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	Thursday A	Thursday B
9.00 - 10.30am	<p>Engelska</p> <p>Jonas Liljeström: <i>The Engelska: An Introduction.</i> Karin Eriksson: <i>'Engelska', as Understood by Swedish Researchers and Re-Constructionists.</i> Mats Nilsson: <i>Engelska and Non-Engelska Dances in Sweden (Scandinavia) in the Twentieth Century.</i></p>	<p>Fiddlers</p> <p>Katherine Campbell: <i>George Riddell: Fiddler and Collector.</i> Kathryn Tickell: <i>The 'Out-By' Fiddler</i> Elaine Bradtke: <i>Sam Bennett: A Case Study in the English Fiddle Tradition from James Madison Carpenter's Ethnographic Field Collection.</i></p>
10.30 - 10.55am	Refreshments	Refreshments
11.00 - 11.55am	<p>Keynote</p> <p>Peter Cooke: <i>Cele-brating their Service to their Communities: A Nostalgic Review of a Half-Century of Contact with Fiddler Musicians in Scotland and Elsewhere.</i></p>	
12.00 - 1.00pm	<p>Fiddle Styles & Competitions</p> <p>Arne Anderdal: <i>Hardanger Fiddle</i> Sherry A. Johnson: <i>'I don't want to sound like just one person': Individuality in</i></p>	

Competitive Fiddling.

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	Friday A	Friday B
9.00 - 10.30am	<p>Folk Fiddles in the Caucasus and in Turkey</p> <p>Sehvar Besiroglu with Gozde Colakoglu: <i>Kemenche and Rebab: Different Shapes and Different Terminologies in Different Cultures.</i></p> <p>Alla N. Sokolova: <i>The Caucasian-Scottish Relations through the Prism of the Fiddle and Dance Music.</i></p> <p>Hotko Samir: <i>Scottish-Circassian Ethnographic Parallels.</i></p>	<p>Dance & Social Context</p> <p>Iain Stewart: <i>'Strip the Willow', an Icon of Contemporary Scotland?</i></p> <p>Patricia H Ballantyne: <i>Closer to the Floor?</i></p> <p>Tonya M. Kearley Russell: <i>The Calling of Dances from within a Withering Culture: When Transmission Becomes Tradition.</i></p>
10.30 - 10.55am	Refreshments	Refreshments
11.00 - 11.55am	<p>Keynote</p> <p>Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin: <i>The Litany of the Saints: Innovation and Tradition in the Fiddle Music of Tommie Potts.</i></p>	
12.00 - 1.00pm	<p>Fiddle Styles & Repertoires 1</p> <p>Jane Blair MacMorran: <i>Transforming Tradition: Scottish Roots in the Development of Appalachian Fiddle Styles.</i></p>	<p>Fiddle Styles & Repertoires 2</p> <p>Gaila Kirdienė: <i>Folk Fiddle Music of Lithuanian Coastal Regions.</i></p> <p>Eoghan Neff: <i>The Fiddle in a Tune: Perspectives on the</i></p>

Paul F. Wells: <i>Layers in the United States Fiddle Tune Repertoire.</i>	<i>Donegal Tradition.</i>
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	Saturday A	Saturday B
9.00 - 10.30am	<p>Rhythm & Dance</p> <p>Catherine A. Shoupe: <i>The 'Problem' with Dance Music: Aesthetics and Identity in Scottish Social Dance</i></p> <p>Alexandra Fisher: <i>The Lakeland Step Dance and Fiddle Tradition – a Dancer's View</i></p> <p>Matt Cranitch: <i>Is the rhythmic dimension in fiddle-playing being overlooked as the performing and learning environments change?</i></p>	<p>Performance & Repertoire</p> <p>Iain Fraser: <i>'Niel Gow's Lament for the Death of his 2nd Wife': A Study of the Changing Performance Style of Slow Airs Since the Early Nineteenth Century.</i></p> <p>George Ruckert: <i>A Cape Breton Legacy: The Music of John Campbell</i></p> <p>Elisa Sereno-Janz: <i>Bridging Fiddle and Classical Communities in Calgary: The Baroque & Buskin' String Orchestra'.</i></p>
10.30 - 10.55am	Refreshments	Refreshments
11.00 - 11.55am	<p>Keynote</p> <p>Colin Quigley: <i>Dancing Bows and Musical Feet.</i></p>	
12.00 - 1.00pm	<p>Tradition & Authenticity</p> <p>Anaís Falcó Ibàñez: <i>Catalan Fiddle Tradition.</i></p> <p>Gregory Dorchak:: <i>The Formation of Authenticity within Folk Tradition: A</i></p>	<p>Métis Tradition</p> <p>Byron Dueck: <i>Canadian Aboriginal Fiddling and the Public Negotiation of Musical Norms.</i></p> <p>Sarah Quick:: <i>Global Networks and Intimate Knowledge: Métis</i></p>

Case Study of Cape Breton
Fiddling Tradition.

Fiddle Music into the Twenty-
First Century.

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		Sunday
9.00 - 10.30am	-	<p>Influencing Tradition</p> <p>Kimberley Fraser: <i>Cape Breton Fiddling and the Piping Connection: A Study of the Highland Bagpipe's Role in the Shaping of the Cape Breton Fiddling Tradition.</i></p> <p>Lori Watson: <i>Contemporary Innovation and Traditional Music.</i></p> <p>Joti Rockwell: <i>Shaping the Future of Bluegrass Fiddle: Icons, Institutions, and the Transmission of Innovation.</i></p>
10.30 - 10.55am	-	Refreshments
11.00 - 11.55am	-	<p>Keynote</p> <p>Alan Jabbour: <i>Fiddle Tunes of the Old Frontier: Reflections on the Relationship between Old World and New World Fiddle Traditions</i></p>
12.00 - 1.00pm	-	<p>Historical</p> <p>Vladimir A. Belov: <i>The Fiddler: The Prince and the Pauper of Mediaeval Music.</i></p> <p>Mary Anne Alburger: <i>Making it Play: Scottish Fiddle Makers.</i></p>

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Please Note: The NAFCo Conference special rate allocations in the Premier Travel Inn are now fully booked for Wednesday 26 July, however there is still availability for the other nights of the event. On Wednesday, we have spaces available in the basic student flats, or you can try to book direct through the Premier Travel Inn on 0870 990 6300 or +(0)1224 624 080

At the heart of the NAFCo idea is the synergy created by the combination of an academic conference and a performance celebration. The 2006 theme of *Connecting Cultures* in tradition will provide a unique forum for papers on the role of the fiddler (or dancer), musical interplay with dance, socialisation and competition, leadership and transmission, tradition and innovation, and cross-cultural relationships.

We are privileged at the convention to be addressed by four eminent keynote speakers:

Dr Alan Jabbour is former Head of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, a position he held from 1976 to 1999. In 'Fiddle Tunes of the Old Frontier', Dr Jabbour will be speaking about the relationship between Old World and New World fiddle traditions, advancing the proposition that all the modern regional fiddle traditions of the English-speaking world are cultural cousins – born of a wider revolution in instrumental music and dance in the last half of the eighteenth century – a revolution for which the democratized Italian violin was the central catalyzing instrument.

Professor Colin Quigley of the World Arts and Cultures Department at the University of California at Los Angeles has researched the inter-relationship of fiddle music and dance in Newfoundland and Eastern Europe. In 'Dancing Bows and Musical Feet', he will be considering rhythm as the most defining characteristic of local and regional style in fiddling around the North Atlantic, and especially within Canada where so much melodic material is widely shared.

Professor Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, Director of the Irish World Music Centre at the University of Limerick, is both an outstanding performer and a respected scholar. He will be talking about the remarkable fiddle traditions upheld by Gypsy Travellers in Ireland, most notably the fiddler Tommie Potts (1912-1988), with whom he undertook fieldwork.

Dr Peter Cooke, Honorary Research Fellow at SOAS, is an eminent ethnomusicologist whose research includes both Scotland and Africa. Dr Cooke will be revisiting some of his earlier research, examining common threads linking a number of geographically separated musical traditions that have given him joy during the past 50 years.

One of the great strengths of NAFCo is that it draws on scholars who are also

fine performers, as is Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin. This is also true of Alan Jabbour, who is a wonderful 'Old Time' fiddler, in the style of the Upper South, who learnt from musicians like Henry Reed of Glen Lyn, Virginia, and Tommy Jarrell of Toast, North Carolina. Other performer-scholars offering papers include Matt Cranitch and Mats Melin of the University of Limerick, Katherine Campbell of the University of Edinburgh, Catriona Macdonald and Kathryn Tickell of the University of Newcastle, Kimberly Fraser of Saint Francis Xavier University Nova Scotia, Karin Eriksson and Mats Nilsson of the University of Gothenburg, Sherry Johnson of York University Toronto, Gaila Kirdienė of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, and Mary Anne Alburger and Iain Stewart of the Elphinstone Institute.

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News

Connecting cultures with international fiddle and dance festival

DIARY DATE: July 26 – 30, 2006

The UK's biggest fiddle and dance event is set to attract thousands of people to Aberdeen this summer as the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention (NAFCo) draws an international line-up of guest performers to the city and the region.

Organised by the University of Aberdeen's Elphinstone Institute, in partnership with SCaT (Scottish Culture and Traditions), NAFCo 2006 is one of the largest events of its kind in the world that celebrates fiddle and dance traditions from countries as far afield as Canada and the US, to Ireland, England, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Lithuania, and of course Scotland.

A host of talented musicians and dancers from all these countries and more will entertain North-East audiences from July 26 – 30, 2006, in venues across the region. Over 60 workshops will be held over the course of the four-day festival, which also features concerts, ceilidhs, busking trails, and sessions.

NAFCo proved an overwhelming success when it was last held in Aberdeen in 2001, attracting almost 3000 people to the city. Festival organisers are hoping this summer's event will break all box office records.

Dr Ian Russell, Director of The Elphinstone Institute, and co-organiser of NAFCo 2006, said: "We are delighted to be holding this unique festival in Aberdeen which is the ideal setting for a celebration of this kind.

"The North-east of Scotland is famous for its fiddle tradition and we hope to share this captivating sound with audiences from all over the world."

NAFCo is a unique event in the UK in terms of its size and its international programme of guest musicians, dancers and other performers.

In conjunction with the festival, a conference will be held on the theme "*Connecting Cultures*" during which enthusiasts and researchers will explore the role of fiddling, fiddlers and associated dance in social, ethnological and musical contexts in the past, present and future. Several keynote speakers at the conference are world-renowned authors and eminent scholars in the field of fiddle music and dance, which will be announced at a later date.

NAFCo 2006 has received the backing of a host of well-known traditional music and dance figures from the local area, including well-known fiddler Paul Anderson who is recognised as one of the most exciting fiddle players to come out of Scotland in recent years. In November 2005, Paul began an academic fellowship at the University's Elphinstone Institute to carry out a three-year research project into the future of traditional Scottish music in modern society. Paul, who lives in Tarland, is travelling across the North-east as part of his research, believed to be the first of its kind in the UK, which aims to explore the underlying musical dialects of the North-east fiddle tradition.

Other highlights from Scotland include: Aonghus Grant, Douglas Lawrence, Iain Fraser, Karen Steven, Mats Melin, James Alexander, Carmen Higgins and Sara

Reith.

Other confirmed artists include: dynamic fiddle and cello duo Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas who have a worldwide following; well-known Canadian fiddler Jerry Holland accompanied by Kimberley Fraser; fiddling divas Catriona Macdonald, from Shetland, and Annbjørg Lien, from Norway; and a traditional music and dance group from Sweden led by Göran Premburg.

NAFCo will link up with a number of local, national and international arts and cultural organisations and has received the support of the City of Aberdeen. The arts venue The Lemon Tree, will be the official NAFCo Festival Club where concerts and dance events will be held every night of the festival.

Dr Russell added: "We have secured some of the biggest names in fiddle and dance in the North Atlantic, which is a real testament to the global profile of NAFCo. The festival is a truly international celebration of fiddle and dance from all over the northern parts of the world.

"NAFCo will be full of richness and diversity and we are encouraging anyone with an interest in music, singing, or dancing, to come along to our events in July to sample the buzz of this wonderful multi-cultural event."

The official launch of NAFCo 2006 will be held on 22 June, where the full programme will be unveiled. Tickets for NAFCo 2006 events will be on sale in April, and available by contacting the Elphinstone Institute (see below).

Further information on NAFCo 2006 is available by contacting The Elphinstone Institute on +44 (0) 1224 272996 or email@ NAFCo@abdn.ac.uk or visit: www.abdn.ac.uk/Elphinstone/nafco

For all media inquiries, please contact:

Jenni Massie on 01224 272013 or email j.massie@abdn.ac.uk

Please visit this page for all the latest news releases for NAFCo 2006.

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We need your help!

Bringing world-class performers and expert authorities from around the world is a costly endeavour. We have received generous support from our major sponsors – the University of Aberdeen, the City of Aberdeen, the Scottish Arts Council, and Scottish Enterprise Grampian – and thank them wholeheartedly.

If you would like to support NAFCo on an individual basis, we invite you to become a **Friend of the Convention** (£25) or an **Individual Sponsor** (£200).

As a Friend or Sponsor you will enjoy a variety of benefits.

You will receive:

- An invitation to our press launch event
- Priority booking for NAFCo tickets and a 10% discount
- Regular email updates to keep you alerted to NAFCo developments
- Acknowledgement in the NAFCo programme
- Sponsors will, in addition, be offered 2 free concert tickets of their choosing

We will receive:

- Much needed backing for the Convention
- Confidence that NAFCo has your committed individual support
- The means to fully realise our vision for NAFCo 2006

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The North Atlantic Fiddle Convention will be one of the most exciting events of the summer.

Sponsorship of NAFCo 2006 offers your organization the opportunity to be a part of a major cultural event, a unique way to demonstrate corporate social responsibility.

The success of NAFCo relies on the generosity and support of our local and national partners.

Sponsorship Benefits

As a supporter of NAFCo 2006, your organisation will benefit from enhanced exposure through event publicity, acknowledgement of support on publicity and marketing materials, and unique hospitality opportunities.

For details of our sponsorship opportunities and benefits [download the NAFCo 2006 Sponsorship Pack](#)

To find out more and to discuss your individual partnership opportunities please contact:

Carley Williams

North Atlantic Fiddle Convention 2006
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Dr Ian Russell

Director, Elphinstone Institute

As well as his many academic achievements, Ian Russell has wide experience of organising and directing festivals and other events, including the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention 2001, Festival of Village Carols, Traditional Singing Weekend at Cullerlie, Traditional Storytelling Weekend, Button Boxes and Moothies Festival, British Forum for Ethnomusicology Annual Conference 2004, and numerous other conferences. His current research is focused on the traditional culture of

North-East Scotland, including sacred singing, ballad singing, flute bands, free reed instruments, recitation, Travellers' tradition, and the local craft of building model sailing luggers, known as 'boaties'. He has also conducted extensive fieldwork into singing traditions in the English Pennines, especially Christmas carolling, and, if prodded, he may give you a song or a tune on his button box!



Carley Williams

NAFCo 2006 Convention Assistant

Carley Williams began violin at the age of five, and later began her journey in Scottish music in the unlikely setting of the California redwoods. Originally from Canada's West Coast, Carley has attended numerous fiddle workshops, festivals and camps throughout North America and Europe, as both a student and a performer.

Throughout her university studies, she spent a number of years immersed in the fiddle traditions of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, before moving further east to her familial and musical roots in Scotland. Not only does Carley bring her musical insight to the NAFCo team, but also festival co-ordination experience from two internships with the Smithsonian Institution organizing and implementing the tremendously successful *Scotland at the Smithsonian* programme for the 2003 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Unlike Ian, Carley does not need prodding to play a tune, and will likely be found at NAFCo sessions until the wee hours.



Become a NAFCo Volunteer!

In order to make this event as successful as the previous one, we are encouraging individuals to volunteer as **Stewards**.

Stewards will be required in a number of areas. These individuals will be able to volunteer half days, a day or two, even the entire convention if you want! Working closely with staff and convention participants, the duties of the stewards might include registration of participants, assisting venue co-ordinators, transportation, and general assistance with the conference and workshop events. Why not take

advantage of the opportunity to work behind-the scenes with NAFCo staff and guests?

Complimentary tickets will be available for our helpers.

If you would like to volunteer and have the experience of a lifetime, download and print the [Volunteer Availability](#) or [email](#) us direct.

General Inquiries:

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Booking Tickets

NAFCo Online Bookings are now closed. Tickets can be purchased in person at the NAFCo Headquarters in the Lemon Tree from 10am-5pm Wednesday through Sunday, by contacting the individuals venues directly, or on the door, if available.

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Tourist Links

Aberdeen Information

University of Aberdeen webpage with Aberdeen tourist information and maps

- [University Aberdeen](#)

Guided Tours



Serenity Scotland is offering custom-designed tours with NAFCo participants in mind.

- [Serenity Scotland](#)

Accommodations

There are a number of fabulous inns and hotels in the Aberdeen area.

If you're looking for convenience – Aberdeen City Centre Premier Travel Inn is just steps away from the NAFCo Festival Club at the Lemon Tree.

- [City Centre Premier Travel Inn](#)

Self-catering flats in the City Centre are available through Robert Gordon University, and B&B rooms at King's College are available through the University of Aberdeen. Both offer reasonable rates with en-suit or shared facilities.

- [Robert Gordon University – Woolmanhill Flats](#)
- [University of Aberdeen](#)

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Other Links

Scottish History, Culture, Society & Natural Heritage, Creative Arts, Music & Dance week/weekend courses are offered in February to November. Enquiries/bookings are welcome from all including visitors from overseas.

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