



# RUTH MORRIS

## Musician

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Standingstone,  
Auchencairn,  
Castle Douglas,  
DG7 1RF  
Scotland

## EXPERTISE

Live Performance  
Recording artist  
Multi-instrumentalist  
Nyckelharpa – Fiddle –  
Whistle – Piano

Music tuition  
Composition  
Musical arrangement  
Dance calling and tuition  
(ceilidh and balfolk)

Production & tour management  
Project & event management  
Fundraising

Full UK driving licence  
Member of MU, MCPS,  
PRS and PPL

## LANGUAGE

English  
French

## Current projects

2023

### Summary

Live and/or recording work with:

**Firelight Trio, Gavin Marwick's 'Quarterdays', Journeyman, The Village and The Road, The Galloway Agreement, Whirligig.**

Freelance performance/ recording work and teaching.  
Project managing/ producing/ agenting/ organising/ publicising/ admin  
on many different projects.

2023

### Highlights

**Firelight Trio:** debut album launched at **Celtic Connections** festival as part of **Showcase Scotland**. Album received great reviews, a track selected for the covermount CD of both **Songlines** and **RnR**, and a feature on the band in both magazines. Extensive UK touring. Tour in **Finland** including two shows in **Helsinki**.

**Gavin Marwick 'Quarterdays'** series: Recorded duo EP '**Lammas**' with Gavin Marwick, released August 2023, to great reviews. UK touring.

**The Village and The Road:** Creative Scotland funded tour of **Japan** in September 2023. Musician in the show, also production/tour manager, and fundraiser for this project.

Played at **Glastonbury Festival** with **Gavin Marwick** and **BPPM**.

**The Galloway Agreement** among the four finalists for **Performing Artist of the Year, DG Life Awards**.

2021/22

Lead producer, and musician, on theatre show **The Village and The Road**, wrote several successful funding bids including **Made in Scotland** to perform at **Edinburgh Fringe 2022**, an Open Fund application to support development, and a commission to develop the show further from **DG Arts Festival**. Produced and performed in the 12 date Edinburgh Fringe run.

Formed **Firelight Trio** with **Gavin Marwick** and **Phil Alexander** – accepted onto **Scotland on Tour** for concerts in 2022/23. Funded by **Creative Scotland** to record debut CD at **Castlesound**. Toured Scotland and Southern England.

Wrote successful funding bid for **Gavin Marwick's Quarterdays** project.

Wrote and recorded string parts on an album for the **Bookshop Band**.

Wrote and recorded nyckelharpa parts for a 'dark Nordic album' for a production music library ( **Score Production Music**).

Performed in Toulouse with **Gavin Marwick, Phil Alexander** and **Greg Lawson**.

With Gavin Marwick, wrote and recorded a musical soundtrack to accompany a video advert for **Golazo Cycling's 'Raiders Gravel'** event.

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2020/2021

Hiatus due to partner's illness and then coronavirus.

2019

Artistic director for **Great Mountain Stage** at **Eden Festival** for the third year. Concerts with **The Galloway Agreement**, including collaboration with the **Cairn Chorus** choir. **Journeyman** gigs, ceilidhs with **Whirligig**, performed at **Klangraustreffen Festival** in Germany with a new collaboration, **BPPM**. Rehearsals for new trio with **Gavin Marwick** and **Phil Alexander**, **Firelight Trio**. Rehearsals with **Rory McLeod** to do string arrangements for future album. Teaching for **Feis Rois**. Co-produced and worked as musician on **'The Village and The Road' (The Galloway Agreement and Tom Pow)** working with theatre director **Matthew Zajac**, funded by **D&G Regional Arts Fund**.

20th August – all work activity temporarily suspended to care for partner with lymphatic cancer.

2018

Collaboration/ tour in Germany as part of **Gavin Marwick's Journeyman**, with German band **'Malbrook'**.

Developed new words and music show with **The Galloway Agreement** (String Quartet now has a name), and poet **Tom Pow**. Received **Arts Live** funding and toured the work in D&G.

Became a board member of **DG Arts Festival**.

Performed as part of **'Impressions of Galloway'** with **Gavin Marwick's Journeyman** and the **Scottish Ensemble**, at the Easterbrook Hall as part of **DG Arts Festival**.

Artistic director of **Great Mountain Stage** at **Eden Festival**, year two. Logistics manager on 'Amaze Me Leader' project, a group of young people from several countries visiting D&G for a week.

Trip to Germany to be one of the Scottish musicians in the **Windros Orchestra** at the **Windros Festival** near Hamburg, collaborating with musicians from several different countries then performing the new work.

Trip to France to do some concerts with **Jean Claude Condi**. Another trip to France– concerts with **'New Celeste.'**

Recorded nyckelharpa for the soundtrack of the new **Netflix film 'Outlaw King'**.

UK gigs with **New Celeste** (including the **Great British Folk Festival**).

Teaching in schools for **Feis Rois**. Variety of ceilidhs and concerts.

2017

Artistic director/ production manager for the new **Great Mountain Stage** at **Eden Festival** in Dumfries and Galloway. Helped the festival get funding to build new permanent stage, booked all bands (folk, traditional and acoustic), organised all logistics etc.

Released **Bellevue Rendezvous'** 3rd album, **'While Rome Burns'**, launched at **Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival**, to many good reviews.

**String Quartet** performed **Stuart Macpherson's 'Lament for William Smith'** with the **Scottish Ensemble** at Easterbrook Hall Dumfries, as part of the Arts Festival.

Performed at **Klangraustreffen Festival** in Germany, and in **Vienna** and **Berlin**, with the band **'Red Dog Green Dog.'** Also, at **St Chartier** festival in France, with **Jean Claude Condi**.

Performed **'Nine Nests'** with **Wendy Stewart** and poet **Tom Pow**, in various UK locations.

**Whirligig** did an **Arts Live** funded tour of Dumfries and Galloway.

Performed with Moniaive choir **'Cairn Chorus'** as part of their Song Cycle.

Performed on **STV's 'Live at Five'** with **'New Celeste.'**

Received **Creative Scotland** funding to run my **'Auchencairn Traditional Music Project'**.

2016

Recorded on **Wendy Stewart's** new CD, **'Folds in the field,'** leading to new collaboration as a string quartet; myself, **Gavin Marwick**, **Wendy Stewart**, and **Stuart Macpherson**.

Recorded 3rd **Bellevue Rendezvous** CD, **'While Rome Burns'** at Castlesound.

Organised logistics, and played the music at a **Passchendaele memorial concert** in **Belgium**, along with **Gavin Marwick**, **Phil Alexander**, and **Davy Cattanach**.

2015

More touring (organising/ managing/ publicising) with the ten-piece **Journeyman Spectacular** (including **The Sage**, **Gateshead**) and **Bellevue Rendezvous**. Teaching at Dumfries Feis. Developed string arrangements and new material with **Rory McLeod**.

Performed as part of the **New Rope String Band** farewell gig, **Tyne Theatre**, Newcastle.

2014

Responsible for successful **Creative Scotland** application for **Gavin Marwick's Journeyman Spectacular**, which received £20,000 for a further tour. Organised, /tour managed/ appeared as a musician in the show (UK tour, including sold out show at **Celtic Connections**). The project is nominated in the four act shortlists for two **MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards: Live Act of the Year** and **Composer of the Year**.

Performed as a musician on the set of **HBO** series **'Outlander.'**

2013

Responsible for successful **Creative Scotland** app for **Gavin Marwick's Journeyman**, which received £20,000 for a double CD and tune book. Project managed, recorded on the album (fiddle, nyckelharpa/ piano), organised (and appeared in) tour for ten-piece band **'Gavin Marwick's Journeyman Spectacular'**. Typesetting/ InDesign layout of 168 page tune book. Playing/dance calling at **Edinburgh's Hogmanay Ceilidh**. Teaching at Wigtown /Castle Douglas Feis.

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2012

Joint commission with **Gavin Marwick** by **Sky TV** to write/adapt/arrange music for Sky's '**Nation's Best Am Dram**' production of **Moliere's 'The Hypochondriac'**, and perform it at The **Lyric Theatre** in **London's West End**. Directed by **Bill Kenwright**. The whole process filmed and subsequently shown on **Sky Arts** as a documentary.  
UK touring with **Bellevue Rendezvous**. Live performance/ recording with **Rory McLeod**.

2011

My senior school band performed at **Glasgow Concert Hall** as part of **Celtic Connections**, to 2000 people in the main auditorium. D&G Council filmed the concert to use for publicity.  
Touring with **Bellevue Rendezvous** in the UK, Germany, and Italy.  
Organised purchase of community farm and the division of the farm into 7 smallholdings.

2010

Released **Bellevue Rendezvous** second album, '**Salamander**'. **SAC** funded, recorded at **Castlesound**.  
Many good reviews. Touring with **Bellevue Rendezvous**: UK, Norway, Switzerland, Italy.  
**Words and Music** gig in the **Sage, Gateshead**, with **Kate Young** and **Ian MacMillan**.  
Performed with **Mr McFall's Chamber** in **Wendy Stewart's 'Distil'** commission.

2009

Composed for 2 animated films for **Palace Productions**, 'Toad' and 'Trapped'.  
UK touring with **Bellevue Rendezvous**.  
Fiddle/ dance calling for 3000 people at **Edinburgh's Hogmanay street party ceilidh**.

2008

**Bellevue Rendezvous** play festivals /concerts throughout the UK, including **Orkney Folk Festival**, live on **BBC Scotland's Global Gathering**, and a three-week Highland tour.  
Performed as part of **Gavin Marwick's New Voices** commission at **Celtic Connections**.  
Composed/ recorded soundtrack for **Palace Productions** film 'Bogmania.'  
SAC funded CPD trip to **Eric Sahlstrom Institute, Sweden** for nyckelharpa course with **Ditte Andersson** and **Olov Johansson**

2007

Released **Bellevue Rendezvous'** first album '**Tangents,**' to critical acclaim. Performances UK/Europe, including **Celtic Connections**, **Edinburgh Festival**, **Festival InterCeltique de Lorient**. Live radio (**Global Gathering on BBC Scotland**).  
Began working for **Stoneyport Associates** as agent for **Bellevue Rendezvous**.

2006

Worked for **Feis Rois** doing trad music workshops/performances in 70 schools (D&G).  
Formed '**Bellevue Rendezvous'** (acoustic world music trio) with **Gavin Marwick** (fiddle), **Cameron Robson** (bouzouki) and myself (nyckelharpa).  
Arranged/ performed music for **Lochside Theatre's 'A Dorset Sailor'**, and composed/recorded/ performed music for **Palace Production's** film '**Tam o' Shanter**'

2005

Performed at the **St. Chartier** festival of luthiers in **Central France**, bought a nyckelharpa.

2003-2019

**YMI** children's ceilidh band projects (primary/ secondary); giving tuition in piano, keyboard, guitar, fiddle, whistle, recorder, flute, clarinet, glockenspiel, various percussion, and ceilidh dancing. Each band made a CD, did cover art, and put on a ceilidh every year.

2000-2002

Began working for **D&G Council** teaching music in primary schools, initially workshops in traditional fiddle and tin whistle. Progressed to creating primary school ceilidh bands.  
Began offering private instrumental tuition. Ran after school music clubs for **D&GArts**.

1996-2003

Music Events Co-Ordinator at **Orchardton House Arts Centre** in D&G. Formed ceilidh band '**Whirligig**' with **Pete Garnett** in 1996, doing weddings, concerts, dances, and instrument workshops.

1989-1996

Travelled widely, UK/ Europe, performing and learning music/ dance of many different cultures. Moved to **Scotland** in 1996.

1987

2 years in London selling pensions.

1980-1986

Hulme Grammar School.

