

ENDORSEMENTS

Folk Radio UK

"Skerryvore have crafted a world beating fusion, which takes pride in their heritage and above all else is a pure joy to listen to."

Süddeutsche Zeitung, GERMANY

"A spectacular mix of traditional Scottish folk music and the most diverse rock elements."

Wickham Festival, ENGLAND

"Skerryvore have evolved to become one of Scotland's greatest musical exports."

Falkirk Herald, SCOTLAND

"See them now before they rocket up into the same musical orbit as the mighty Mumford & Sons."

La Crosse Tribune, WISCONSIN

"Tight and polished... can make a thunderously joyful noise."

KVMR Celtic Festival & Marketplace (2017), CALIFORNIA

"Skerryvore had the crowd on their feet & dancing the whole time. Great guys all and we'd love to have them back anytime."

MAD Gael Fest (2017), WISCONSIN

"Without any doubt one of the most exciting and talented bands in Celtic music today. No traditional band in Scotland today brings a better blend of energy, musicality and sheer joy to their performances, serving up an amazing range of traditional tunes, well crafted new songs with thoughtful, personal lyrics and melodies that have everyone dancing and singing along. We can't wait to have them back again."

Dublin Irish Fest (2017), OHIO

"These were their best shows we had ever seen them do - the current lineup is really working well and is super high energy."

La Crosse Irish Fest, WISCONSIN

"This was the 4th time in our 13 year history that we hired Skerryvore and I have to say it was certainly their best year. This is hard to say about most groups, but I firmly believe they get better every year they're together and the addition of Scott Wood is amazing!"

Center Stage at Brigham Young University, UTAH

"Skerryvore was one of surprises of the year! These Scots are sure talented and put on a high-energy show that had our students - and even our faculty - standing, singing and dancing. I'm sure we'll have them back!"

Booth Bay Opera House, MAINE

"An amazing show. Every member of the band was lovely to work with from beginning to end."

Edmonds Center, WASHINGTON

"Amazing, we continue to get rave reviews from our audience."

Mick MacNeil, SIMPLE MINDS

"The most promising young band in Scotland today."



To Whom It May Concern:

The Illinois Saint Andrew Society is writing in support of the I-129 P3 visa application for Skerryvore.

Skerryvore is a unique Scottish musical group who interpret music from Scottish and Celtic traditions, presenting it with their own personal flare. They comprise a mix of traditional instrumentation, such as bagpipes, whistles, fiddles, accordions and drums, together with guitar bass and keyboards, all supporting soulful lyrics. Technically as performers they far surpass the abilities of other groups while maintaining a musicality, which is rare and consistent when compared to other groups.

The Illinois Saint Andrew Society was established in 1845, and is the oldest 501(c)3 charity in Illinois. Today we are one of the world's largest Scottish cultural organizations. Our mission is to nourish Scottish identity through service, fellowship and celebration of Scottish culture. We welcome everyone who is Scottish by birth, by heritage or simply by inclination. In addition to offering scholarships and organizing events and initiatives to educate, entertain and promote both traditional and contemporary Scottish culture, we are proud to offer a range of outstanding elder care services at our Scottish Home.

We strongly support the visa application of Skerryvore and urge you to favourably consider this petition. If there is any further information or assistance we can offer, please feel free to contact me at 708-426-7137.

Sincerely,

Gus Noble
President



Inverness Events Office
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31st January 2017

To Whom it may Concern,

SKERRYVORE

My name is Gerry Reynolds and I am the Highland Council's Events Manager for the City of Inverness here in the Scottish Highlands.

My remit includes the design and delivery of our City's annual events and festivals programme and as part of that remit I am the organiser of The Red Hot Highland Fling, Scotland's largest free outdoor New Year (Hogmanay) celebration, which attracts crowds of between 12,000 – 15,000 whatever the weather.

I am more than happy to support this petition because Skerryvore have performed with distinction at our event on several occasions; and have always delighted our audiences. Their typical high energy shows have not only demonstrated their undoubted musical talent as individual musicians; they have showcased their progression over the last 10 years from being a 4 piece band playing mostly 'West Coast Scotland' ceilidh music; to a hugely popular and highly respected multi instrument ensemble. The band features, and brings new life, to traditional Scottish instruments such as bagpipes, whistles, accordion and fiddle; accompanied by, and often driven on, by guitars, bass and drums. They also bring their own particular style to many fine traditional Celtic, particularly Scottish, tunes; and their ability to marry Scotland's rich, authentic traditional music with many contemporary influences provides a unique musical experience for their many listeners and followers here in Europe.

For anyone who has not previously been exposed to Celtic Music, they will provide a wonderful introduction; and for those who already have an interest in this genre, a Skerryvore performance will take their enjoyment of our musical culture and traditions to a whole new level.

As stated above, I am more than happy to support this petition application; but should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact at any time.

Yours sincerely

Gerry Reynolds
Inverness Events Manager

Decade of making music for Skerryvore



[Russell Leadbetter](#), Senior features writer / Saturday 16 May 2015 / [Entertainment](#)

IT'S been an amazing first decade for highly-rated Scottish band Skerryvore - and now they are looking forward to the next.

Since forming on the island of Tiree in 2005, Skerryvore have released a series of albums, have toured incessantly at home and abroad, and built up an exceptionally loyal following - all through a high-energy music they describe as "folk, rock, trad, funk, nu-folk."

To mark their first 10 years together, the band is staging a special concert on May 30.

Of the 6,000 tickets for Skerryvore: Decade, an outdoor bash at Oban's Mossfield Stadium, only a few hundred remain.

The line-up also includes Dougie MacLean, Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Sharon Shannon, Skipinnish, Scott Wood Band, Trail West and such guests as Jill Jackson, Mary Ann Kennedy and Stuart Cassells. Shannon, incidentally, has just collaborated with Skerryvore on their new single, Happy To Be Home.

It topped the iTunes world music chart on the day of its release. Part of the video for the single was shot at Glasgow's Park Bar.

Skerryvore got together on Tiree, when two local brothers, Martin and Daniel Gillespie, bonded with holidaymaker Fraser West and his mate Alec Dalglish, over a shared love of music.

"We met through Fraser going on holiday up to Tiree," recalls Alec, who lives in Glasgow, when asked about the initial influences that went into Skerryvore.

"He's been going there with his family for years and years. I was at school with him. It started with the four of us. It really was like the two boys from Tiree played west-coast ceilidh music and me and Fraser played popular music - rock, pop, jazz or blues or whatever.

"The only thing either of us really knew about west-coast ceilidh music was, well, Fraser had heard it up there on Tiree, and I'd heard what everybody hears on the radio in the central belt. The real dance-band ceilidh stuff was all I knew about that kind of music.

"When other members were later brought in, they were through us being at uni and doing music there. Again, they were the popular music side of things and just learned the ways of the west coast, the teuchter stuff..."

Skerryvore's debut album, *West Coast Life*, came out in 2005. Subsequent albums have all sold well: *On The Road*, *Skerryvore*, *World Of Chances*, and last year's *Chasing The Sun* (inspired, the band says, by sun-filled summers spent on Tiree that were the springboard for the band forming).

Total sales figures are currently around 50,000, with downloads and streams at 310,000. In 2011 the band won Record of the Year at the Scottish New Music Awards and Live Act of the Year at the Scottish Trad Music Awards.

The current line-up is Alec (vocals/guitar), Daniel (accordion), Martin (bagpipes, whistles), Craig Espie (fiddle), Fraser West (drums), Jodie Bremaneson (bass) and Alan Scobie (keyboards).

Skerryvore have toured relentlessly. They've played festivals in the US, Denmark, Spain and France (as well as our own T in the Park and Celtic Connections) and they have gigged in some glamorous international cities: Dubai, Beijing, Shanghai, Madrid, Munich and New York.

"Everybody in the band loves going to the States," says Dalglish. "There's this thing about America - when you're a band, you're making it big if you go to America. The first time we got to do that was a real exciting highlight of the band's career."

"The first trip to the US was the Ryder Cup at Valhalla [in Louisville, Kentucky], to go and play at that," adds Daniel, who lives in Milngavie.

"The scenes at the Fourth Street Live venue were wild. It was like everything we'd hoped America would be. All the US tours have been great. The scale of everything there really hits you, and it's not just the food or things like that. It's the festivals too.

"Going out to Milwaukee and Dublin, Ohio - they're all bigger than T in the Park. There's 130,000 people at them. You go onto the sites and there are 13 stages there."

Alec mentions the Live Act accolade at the Trad Music Awards. "That was quite a big deal, because we sometimes feel that we're not really fully in the trad scene like some of the [other] bands are.

"We know loads of the guys and we're friends with loads of different people on the scene but we're still on the outskirts of it, a wee bit, more than some of the trad and folk acts. So to win that award was a brilliant achievement."

Daniel, for his part, remembers last year's performance at Denmark's TÅnder Festival. "We got an incredible reception. We outsold every act, including the likes of Runrig, in terms of merchandise and CDs, and the gigs were absolutely electric. That's one of the best festival performances we've ever had."

As for the future, Skerryvore's relentless itinerary includes more festivals in Germany and Switzerland.

"We're doing quite a lot of shows in Germany," says Daniel. "It's been a really good country for us in the last few years. We're going back to the US in June and August, and we're playing Cropredy [Fairport's annual convention] in August, for the first time. That's been on the radar for a while."

Germany and the US having opened up for Skerryvore, they're delighted that they're starting to get more opportunities to play festivals in England. "It's great that there's another market there, potentially, for us now," Daniel adds. "It's amazing, the interest in us down there."

He reveals that a 10th-anniversary album will be released at Oban. "Anyone who attends the gig will have the first chance of getting it, and then it will come out. That's what we've been working away at, behind the scenes, for the last few weeks. It's a lot of new recordings - live from Tonder, live from the Old Fruitmarket at Celtic Connections."

Alec chips in: "New acoustic versions of older songs that you might not have expected to be done that way - things that we thought people might find interesting."

Skerryvore: Decade is on May 30 at Mossfield Stadium, Oban. For ticket details, see <http://skerryvoredcade.com>

Skerryvore are riding the crest of a wave

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Monday 06 October 2008

SKERRYVORE have proved to be six of the best musical ambassadors Scotland could have ever wished for.

Over the last two years, the young Celtic rockers have travelled the world – with high profile appearances in America and Italy in the last couple of months alone – to spread the message that Scottish culture is about more than just kilts, ceilidhs and Mel Gibson.

To put it simply Skerryvore, Alec Dalglish (vocals/guitar), Daniel Gillespie (accordion), Martin Gillespie (bagpipes), Craig Espie (fiddle), Barry Caulfield (bass), and Fraser West (drums), are a living breathing, 12-legged party waiting to happen and their music is guaranteed to get 90 per cent of the audience up dancing by the middle of the first number.

As for the other 10 per cent, they're either in the toilet or outside smoking.

Known as the "boy band of Scottish music", Skerryvore will bring their explosive combination of young gun showmanship and old school musicianship to Falkirk's Royal National Mod when they fire up the crowd in Behind the Wall, Melville Street, on Thursday, October 16.

Accordion wizard Daniel said: "This line-up has been together for about two years and it's been a busy time for us.

"It's really starting to take off – we played a gig at this year's Ryder Cup and followed that with a show in Chicago.

"Then it was on to a festival in Italy to warm up for The Mod.

"This will be our third appearance and the third year running we've closed the event – we played the final show at Dunoon and Fort William and we're doing that again at Falkirk Town Hall."

The band's association with The Mod goes back even further than that.

"My brother Martin and I competed in Mods when we were boys," said Daniel.

"We're always supportive of The Mod – the roots of our sound are the traditions of Scottish music that The Mod celebrates.

"It's always a great atmosphere – like a week long party."

The band have certainly got enough great material to start, and sustain, a party mood - their debut album, 'West Coast Life', was awarded album of the month on BBC Radio Scotland's Celtic Connections and the follow up, 'On the Road', was a critical and commercial success.

As album sales approach 10,000, Skerryvore are about to add to their catalogue with a third album next year. They will then head off on a major tour of venues both home and abroad, with stops in Canada, Portugal and Spain.



REVIEW FROM www.livingtradition.co.uk

SKERRYVORE - *Skerryvore*

Tyree Records TYREE01CD

Skerryvore's eponymously titled third album shows the rock/trad band consolidating old ground and setting out on new roads. The group, led by singer and guitarist Alec Dalgligh, cover a lot of ground on the eleven tracks on the album. It starts with *Path To Home* which shares a style with Runrig's more melodic numbers, while *Simple Life* could be a lost song from Lindisfarne, and includes a coda that manages to sound like both Simon and Garfunkel and KD Lang, whilst still maintaining Skerryvore's own sonic fingerprints.

A number of instrumental tracks show the talents of Martin Gillespie on bagpipes and accordion, Daniel Gillespie on accordion, and fiddle player Craig Espie. *Gairm A Chuain (Call of the Sea)* shows a slower side to the band's sound, whilst *Wit's End* would give Wolfstone a run for their money. The touching ballad *Smile in the Stars* shows a gentler side to the band, with one of those melodic guitar solos you hope goes on for a lot longer than it does, whilst *Angry Fiddler* is a mish mash of techno brutality and Olympic standard musicianship - all funky, wah wah guitar, resonant, slap bass, and dextrous fiddle playing. The closing song *Home to Donegal* is a live track that shows the popularity and following the band is slowly gaining, and judging by the evidence on this album, the group is set for the big-time, whatever that means these days.

Ben Macnair

This album was reviewed in **Issue 86** of The Living Tradition magazine.