

Inverness Courier (Fri)
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(17)

itinerary



Kris Drever and Eamon Coyne will be renewing their partnership and joining a number of leading names to celebrate the musical links between Scotland, Ireland and the New World. Plus your definitive seven-day what's on guide.

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Connecting Old and New Worlds through music

ORKNEY-BORN but Edinburgh based Kris Drever is no stranger in these parts, either as a solo singer or with the trios Lau and Drever, McCusker and Wooble, but this weekend he will be introducing the Highlands to some less familiar musical visitors.

Drever, the Scots Traditional Instrumentalist of the Year 2008, and 2007 winner of the Horizon Award at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, is leading the Scottish representatives on the cross-cultural "Across The Sea" tour which explores the musical links between the Old World and the New.

Joining Drever will be an established musical partner, Irish banjo player Eamonn Coyne of Salsa Celtica — the pair recorded the album "Hoot Toot Suite" in

2007 — and fellow Scots Sarah McFadyen (Aberfeldy/Harem Scarem) and Tim Matthews of Mystery Juice.

With them are American guests Betse Ellis from The Wilders and Caleb Klauder and Sammy Lind from Oregon bluegrass outfit the Foghorn String Band.

Since emigrants first left our shores for North America, music and song travelled with them and became part of the rich tradition found all over the continent. This concert brings together some of the finest traditional musicians from Scotland, Ireland and the USA playing songs that went from here to there — and back again — and fittingly is inspired by a transatlantic session. In August 2007, Betse Ellis and Tim Matthew sat behind the Famous

Spiegel tent during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, trading Scottish and American fiddle tunes when Ellis said to Matthews: "We ought to do this more often."

Named for a traditional fiddle tune and song, "Going Across the Sea" celebrates an interchange of musical ideas from the past and present, not from an analytical or musicological perspective, but via a live-performance that will bring the centuries old musical exchange to life.

Supported by the Scottish Arts Council's Tune Up initiative, the tour arrives at the Resolis Memorial Hall on the Black Isle tomorrow (further information from 01381 610204), with more shows at Sabhal Mor Ostaig on Skye this evening and Glenuig Hall, Lochailort, on Sunday.

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