

Gillian Fleetwood – Scottish Small Harp and Song

Having come to the Clarsach through the Scottish Feis movement she was also fortunate enough to be included in the first intake of students to the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music in Plockton. However, she would never have made it that far were it not for the invaluable experience she had at Balnain House, Inverness, where she was taught by the very inspiring Corrina Hewat. At this time Gillian was also the pedal harp player for Highland Regional Youth Orchestra. Diversity has always been an important part of her music and this formative time allowed many opportunities to be absorbed into her creativity. She has now achieved a BA in Applied Arts from Strathclyde University.

In the past Gillian has had the opportunity to bring the harp to settings as diverse as the Millennium Dome, The World Saxophone Congress in Ljubljana, television and radio performances, a polish salt mine and a concert hall of 2000 nursery age children. She is also a member of Danny Kyle award winners The State Broadcasters, whose debut album will be available from February 2009 on the prestigious Electric Honey Records. Alongside Fraya she is also a member of Inverness based band Abigail Grey who also have an album underway.

As a keen and active teacher and adjudicator she has been working for a number of years now as teacher and harp group leader for East Renfrewshire Council, Feisean nan Gaidheal, the Clarsach Society Highland Branch and Glasgow Branches. She is keen to see new potential receive the attention it deserves and is dedicated to the promotion of the Scottish harp.