

THE GORDON DUNCAN EXPERIENCE

Horsecross Arts is inviting young musicians from across Perth and Kinross to apply to audition for *The Gordon Duncan Experience*, a new Celtic 'big band'.

Horsecross, the organisation behind Perth Concert Hall and Perth Theatre has gained substantial 2-year funding for the project from the Scottish Arts Council Youth Music Initiative, the Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust and Perth and Kinross Council.

Named after the late Perthshire piper, Gordon Duncan, who was a hugely influential and pioneering performer and composer, the band is open to any resident of Perth and Kinross aged fourteen to eighteen who plays any instrument to an intermediate or advanced standard and is interested in playing music rooted in Scottish traditions with influences from other styles.

Corrina Hewat and David Milligan, founders of extravagant 22-piece folk orchestra *The Unusual Suspects*, will musically direct the band. The group will focus on playing traditional music with innovative arrangements carrying on the creative spirit of Gordon Duncan's writing and playing.

The Gordon Duncan Experience will make its debut appearance at the Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust's annual fundraising concert in Perth Concert Hall on Sat 25 September alongside a host of traditional music stars from Scotland and beyond.

The band will perform new pieces by young contemporary composers commissioned by the Trust as well as a selection of Gordon Duncan tunes arranged by Corrina and David:

"We are very excited at the prospect of musically directing *The Gordon Duncan Experience*. This will be a great opportunity for Perthshire-based young musicians to experience a big band setting, rehearsing with other like-minded players, aiming towards a performance in the Perth Concert Hall. There will be newly-written music to perform, and the inimitable Gordon Duncan's music arranged by ourselves. With our background in founding *The Unusual Suspects*, while also writing and arranging the music for the 16 to 32 piece 'unofficial Scottish National Folk Orchestra' we have no doubt that the *Gordon Duncan Experience* will be an extremely rewarding project for all involved.

The joy that happens when a group of musicians get together and work towards something much bigger than themselves is a unique thing, and we are glad to be the musical directors given the opportunity to share this with the young musicians of Perthshire. We are also extremely pleased that there will be commissions to work on, and *The Gordon Duncan Experience* will be the first to bring these to the main stage. So we're all fired-up and can't wait for the rehearsals to start!"



Corrina Hewat

Combining traditional music with contemporary attitude Corrina has taken the Small Harp to a new level of excellence. An original member of bands including Bachue, Chantan and Shine, she is also co-founder and co-musical director of the extravagant 22-piece Unusual Suspects - the folk big band dubbed The Scottish National Folk Orchestra. She is also a skilled and innovative composer and arranger, having written many large scale commissions, while also musically directing several major shows such as Voices of the World 2008, Songs Of Conscience 2007, Scottish Men 2006 and the TMSA Young Trad Tour since 2005. Corrina is a core tutor on the Traditional Music Degree courses at Newcastle University and the RSAMD.

www.corrinahewat.com

David Milligan

Many will know him from his earlier work in mainstream jazz with leading figures such as Carol Kidd, Scott Hamilton and Art Farmer, but in more recent years Dave has also become familiar to a new audience. His interest in traditional and folk music has inspired a unique crossover piano style which has featured most prominently in Bachué, with Corrina Hewat, in a duo with concertina virtuoso Simon Thoumire, as a member of the Catriona Macdonald band, and in the 22-piece folk orchestra The Unusual Suspects, which he and Hewat masterminded.

www.davemilligan.co.uk

Gordon Duncan

Gordon Duncan, from Pitlochry in Perthshire, was widely regarded as one of the most skilled and innovative traditional music performers and composers of modern times. While steeped in the art of traditional highland piping, his approach to his music was always imaginative, fresh and at times radical, to the extent that his influence can be heard within an entire generation of younger musicians across Scotland and well beyond. Gordon died in December 2005, aged 41.

www.gordonduncan.co.uk



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Closing date for entries is Wednesday 10 March.

Successful applicants will be informed via email on Thursday 11 March.

Auditions for the band will take place on Sat 13 March in Perth Concert Hall. Potential band members will be required to play one short piece of their choosing and also a piece of sight reading.

Participation in the Gordon Duncan Experience is free but members will be expected to arrange their own transport and meals. Rehearsals are likely to be split between Perth and Pitlochry.

Members will be required to sign a contract committing to attendance at rehearsals and standards of behaviour.

The Gordon Duncan Experience will be an ongoing rehearsal and performance group but participation in this season does not guarantee inclusion beyond Sep 2010.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Intensive weekend 1: Fri 4 – Sun 6 Jun 2010

Intensive weekend 2: Fri 2 – Sun 4 Jul 2010

Full day rehearsals: Mon 5 Jul and Sat 4 Sep 2010

Intensive weekend 3: Fri 17 – Sun 19 Sep 2010

Dress rehearsal: Fri 24 Sep 2010 (evening only)

Concert: Sat 25 Sep 2010

NB Intensive weekends are Friday evening to Sunday evening (non-residential)

Additional application forms can be downloaded from www.horsecross.co.uk or from www.gordonduncan.co.uk

For more information contact Jenn Minchin on 01738 477 722, e-mail jminchin@horsecross.co.uk

