

TOP TWENTY BEST SELLERS 2018

01. Various	<i>Far, Far From Ypres</i>	CDTRAX1418
02. Various	<i>Far, Far From Ypres DVD</i>	DVTRAX2024
03. Various	<i>Celtic Women from Scotland</i>	CDGMP8012
04. Duncan McCrone	<i>Land of Gold</i>	CDTRAX398
05. Kathleen MacInnes	<i>Summer Dawn</i>	CDTRAX294
06. Various	<i>Sandy Bells</i>	CDGMP8010
07. Various	<i>Scotlands Voices</i>	CDTRAX400
08. Various	<i>A Highland Journey</i>	CDGMP8008
09. Various	<i>Celtic Airs & Reflective Melodies</i>	CDGMP8015
10. Barbara Dickson	<i>To Each & Everyone</i>	CDTRAX378
11. Eric Bogle	<i>By Request</i>	CDTRAX210
12. Robin Laing	<i>Whisky For Breakfast</i>	CDTRAX361
13. Tony McManus	<i>Makers Mark</i>	CDTRAX331
14. Tony McManus	<i>Mysterious Boundaries</i>	CDTRAX376
15. Daimh	<i>Diversions</i>	CDTRAX343
16. The McCalmans	<i>Lost Tracks</i>	CDTRAX393
17. Rura	<i>Break It Up</i>	CDTRAX364
18. Various	<i>Greentrax 30th Anniversary</i>	CDTRAXS8616
19. Alex Weir	<i>Alex Weir</i>	CDTRAX399
20. Nick Keir	<i>Nick Keir</i>	CDTRAX397

THE GREENTRAX TEAM

IAN GREEN

Managing Director
ian@greentrax.com

ELAINE SUNTER

Accounts and Royalties
elaine@greentrax.com

*And there's a hand, my trusty fiere, and gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak' a right gude-willie waught, for auld lang syne.*

Greentrax Recordings LTD
 Cockenzie Business Centre
 Edinburgh Road, Cockenzie
 East Lothian. EH32 0XL
 T: 01875 814155 • F: 01875 813545
 e: ian@greentrax.com
www.greentrax.com

**CHRISTMAS
Newsletter 2018**

YOU IDIOT...
I SAID THE SCHMIDT HOUSE!

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from
the Greentrax team – Ian and Elaine*



Seasonal Greetings

Elaine and Ian would like to wish all our artists, media friends, business associates, distributors and retailers a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. As usual we are not sending out Christmas cards – a donation to Cancer Research will be made.

The Far, Far From Ypres success story continues

'Far, Far From Ypres – The Concert', sponsored by the Scottish Government (under the WW100 Committee), Poppy Scotland/British Legion Scotland and other bodies toured 10 venues around Scotland from August, culminating in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, on 11th November. Full houses and standing ovations were the order of the day but the Usher Hall was rather special. The capacity audience, the sound engineers and The Cast all rose to the occasion and contributed to an amazing concert in a rather splendid venue. Even the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, who spent a long time chatting to everyone after the concert, was most impressed.

Congratulations to Ian McCalman, who mastermind this remarkable project, and his Cast

plus Peter Heywood (overhead slide projection) and Sandy Forbes (sound assistant). All started from the Greentrax CD release 'Far, Far From Ypres'.

Greentrax arranged for the company Viscon to film the first concert in the series, in Victoria Hall, Selkirk, in August and then Ian McCalman and Martin Talbot steamed ahead to get a master for me, which was then pressed and printed by Sony DADC Austria. It was on sale at the third and the following concerts. The DVD: 'Far, Far From Ypres – The Concert' (DVTRAX2024) is a must Greentrax buy as is the double CD 'Far, Far From Ypres – Songs Poems and Music of World War 1' (CDTRAX1418), which remains the Greentrax best-seller for a third year. We are doing a special deal: buy both for £25.00, including P & P. Ian is very proud of these collections. ❁

THOUGHTS ARE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY IN 2018

Early in 2018 we received the sad news that John Munro, Eric Bogle's touring buddy over many, many years, had lost his battle with cancer. Eric was of course devastated. Ian will miss John's visits to Scotland and his cheery e-mails. John was a talented multi-instrumentalist, an outstanding songwriter and a fine singer. He was also a lovely man and Ian was proud to have released John's solo album – 'Plying My Trade' in 2007. RIP John.

We also had deaths within both family circles. Ian was admitted very suddenly to Edinburgh

Royal Infirmary at the end of 2017 and had a Heart Pacemaker fitted.

Bill Barclay's wife Heather and son Norval are currently battling ill-health and we send them our best wishes.

Lesley and John Barrow's daughter, Jane, was recently in hospital for an operation and we wish her well also. Life can be very unfair! John Barrow, of course, runs the Stoneyport Agency and the annual Acoustic Music Centre during Edinburgh's Fringe. He also chairs the Edinburgh Folk Club committee, still going strong after so many years. ❁



Greentrax releases in 2018

In April Greentrax released '*Scotland's Voices*' (CDTRAX400), a compilation of many of the finest traditional and source singers (e.g. Jeannie Robertson, Belle Stewart, Willie Scott and Jimmy MacBeath) as a companion to Alexander Moffat's painting of the same title, which has been on exhibition around Scotland in 2018.

'*This Has Been Me Since Yesterday*' by A.C. (Alex) Weir (CDTRAX399) was an unusual release. Alex has been writing songs all his life but was only coaxed into the studio by his sons at the age of 77 years – amazing! We were pleased to finally sign

up and release an album by the talented singer/songwriter Duncan McCrone – '*Land of Gold*' (CDTRAX398), recently retired from his post as MCPS/PRS representative in Scotland. Then came the unique DVD '*Far, Far From Ypres – The Concert*' (already mentioned). To end the year we released Sineag MacIntyre's brilliant Gaelic album: '*Lòn Bàn*' (CDTRAX396).

In 2018 we also re-released the hugely popular three CD box set: '*Scotland – The Music and The Song*', which is an amazing Greentrax showcase compilation which sells for the give-away price of £12.00. A real bargain. ❁

SALES IN 2018

While sales through the usual high street shops are poor, with a few exceptions, mail order companies, including ourselves, are seeing a distinct up-turn in sales, which has been our saviour. Download sales have never risen to the early-predicted levels and streaming earns little in our genre of music.

The pop scene seems almost to survive on streaming but not the specialist labels. ❁

New for 2019

New albums from Christine Kydd ('Shift and Change'), Heather Heywood, Malinky double CD, James Ross and Tony McManus. All exciting projects and worth watching out for on our website (www.greentrax.com). ❁

ARTIST NEWS

At the time of going to print 'Far, Far From Ypres – The Concert' was nominated for 'The Event of The Year' at the BBC Alba Trad Awards (1st December). Everyone involved was really excited by the nomination so watch out for the winner on our website.

A commemorative Nick Keir sell-out concert was held in the Acoustic Music Centre, during Edinburgh Festival Fringe, with several guests including Dick Gaughan and Ragged Glory. It was a very emotional night which ended with the recording of Nick singing his own very popular 'Festival Lights'. Nick's Mum attended and was not the only one to shed a tear or two.

Ian went on tour with The Cast of 'Far, Far From Ypres' for three Highland concerts: Oban, Skye and Ullapool. He met numerous old friends and passed

many locations where June and Ian spent very happy holidays in the past. It was amazing to see so many people with tears in their eyes as they left the various venues and everyone who had a passing word with Ian were full of praise for the show – the word 'brilliant' prevailed.

Barbara Dickson, a popular member of the 'Far, Far From Ypres' cast, embarks on a huge tour of the UK in February through to March, 2019. Watch out for a date in your area. Incidentally, Barbara thoroughly enjoyed her time with the 'Ypres' gang. Many friendships were consolidated during the tour. Barbara's Greentrax album: 'To Each and Everyone' ('Songs of Gerry Rafferty') continues to sell well and will be on sale at her concerts. Barbara's repertoire currently includes some Rafferty songs, plus of course her big hits. Great show.

Elaine and Ian. Greentrax Recordings ❁