

GREENTRAX CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2020

TOP TWENTY BEST SELLERS 2020

01. Dick Gaughan	<i>The Harvard Tapes</i>	CDTRAX406
02. Brian McNeill	<i>No Silence</i>	CDTRAX412
03. Tony McManus		
& Julia Toaspern	<i>Live in Concert</i>	CDTRAX405
04. Malinky	<i>Handsel</i>	CDTRAX402
05. Various	<i>Scottish Tradition Series Vol 28</i>	CDTRAX9028
06. Stevie Palmer	<i>We Become The Sunshine</i>	CDTRAX408
07. Eric Bogle	<i>Singing The Spirit Home Box Set</i>	CDTRAX4001B
08. Fraser Bruce	<i>Every Song's A Story</i>	CDTRAX413
09. Eric Bogle	<i>By Request</i>	CDTRAX210
10. Alexander McCall Smith		
& James Ross	<i>These Are The Hands</i>	CDTRAX404
11. Kathleen MacInnes	<i>Summer Dawn</i>	CDTRAX294
12. Eric Bogle	<i>At This Stage</i>	CDTRAX286
13. Eric Bogle	<i>Live at Stonyfell Winery</i>	DVTRAX2022
14. Various	<i>Hamish Henderson Tribute Album</i>	CDTRAX244
15. Rura	<i>Break It Up</i>	CDTRAX364
16. Various	<i>Gaelic Psalms From Lewis</i>	CDTRAX9006
17. Robin Laing	<i>Whisky For Breakfast</i>	CDTRAX361
18. Barbara Dickson	<i>To Each & Everyone</i>	CDTRAX378
19. Christine Kydd	<i>Shift & Change</i>	CDTRAX401
20. Various	<i>The Scottish Diaspora</i>	CDTRAX380

THE GREENTRAX TEAM

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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.



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**CHRISTMAS
Newsletter
2020**

BAWlin

Chill, dude – it's just toys. It's not like you're delivering a vaccine or anything.

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.

Events of 2020

2020 will long be remembered as the 'Year of the Corona Virus', which greatly affected lives and businesses – and was of course a Worldwide pandemic.

It drastically ended shop sales because of the lockdown and from March to July I was shielding at home with no computer access, while Elaine transferred her computer to her home and worked from there, doing a brilliant job running Greentrax virtually single-handed.

We were both very relieved when we were reunited in the Greentrax office in late July.

Dougie Stevenson, at Gordon Duncan Distribution, helped us enormously with our mail order during the lockdown period. Thanks for that Dougie.

In common with many people, I used the down time to have a house clear-out and one of my major tasks was to organise my huge CD collection into some semblance of order. Friends, Lesley and John Barrow, Kate and Tom Ward, Ellen and Ian McCalman, neighbours Anna and Jim Holt, plus daughter Linda, came to my rescue with regular phone calls and visits, at a distance of course but welcome nevertheless. Elaine made daily calls to my home to keep me informed and make decisions.

A voluntary shopping service was set up in my village of Longniddry and the wonderful women volunteers dealt with my shopping

needs. It was a long spell to be locked up in a house and, thankfully, a garden, but I retained my sanity (if I ever was sane!).

Elaine enjoyed her return to the office and near normality but had a holiday in Turkey in October (booked in 2019), then had to go into quarantine for two weeks on her return, when she again moved her computer to her home. Unsurprisingly, 2020 was more or less a non-event for most of us and at the time of going to print with this Newsletter, the future does not seem to offer much.

We are delighted to announce that Margaret Stewart will be inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music 'Hall of Fame' in 2020. Margaret has recorded three albums for Greentrax – two with piper Allan MacDonald (CDTRAX132 and 217) and her solo album (CDTRAX311).

Eric Bogle emailed us in early November to say he was having his first 'live' concert (in Adelaide) since early in 2020. Apparently restrictions are being lifted in most areas of Australia, where the virus appears to be under control. As you will see on the back page of this Newsletter, three of Eric's album and his DVD all feature in our 'Top Twenty Best Sellers of 2020'. Quite a feat.

Interesting to note that Dick's *The Harvard Tapes* tops the list. ❀ IAN GREEN



Greentrax releases in 2020

CDTRAX9028

School of Scottish Studies Series

'Dhannsadb Gun Dannsadb'

'Dance Songs of The Scottish Gaels'

(Actually released very late in 2019)

Another first from the School's Archives, adding to this highly rated series – once described as: 'the most important series of traditional recordings ever'. Sales have been very promising.

CDTRAX408 Stevie Palmer

'We Become The Sunshine'

Second Greentrax album from this multi-award winning singer/songwriter and most recently recognised as a featured performer in the 2018 Scottish Traditional Music Award winning stage production of 'Far, Far From Ypres', in which he performed his own stand-out composition 'Black is The Sun' (From the album CDTRAX347 'Heart Print Shadow'). Was delayed from February to September. Mail order sales have been excellent.

CDTRAX412 Brian McNeill

'No Silence'

A new album of songs and instrumentals by the human dynamo, who wrote the songs and some of the tunes and, apart from Bodhran played by Tad Sargent, he also played all the instruments and recorded the bulk of the material in his home studio. A really fine collection of songs and tunes. Incidentally, Brian has occupied himself for most of 2020 by adding to the list of novels he has written. A talented man indeed. Brisk sales.

CDTRAX413 Fraser Bruce

'Every Song's A Story'

Fraser says: 'Folk songs are just stories set to music' and this is certainly true of this collection of mainly contemporary songs. Five are by Fraser, one is traditional and the remaining eight are by such fine songwriters as Eric Bogle, Dougie MacLean, Andy Barnes, John Watt and Graeme Miles. The album was recorded by brother Ian Bruce, who also played

several instruments, added backing vocals and designed the artwork. The advance orders on this album were remarkable.

The number of releases was, like so many other things, greatly affected by the Corona Virus outbreak and the subsequent 'lockdown'. Sales through shops are currently poor but we look forward to sales picking up once we have returned to some sort of normality. On the other hand, mail orders sales have been excellent and our Annual Christmas Offer is enjoying a good take-up.

NEW FOR 2021

CDTRAX410 'Volume 2' of the 'Hamish Henderson Tribute Album', which will include more of Hamish's songs and poems. Singers will include Fiona Hunter, Cameron Nixon and John Morran, plus Hamish himself. It is being produced by Dr. Fred Freeman, who will also read a couple of Hamish's poems. It is due for release early in 2021.

CDTRAX409 Eddie Seaman and CDTRAX411 Kyle Warren, both piping albums, get underway in early 2021 after virus related delays. Both are outstanding young pipers. A third piping album by Duncan Moore, son of Hamish Moore, which will include many of Duncan's own compositions is also at the planning stage.

A new Heather Heywood album, severely delayed by the virus, should see the light of day in 2021.

Other exciting new projects also being planned.

2019 Releases:

2019 was a very exciting year with CDs from Christine Kydd (CDTRAX401), Dougie Mackenzie (CDTRAX403), Alexander McCall Smith and James Ross (CDTRAX404), Tony McManus and Julia Toaspern (CDTRAX405), Malinky (CDTRAX402), Dick Gaughan (CDTRAX406), and the late John Campbell Munro (CDTRAX407) have all received excellent reviews and each is a gem in its own right. Dick's album, from which Dick earns a handsome royalty, has greatly exceeded all previous in-house mail order sales. ❀