



Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club

MEDIA RELEASE –March 6, 2011

SHETLAND FIDDLER CHRIS STOUT & SCOTTISH HARP PLAYER CATRIONA MCKAY TO TOUR

**Friday March 25 - Tuesday 29 – Ten Days on the Island, Tasmania
Friday April 1 - Sunday 10 – Melbourne, Malmsbury, Benalla & Traralgon
Tuesday April 12 – Adelaide
Thursday April 14-Friday 15 – Canberra**

“One of the most impressive displays of composition and sheer musicianship allied to outstanding instrumental skill that I've seen in years” ~ John Barrow ~ Stoneport Agency and Folk Music Promoter, Edinburgh

“Reviewers have already attributed a million different adjectives to describe their unique alliance, so here's another one – genius!!!! – The Scotsman

Acclaimed Shetland-born fiddler Chris Stout and Scottish harp player Catriona McKay will tour Australia from late March to mid-April.

In Tasmania, Chris and Catriona will perform on Flinders Island and in Hobart, Sorell and Triabunna from Friday March 25 to Tuesday March 29 as part of Ten Days on the Island. They're no strangers to Tasmanian audiences, having previously toured to Ten Days with Fiddlers' Bid in 2001.

In Victoria from Monday April 1- Sunday 10, Chris and Catriona will present a concert for The Boite World Music Cafe (8pm Friday April 1, Mark Street Hall, North Fitzroy), another at the Tyers Folk Club (7.30pm Sunday April, Tyers Hall near Traralgon) and a late afternoon gig at the Benalla Art Gallery (5.30pm Friday April 8, Bridge Street, Benalla). Their Victorian tour culminates in a major performance with Australia's favourite fiddle group, the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club (2.15pm, Sunday April 10, James Tatoulis Auditorium, MLC, Kew).

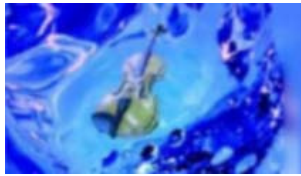
In between their performances, Chris and Catriona will run a series of workshops together and separately in North Balwyn, East Kew and Malmsbury. The East Kew workshop is free to fiddle club members and local residents, thanks to a grant from the City of Boroondara – 7-9.30pm Wednesday April 6 at East Kew Uniting Church.

As individual musicians, Chris Stout and Catriona McKay need little introduction to traditional music audiences, either in the UK or much further afield, both being leading exponents on their chosen instruments and in their respective musical fields. Their performances were originally limited to Tasmania and Victoria but Scottish fiddle groups in Adelaide and Canberra have insisted that Chris and Catriona extend their tour to April 15 with workshops and concerts now confirmed (see below for details).

Chris, who plays fiddle and viola, is hailed as one of Scotland's leading fiddlers/violinists, whether in a solo capacity, as a member of the group Fiddlers' Bid, leading his own musically diverse quintet, The Chris Stout Theory, and soloing with the likes of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and even the Singapore Chinese National Orchestra. His recent travels have taken him to Brazil, the USA, Japan and the Far East in general, Australia, Jordan, Europe and Scandinavia.

Born in Dundee, but now resident in Glasgow, Catriona, is unquestionably one of Scotland's most talented, diverse and exciting harp players, ever-willing to experiment and crossing all musical boundaries into the bargain. In 2007 she won the coveted 'Instrumentalist of the Year' category at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards and her recent solo album *Starfish* received glowing accolades on a world-wide basis with the *Irish Times* labelling it “extraordinarily beautiful”. She is also a member of Fiddlers' Bid.

Together, Chris and Catriona recently released a new album entitled *White Nights* which they say is “a musical celebration of Northerness”. Some of the music included on the album has also been inspired by international award-winning crime novelist Ann Cleeves. Her book *White Nights*, set in Shetland, features a fictional fiddler based on Chris. The character, Roddy Sinclair, meets an untimely end but that hasn't stopped Chris from collaborating with Ann at her live literary appearances throughout the UK.



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The Victorian workshops are supported by the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club's Melbourne-Shetland Travelling Fiddlership. Chris Stout is the second recipient of the 'fiddlership' which began last August when Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club player, 28 year old lawyer Gus Downing, travelled to Shetland to participate in a series of workshops and performances.

Under the 'fiddlership' established by retired Glen Waverley businessman, Bill Sides, a Melbourne fiddler will travel to Shetland one year, with a Shetland fiddler coming out to Australia the next. Bill Sides is the grandson of John Anderson who hand-crafted around 50 fiddles after emigrating from Shetland in 1912.

Bill Sides has tracked down 26 of the fiddles and asked Gus Downing to see if he could locate one which appeared to have made its way back to Shetland. It didn't take Gus (who also took a Shetland fiddle with him) long to track down the mystery fiddle, numbered #16 – he was front page news the day he arrived. At the Fiddle Frenzy, he met up with the owner, Graeme Jamieson from the Shetland Fiddle Society, who had bought it for his son for £35 some 25 years previously.

The Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club will play a selection of the Shetland fiddles at its concert with Chris and Catriona on April 10.

The 60-strong Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club has been wowing crowds all over Australia and New Zealand since 1995, impressing audiences with its collective *joie de vivre*. Last year, it presented sell-out performances at two Melbourne concerts and a ten-day tour of regional New South Wales, culminating in a CFA fund-raiser in Benalla.

Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club's musical director and founder, Judy Turner, says the Kew concert involves more than just massed fiddles.

"Expect some outstanding vocals and masterful performances from Chris Stout and Catriona McKay," she said.

"We're thrilled that the first fiddler to come from Shetland on the fiddlership' is Chris Stout, such an outstanding performer – and, as a bonus, he'll be joined at all the concerts and at least one workshop by one of Scotland's leading harpists, Catriona McKay. Australian fiddlers and harpists will gain so much by this cultural exchange – and so will the growing number of fans for traditional music with a twist."

The past year has been a string of successes for the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club after winning two Golden Fiddle awards at Tamworth and *Australian Folk CD of the Year* in the Folk Alliance Australia Music Awards. The club's fiddlers range in age from 12 to 75. The Davidson Brothers are the most famous of the club's alumni.

Media contacts:

Ten Days on the Island: Prue Bassett Publicity 0419 559 040 prue@netspace.net.au

Victorian concerts & workshops: Carmel Shute, Shute the Messenger 0412 569 356 cshute@internode.on.net

Judy Turner, Melbourne Scottish Club Director: 0438 560 741 (all hours) newdogs@optusnet.com.au

Therese Virtue, The Boite World Music Cafe: 0427 773 553; boite@boite.com.au

Performances by Chris Stout & Catriona McKay

Ten Days on the Island

- **7.15pm Friday March 25:** Flinders Art & Entertainment Centre, Patrick Street, Whitemark Flinders Island [http://www.tendaysontheisland.com/webapp/727951/Catriona McKay and Chris Stout](http://www.tendaysontheisland.com/webapp/727951/Catriona%20McKay%20and%20Chris%20Stout)
- **7.30pm Sunday March 27:** A Night of Celtic Tunes with Ashley MacIsaac and Quinn Bachand. City Hall, 19 Macquarie Street, Hobart: [http://www.tendaysontheisland.com/webapp/727944/A Night of Celtic Tunes](http://www.tendaysontheisland.com/webapp/727944/A%20Night%20of%20Celtic%20Tunes)
- **7.15pm Monday March 28:** Chris Stout & Catriona McKay. Sorrell Memorial Hall, Cole Street, Sorrell [http://www.tendaysontheisland.com/webapp/727951/Catriona McKay and Chris Stout](http://www.tendaysontheisland.com/webapp/727951/Catriona%20McKay%20and%20Chris%20Stout)
- **7.15pm Tuesday March 29:** Chris Stout & Catriona McKay. Triabunna Hall, Vicary Street, Triabunna [http://www.tendaysontheisland.com/webapp/727951/Catriona McKay and Chris Stout](http://www.tendaysontheisland.com/webapp/727951/Catriona%20McKay%20and%20Chris%20Stout)



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Victoria

- **8-10pm Friday April 1:** Chris Stout & Catriona McKay in Concert for The Boite World Music Cafe, Mark Street Hall, 1 Mark Street, North Fitzroy. \$18 (adult); \$12 (conc). Bookings: 9417 1983 Info: Therese Virtue: 0427 773 553 boite@boite.com.au
- **10am-4.30pm, Saturday April 2:** Chris Stout in full day workshop with the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club members, St Aidan's Church, 17 Duggan St, North Balwyn. Please bring lunch to share. director@melbournescottishfiddlers.com; www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com
- **10am-2.30pm, Saturday April 2:** Catriona McKay workshop with the Harp Society of Victoria. Malmsbury Town Hall, Calder Highway. \$30 (workshop only) &
- **5-7.30pm, Saturday April 2:** Concert with Catriona McKay and other harpists. \$15/ \$10 (Harp Society Members). Combo tickets: \$35. Info: Frances Thiele, 0405 378 352 mail@harpsofvi.com.au
- **7.30pm Sunday April 3:** Concert at the Tyers Folk Club, Tyers Hall, Tyers (near Traralgon). \$15; \$10 (folk club members) Info: Barb Brabets 03 5174 7903 President bbrabets@datafast.net.au
- **7-9.30pm Wednesday April 6:** Chris Stout & Catriona McKay workshop. East Kew Uniting Church, 142 Normanby Rd. \$25; free to MSFC club members and local residents. bookings@melbournescottishfiddlers.com; www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com
- **5.30pm Friday April 8:** Chris Stout & Catriona McKay at the Benalla Art Gallery, Bridge Street. \$25 (adult), \$20 (conc), full-time students and children free. Tickets at the door. Info: 03 5760 2619. Dinner will be available after show at gallery cafe. Bookings: 03 5762 3777
- **2.15-5pm Sunday April 10:** Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club in concert with Chris Stout & Catriona McKay for The Boite World Music Cafe, James Tatoulis Auditorium, MLC, 207 Barkers Road Kew. \$30 (adult); \$20 (conc); \$10 (children) Bookings: 03 9417 1983 www.boite.com.au Info: Therese Virtue: 0427 773 553 boite@boite.com.au

Adelaide

- **6-7pm Tuesday April 12:** Fiddle workshop with Chris Stout. Accompaniment workshop with Catriona McKay (harp, guitar, piano etc). Church of the Trinity, 318 Goodwood Road, Clarence Park. \$30 (adult); \$20 (under 16) &
- **8pm 7pm Tuesday April 12:** Chris Stout & Catriona McKay in concert. Church of the Trinity, 318 Goodwood Road, Clarence Park. \$25 (adult); \$15 (under 16/conc); Combo tickets for both workshop and concert: \$50 (adult), \$40 (conc), \$30 (under 16): Tickets: Dramatix -<http://www.dramatix.com.au/> Info: Ali Washusen 0405 228 139 ali.washusen@gmail.com

Canberra

- **7-9.30pm Thursday April 14:** Chris Stout fiddle workshop 36 Fitzhardinge Cres, Evatt. Harp workshop with Catriona McKay planned: www.scottishfiddlers.com/Canberra.
- **7.30pm Friday April 15:** Chris Stout & Catriona McKay at the Merry Muse (<http://www.merrymuse.org.au/wb/>), Southern Cross Club, 54 McCaughey St, Turner. \$22 (adults): \$18 (conc); \$16 (Monaro Folk Society members) Bookings: (02) 6258 5221. Info: Lachlan Green (02) 6258 5221/0428 334 248 megachug@bigblue.net.au.

Further info on Chris Stout & Catriona McKay:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WN2FgHN26e0>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYFX0deqAqs>

www.mckaystoutmusic.co.uk; www.chrisstout.co.uk; www.catrionamckay.co.uk

<http://www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com/Performances/2011/ChrisStout&CatrionaMcKay&MSFC.pdf>

Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club: www.melbournescottishfiddlers.com

Video on the history of the Shetland fiddles: www.youtube.com/melbscotfiddlers

The Boite World Music Cafe: www.boite.com.au



IT MEANS THE WORLD
Ten Days on the Island
Tasmania, 25 March - 3 April 2011

