

Cuspair Clàir-ghnothaich	7
Àir. Aithisge	G/3/23

COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD

Comataidh: Comataidh na Gàidhlig

Ceann-latha: 30 Màrt 2023

Tìotal Aithisge: Fèis Blas 2022

Aithisg le: Àrd-Oifigear Gnìomhach Eadar-amail airson Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas

1. Adhbhar/Geàrr-chunntas Gnìomhach

- 1.1 Tha an aithisg a' toirt fiosrachadh do Bhuill mu Fhèis Blas 2022 a chaidh a chumail an-uiridh, eadar 2–10 dhen t-Sultain. Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd ag obair gu dlùth le Fèisean nan Gàidheal (FnanG) a thaobh an tachartais.
- 1.2 Chaidh Fèis Blas a stèidheachadh le Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd o chionn 18 bliadhna agus 's e com-pàirteachas a th' innte eadar Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd agus FnanG.

Ann an 18 bliadhna bho chaidh Fèis Blas a chur air bhog, thathar air na leanas a choileanadh:

- cosnadh do 4,944 neach-ciùil is seinneadair;
- còrr is 1,310 tachartas air an cur air adhart air feadh na Gàidhealtachd;
- luchd-èisteachd corporra còrr is 126,000;
- luchd-èisteachd air-loidhne a tha a' sìor dhol am meud bho chaidh FèisTV a chur air bhonn, gu h-àraid sna trì bliadhna mu dheireadh;
- buannachd eaconamach co-dhiù £7.6m agus math dh'fhaodte barrachd;
- a' Ghàidhlig a' nochdadh ann an stuthan foillseachaidh agus aig a h-uile tachartas;
- cothrom aig luchd-èisteachd corporra is air-loidhne air stuthan brosnachail Gàidhlig;
- dòigh do Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd a bhith an sàs ann am bliadhnaichean cuspaireil na h-Alba; agus
- na gealltanasan ro-innleachdail ann am planaichean Gàidhlig Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd a libhrigeadh.

2. Molaidhean

2.1 Thathar ag iarraidh air Buill:

- i. toirt fa-near dhan aithisg.

3. Buaidhean

3.1 Goireas – Tha taic Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd do dh’Fhèis Blas air cothrom a thoirt do FnanG maoinachadh a bharrachd a tharraing bho bhuidhnean eile a leithid Alba Chruthachail is Bòrd na Gàidhlig, agus ann an 2022 bho Thaighean-tasgaidh is Gailearaidhean na h-Alba mar phàirt de Bhliadhna Sgeulachdan na h-Alba.

Fhuair FnanG maoinachadh a bharrachd bho Alba Chruthachail tro dhuis a’ buntainn ri ath-shlànachadh COVID-19. Bha seo ag amas air barrachd thaisbeanaidhean is chothroman cosnadh a chur air dòigh do luchd-ealain. Bha am maoinachadh seo a’ ciallachadh gum b’ urrainn do FnanG an com-pàirteachas aca le ‘Live Music Now’ ùrachadh.

3.2 Laghail – Chan eil buaidhean ann.

3.3 Coimhearsnachd (Co-ionannachd, Bochdainn, Dùthchail agus Eilean) – Tha Fèis Blas a’ gabhail àite ann an coimhearsnachdan, tallachan is ionadan air feadh na Gàidhealtachd agus tha mòran dhaoine ag obair gu saor-thoileach gus dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid cùisean air adhart gu siùbhlach.

3.4 Atharrachadh Gnàth-shìde/Carbon Ciallach – Chaidh grunn thachartasan Blas a chumail air-loidhne. ’S ann air-loidhne a tha a’ mhòr-chuid dhen stuth brosnachail air a sgaoileadh agus thathar a’ dèanamh feum cho math ’s a ghabhas de na meadhanan sòisealta.

3.5 Cunnart – Nan deigheadh consairtean, tachartasan is bùithtean-obrach Blas a lùghdachadh, bheireadh seo buaidh air libhrigeadh sàr thachartasan Gàidhlig is cultair ann an sgìre na Gàidhealtachd. Tha Blas cudromach a thaobh a bhith a’ toirt spionnadh eaconamach seachad an lùib nan tachartasan cànan is cultair ann an coimhearsnachdan na Gàidhealtachd.

3.6 Gàidhlig – Tha ainm Gàidhlig air an fhèis agus tha i a’ brosnachadh na Gàidhlig agus ga toirt an lùib gach consairt, tachartas is gnìomh. ’S e tachartas cudromach a th’ ann am Fèis Blas a thaobh a bhith a’ cur cànan is cultar na Gàidhlig air adhart.

4. Blas 2022

4.1 Bha prògram àrd-amasach aig an fhèis le còrr is 40 tachartas coimhearsnachd, dràma ann an sgoiltean, tachartasan air-loidhne a leithid bùithtean-obrach an-asgaidh, consairtean air an sruthadh beò, agus seisean de dh’òrain Ghàidhlig.

4.2 Chithear liosta de chonsairtean an seo www.blas.scot/events agus liosta de bhùithtean-obrach is òraidean an seo www.blas.scot/workshops

Bu chòir cuimhneachadh gun do chaochail A Mòrachd a’ Bhanrigh aig àm na fèise agus gun deach trì cèilidhean a chur dheth mar urram dhi.

5. Prògram Blas 2022

5.1 Ghabh luchd-ealain bho choimhearsnachdan air feadh na dùthcha pàirt san fhèis, a bharrachd air sàr luchd-ealain à Èirinn agus às a' Chuimrigh.

5.2 Tro naoi làithean Blas, chaidh na leanas a thabhan:

- 43 consairtean is cèilidhean
- 1 seisean òrain Ghàidhlig
- 6 bùithtean-obrach air-loidhne do dh'inbhich is do chloinn
- cuairt mu sgoiltean le dealbh-chluich stèidhichte air Bliadhna Sgeulachdan na h-Alba.

Tha **Eàrr-ràdh 1** a' toirt taghadh de bhàrr-phuingean a' phrògram.

6. Staitistearachd agus Fios air ais bhon Luchd-èisteachd

6.1 Tha na clàran a leanas a' sealltainn prìomh staitistearachd airson Blas 2022 agus luachaidhean an luchd-èisteachd.

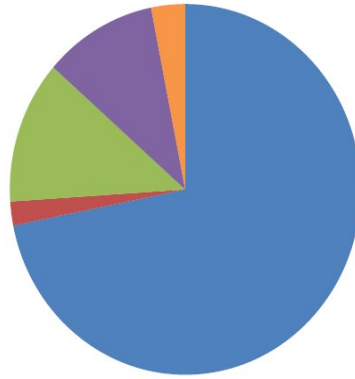
Làthaireachd	Àireamh
Luchd-obrach	10
Saor-thoilich	149
Cunnradair	118
Luchd-ealain	302
Luchd-èisteachd	3,998
Oidean	6
Iomlan	4,583

Riarachas Luchd-èisteachd	Luachadh
Luach an airgid	95%
Mar a chòrd an tachartas riutha	95%
Cleachdadh na Gàidhlig	91%
Luachadh iomlan	93.6%

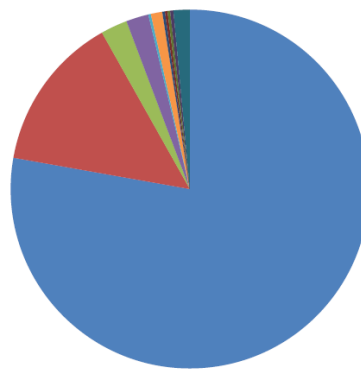
6.2 Chuir Fèis Blas air dòigh ceisteachan air-loidhne agus tha na leanas a' toirt gearr-chunntas air na beachdan a chaidh fhaotainn:

- *“Bha an dà chuir-m-chiùil aig an robh mi sònraichte math, a' taisbeanadh beartas cultar na Gàidhlig gu sàr àrd-ìre.”*
- *“Tha am prògram cho drùidhteach.”*
- *“An dòchas gun tèid seo a dhèanamh a-rithist—inntinneach & dìreach sgoinneil!”*
- *“Fèis air leth. Togarrach, fiosrachail, dibhearsaineach, càirdeil.”*

6.3 B' ann às a' Ghàidhealtachd a bha a' mhòr-chuid de luchd-èisteachd Fèis Blas, mar a chithear sna diagraman gu h-ìosal:



■ Highlands ■ Western Isles ■ Other Areas Scotland ■ Rest of UK ■ Overseas



■ UK ■ USA ■ Germany ■ France
 ■ Ireland ■ Canada ■ Netherlands ■ Japan
 ■ Austria ■ Switzerland ■ UAE

6.4 Blas 2022 – Na Meadhanan Sòisealta

Chuir Sgioba Gàidhlig Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd agus an Sgioba Conaltraidh air adhart Blas air meadhanan sòisealta na Comhairle.

6.5 Blas 2023

Thèid 19mh Fèis Blas a chumail eadar 1–9 Sultain 2023.

Tha obair ullachaidh air a bhith a’ dol air adhart mar-thà agus gheibh buill na comataidh ceangal gu Prògram Fèis Blas agus fiosrachadh eile nuair a thèid am prògram a chur air bhog.

Ainmeachadh: Àrd-Oifigear Gnìomhach Eadar-amail airson Coileanadh agus Riaghlachas

Ceann-latha: 1 Màrt 2023

Ùghdar: Mòrag Anna NicLeòid Mitchell

Pàipearan Cùl-fhiosrachaidh:

Appendix 1

Summary of Blas Programme Highlights

Blas Festival celebrated the 80th birthday of Gaelic singer and tradition bearer Mary Smith with a concert featuring artists chosen by Ms Smith. The artists who performed were Julie Fowles, Christine Primrose, Allan MacDonald, Catriona MacDonald, Mairead and Triona Ni Dhomhnaill (Ireland) and Julie Murphy (Wales). The concert was recorded by BBC Radio nan Gàidheal and broadcast on 11th November.

They also celebrated the 80th birthday of Essie Stewart a storyteller.

Fèisean Cèilidh Trails performed alongside Avanc, a group of young Welsh musicians.

Charlie Mckerron performed his Badenoch Suite which featured a host of the finest traditional musicians of the area, including the talented youngsters of Fèis Spè

Mànran performed.

Talamh Beò | Living Land by Mary Ann Kennedy, Finlay Wells, Nick Turner and Donald MacLean was performed across 3 evenings of the festival.

Bruce MacGregor performed music from his latest critically acclaimed release, The Road to Tyranny

Staran and Làirig performed at a special concert in Dornoch Cathedral

Allan Henderson and others performed Cuir Seinn ri Seachas: Sing me a Story

Fèis participants were able to perform alongside some of the finest traditional musicians at concerts throughout the festival.

The Màrtainn Skene Band performed at two cèilidhs

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Theatre-in-Education service Meanbh Chuileag, performed a newly written

Gaelic play, Sgeulachdan an Tilley | Tilley Tales throughout the Highlands during the festival

They livestreamed a concert each night of the festival through FèisTV.

Commissions

Following a tender process, Chloë Bryce was awarded this year's Blas commission. Chloë developed The Summer Walkers which was a celebration of the travelling people of the Sutherland area.

Songs, stories and music – both traditional and newly composed by Chloë – were performed as part of this special commission which was particularly fitting for the Year of Stories celebrations. There were 4 performances of the The Summer Walkers, one of which was livestreamed to an international audience.

Jo Macdonald was commissioned to develop a performance which celebrated stories of Food and Drink in Gaelic song. Itheamaid is Òlamaid was then presented by Angela MacEachen with performances by Gillebride Macmillan and Rachel Walker. It was performed over 4 evenings during the festival and was also livestreamed.

They supported Calum Munro to develop Tomhas, a suite of 10 newly-written Gaelic songs. Calum's songs were arranged by Brian McAlpine who brought together a 6-piece band to perform the new compositions which were sung by Norrie Maclver and Kim Carnie.

Workshops

They offered 7 free online workshops on each Saturday of the festival for both children and adults with 131 taking part.

- Chloë Bryce delivered a session on the music she developed as part of her Blas commission
- Angus MacKenzie taught tunes that were performed as part of Ronan Martin's celebration of the music and song of Assynt and Coigach
- Norrie Maclver taught songs that Runrig brothers Calum and Rory MacDonald composed
- Early years sessions were delivered in Gaelic by Claire Frances MacNeil
- Kim Carnie led puirt-a-beul workshops.

Gaelic Song Session

As part of a series of Gaelic song sessions, in partnership with An Comunn Gàidhealach, John Joe MacNeil led an evening of song with participants from other Countries.

Partnerships

They worked closely with our local network of promoters for events which took place across the Highlands. They delivered a range of events as part of 2022's themed year, Scotland's Year of Stories. They worked with Live Music Now, providing entertainment for care home residents during the festival.

They worked in partnership with the Coigach Community Development Company to deliver Mary Ann Kennedy's Talamh Beò and Ronan Martin's Coigach & Assynt Collection.

As part of our Itheamaid is Òlamaid commission worked with food and drink producers to offer audiences a sample of local food.

Ticketing and Audiences

They used EventBrite as their main ticketing platform as well as having local sales through their network of event promoters. Using EventBrite allowed them to control booking fees, which have been an issue in the past. The livestreamed concerts were available through the MyPlayer platform for the second year running. The Zoom platform was utilised to deliver their online workshops.

For those attending concerts and cèilidhs, they endeavoured to ensure that the ticket pricing was reduced despite the increasing costs for running and organising the events. Tickets for events were priced between £14-£19 depending on the event with concession prices available and group discounts for families. They also continued their offer of a £5 ticket to young people of school age. The livestreamed concerts were priced at £9.50 per ticket and a full festival pass was priced at £50 this enabled a household to view the events at the prices stated. All the Blas workshops were delivered free of charge.