

Cuspair Clàir-ghnothaich	4
Àir. Aithisge	G/1/25

COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD

Comataidh: Comataidh na Gàidhlig

Ceann-latha: 26 Gearran 2025

Tìotal Aithisge: Fèis Bhlas 2024

Aithisg le: Iar-Àrd-Oifigear – Daoine

1. Adhbhar/Geàrr-chunntas Gnìomhach

- 1.1 'S e adhbhar na h-aithisge seo cunntas às ùr a thoirt do Bhuill mu Fhèis Bhlas 2024.
- 1.2 Tha an aithisg cuideachd a' cur taic ri taisbeanadh bhidio a bhios Àrd-Oifigear Fèisean nan Gàidheal (FnanG) agus Manaidsear FnanG a' sealltainn dhan Chomataidh.

2. Molaidhean

- 2.1 Thathar ag iarraidh air Buill:
 - i. Toirt fa-near dhan aithisg agus dhan eàrr-ràdh a tha na cois.

3. Builean

- 3.1 Goireas – Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air Fèis Bhlas a mhaoineachadh on a thòisich i an toiseach. Tha seo air cothrom a thoirt do FnanG maoineachadh a bharrachd a tharraing bho bhuidhnean eile a leithid Alba Chruthachail, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, agus prìomh bhuidhnean eile.

Tha FnanG air tagradh maoineachaidh ioma-bhliadhna a chur a-steach gu Alba Chruthachail agus bidh fios aca co-dhiù a tha iad air a bhith soirbheachail air 30 Faoilleach 2025.

- 3.2 Laghail – Chan eil buaidhean laghail sam bith a' tighinn am bàrr mar thoradh air an aithisg.
- 3.3 Cunnart – Chan eil buaidhean dìreach sam bith a' tighinn am bàrr mar thoradh air an aithisg.

- 3.4 Slàinte is Sàbhailteachd (cunnartan a' tighinn am bàrr mar thoradh air atharrachaidhean do dh'uidheamachd, acfhainn, pròiseas no daoine) – Chan eil buaidhean dìreach sam bith a' tighinn am bàrr mar thoradh air an aithisg.
- 3.5 Gàidhlig – Tha a' Ghàidhlig aig cridhe nan consairtean is nan tachartasan aig Blas, bidh Blas a' toirt na Gàidhlig an lùib gach consairt, tachartas is gnìomh, agus bidh Fear no Bean an Taighe le Gàidhlig ann cuideachd. Tha Blas cuideachd a' toirt àrd-ùrlar do chluicheadairean de gach aois far an urrainn dhaibh a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh is a bhruidhinn.

4. Buaidhean

- 4.1 Ann an Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd, tha poileasaidhean, ro-innleachdan no atharrachaidhean seirbheis uile fo ùmhlachd sgrìonadh amalaichte airson buaidh air Co-ionannachdan, Bochdainn is Còraichean Daonna, Còraichean is Sunnd Chloinne, Atharrachadh Gnàth-shìde, Eileanan is Coimhearsnachdan Dùthchail air Tìr-mòr, agus Dìon Dàta. Far a bheil feumalachd air aithneachadh, thèid measadh buaidh iomlan a ghabhail os làimh.
- 4.2 Tha a bhith a' beachdachadh air buaidhean na phàirt bhunaiteach dhen phròiseas cho-dhùnaidhean agus feumaidh seo fios a chur ris a' phròiseas cho-dhùnaidhean. Nuair a thathar a' tighinn gu co-dhùnadh sam bith, feumaidh Buill aire iomchaidh a thoirt do thoraidhean measaidh sam bith.
- 4.3 'S e aithisg sgrùdaidh agus/no ùrachaidh a tha seo agus mar sin chan eil feum air measadh buaidh.

5. Cùl-raon Fèis Bhlas

- 5.1 Tha Fèis Bhlas, a tha air a lìbhrigeadh le FnanG às leth Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd, air a 20mh ceann-bliadhna a chomharrachadh.
- 5.2 San 20 bliadhna a chaidh seachad, tha Fèis Bhlas air na leanas a thoirt gu buil:
- Cosnadh do 5,353 neach-ciùil is seinneadair
 - Còrr is 1,350 tachartas air feadh na Gàidhealtachd
 - Luchd-èisteachd corporra de chòrr is 130,000
 - Luchd-èisteachd air-loidhne a tha a' sìor fhàs o chaidh FèisTV a stèidheachadh
 - Buannachd eaconamach de co-dhiù £8.4m
 - Dòigh san urrainn do Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd pàirt a ghabhail ann am bliadhnaichean cuspaireil [Visit Scotland](#)
 - Cuideachadh le bhith a' libhrigeadh gealltanasan ro-innleachdail ann am Planaichean Gàidhlig Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd

6. Foir-shealladh air Fèis Bhlas 2024

- 6.1 Chaidh com-pàirteachasan le luchd-brosnachaidh is le iomadh buidheann eile a chruthachadh is a neartachadh ri linn 20mh Prògram Fèis Bhlas. Thug seo àrd-ùrlar dhan Ghàidhlig, agus do chultar, ceòl is dualchas, ann an coimhearsnachdan air feadh na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean, a bharrachd air luchd-èisteachd air feadh an t-saoghail a thog ceangal air-loidhne le Blas.
- 6.2 Rè 9 latha Blas, chaidh na leanas a chumail:

- 16 prìomh chonsairtean is chèilidhean
- 9 tachartasan com-pàirteach
- 3 consairtean beò air Facebook
- 2 sheisean de dh'òrain Ghàidhlig
- Bùth-obrach Ghàidhlig air-loidhne do na h-uile
- Turas 'taigh-dhealbh ann am foghlam' de sgoiltean na Gàidhealtachd far a bheil a' Ghàidhlig air a teagasg mar chànan a bharrachd
- Seiseanan de cheòl is òrain Ghàidhlig ann am bun-sgoiltean na Gàidhealtachd

6.3 Tha tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu Phrògram Fèis Bhlas ri fhaotainn ann an **EÀRR-RÀDH 1** agus a' gabhail a-steach na leanas:

- Taghadh de shàr phuingeon on phrògram
- An tabhartas air-loidhne
- Prògram is tadhalan sgoiltean
- Com-pàirteachasan
- Tiogaidean agus luchd-èisteachd
- Sgioba Blas
- Staitistearachd agus fios air ais on luchd-èisteachd
- Beachdan – ceisteachan air-loidhne
- Co-dhùnadh

7. Co-dhùnadh

7.1 Tron phrògram mheasgaichte, tha Blas a' tabhann mòran chothroman do luchd-ciùil, do phroifeiseantaich a tha ag obair sna h-ealain, agus do dhaoine òga a bhios a' gabhail pàirt sna fèisean. Tha an fhèis cuideachd a' toirt cothrom do mhòran choimhearsnachdan air Ghàidhealtachd sàr thachartasan a chur air dòigh.

7.2 Tha FnanG air fiosrachadh a thoirt seachad san eàrr-ràdh a tha an cois na h-aithisge airson sealltainn, tro làthaireachd agus fios air ais foirmeil is neo-fhoirmeil, gu bheil ìrean àrda riarachais is taic a' leantainn air adhart airson Fèis Bhlas.

Ainmeachadh: Àrd-Oifigear Eadar-amail Foghlam Thràth-bhliadhnaichean agus Bun-sgoile

Ceann-latha: 10 Gearran 2025

Ùghdar: Mòrag Anna NicLeòid Mitchell

Eàrr-ràdhan: Eàrr-ràdh 1

APPENDIX 1

Blas Festival 2024 Festival Programme

Selection of Programme Highlights

- The 70th birthday of Chrissie MacVicar, the Gaelic singer from the Isle of Harris, was celebrated with a sell-out concert in Leverburgh community hub. The concert was recorded for BBC Radio nan Gàidheal and will be broadcast during the festive period.
- Celebrated the 80th birthday of Gaelic poet Maoilis Caimbeul with an afternoon of poetry and storytelling from celebrated Gaelic writers along with performances from younger members of the community in Staffin, Isle of Skye.
- Delighted to welcome back Julie Fowlis, Éamon Doorley, Zoë Conway & John McIntyre to Blas for two concerts.
- Worked in partnership with Commun na Gàidhlig to celebrate their 40th anniversary with a concert and cèilidh in the Isle of Lewis.
- Additional partnerships with Eden Court, Cala, Yellow Door Events, Sian, Fèis Rois and The Raasay | The Restitution piping competition allowed them to extend the programme offering.
- Mairi Callan's 'Slighe Fonn na Bàrdachd', a newly arranged suite of Gaelic songs written by some of our most celebrated poets, was performed by Màiri alongside Ruairidh Gray and Alice Macmillan.
- Six community cèilidhs were held during the festival featuring Robert Nairn, The Glenfinnan Cèilidh Band, Andrew MacDonald Iain Cormack, Emma MacLeod, Claire Frances MacNeill and Calum MacColl.
- An important feature of the Blas Festival is the involvement of younger Fèis participants in our concerts and cèilidhs and they were pleased to see this across our programme once again this year.

Online Offering

2 free online workshops and 3 Facebook live sessions during the festival:

- Alec MacDonald delivered a workshop on Gaelic idiom and proverbs.
- Mary Ann Kennedy led a session on the Gaelic songs of Lochaber.
- Norrie MacIver and Iain 'Costello' MacIver each delivered an hour of Gaelic songs.
- Ewen Henderson & Ingrid Henderson performed the songs of Duncan 'Bàn' MacIntyre, commemorating 300 years since his birth.
- Two concerts were recorded for streaming and one, 'Slighe Fonn na Bàrdachd', was broadcast online during European Folk Day.

Schools' visits

Fèisean nan Gàidheal's Theatre-in-Education service Meanbh-Chuileag, visited schools in the Highland area with a play about the history of the Stone of Scone with a special focus on its 'liberation' from Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1950. A second bilingual play was performed in Highland schools' during the festival with a similar theme.

As part of the YMI programme delivery, tutors visited Highland schools during Blas week delivering music and Gaelic song sessions.

Partnerships

FnanG continued to work closely with a network of local promoters for all events that took place across the Highlands with three additional events in Lewis and Harris. (Funded by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar)

FnanG worked with Live Music Now Scotland with performers visiting a care home in Inverness and care home residents across the Highlands having the opportunity to watch a recording of a concert from this year's festival.

Collaborations with fellow Gaelic organisations, Fèisean, venues, bands and existing events allowed them to extend the programme delivery.

A list of all the concerts and cèilidhs is available [here](#) with a list of workshops and livestreams offered [here](#).

Ticketing and Audiences

For the second year running FnanG used TicketSource as the main ticketing platform and local sales were offered through their network of event promoters. They used Facebook Live for 3 online concerts and Zoom was used for online workshops. They also recorded two events for broadcast through FèisTV.

The ticket prices were increased slightly, with options priced between £14-£20 depending on the event with concession prices available, group discounts for families and for the first time a 'pay-what-you-can' option was offered for main Blas events. FnanG also continued the offer of a £5 ticket to young people. The online programme of Facebook Live concerts and workshops were all free with the option to donate.

Blas Team

This year's festival was delivered largely in-house by Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff. The Communications Officer was contracted to create a small number of news releases and organised some press coverage. They also worked with the Highland Council Gaelic Team and the Communications Team.

Statistics and Audience Feedback

The following tables show the main statistics for this year's festival along with audience ratings and a selection of comments.

Attendance	Number
Staff	9
Volunteers	105
Contractors	31
Performers	169
Audience	3,496
Online Viewers	52,110
Tutors	2
Total	55,922

Audience Satisfaction	Rating
Value for Money	97%
Enjoyment of the event	97%
Use of Gaelic	89%
Overall rating	94%

The following is a selection of comments, reproduced as they appeared in the online questionnaire:

"Cumaibh romhaibh is mìle taing!"

"Bha an consart aig a' chathair eaglais an Inbhir Nis aon do na cuirmean as fhearr a chunnaic mi riamh."

"Se sin an Cuirm ciùil as fheàrr a chunnaic mi airson bliadhnaichean! Measgachadh de innealan-ciùil, luchd-ciùil, cultaran 's bàrdachd (Bha na sgeulachd mu'n deidhinn uabhasach inntinneach)....Se togail-inntinn a bh'ann - Oidhche miorbhalach!"

"A truly excellent concert of the highest standard. Loved it."

"Blas festival is outstanding in quality. There's nothing as good as it in our area. To hear fantastic music in a local community is so special."

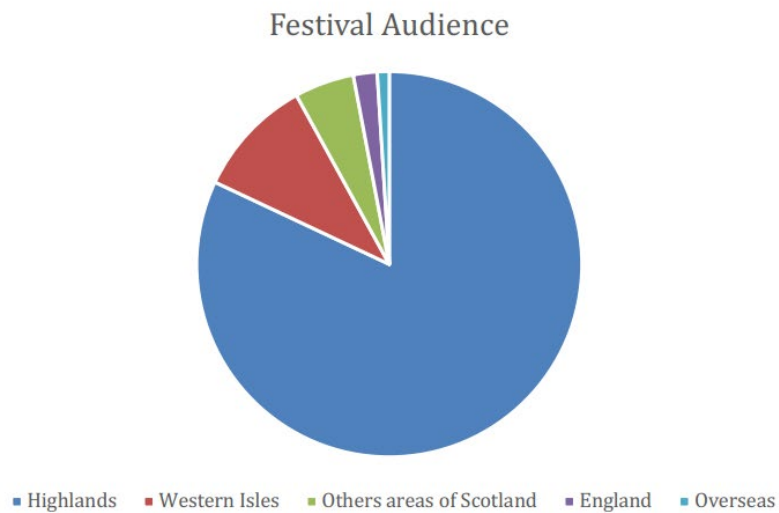
"We were staying in Acharacle on holiday and checked for live music in the area, discovered the event with the Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band and the young people in the area and were most impressed with the musical ability of the young people who performed. As visitors from West Lothian we are more used to listening to school concert band music and pipe band performances. It made a lovely change. Catering was a bonus - excellent cakes. Tapadh leibh!"

"Wonderful music and great atmosphere."

"Thank you so much for putting these events on, it's so essential to have music events and opportunities to get out the house, especially in the highlands. You had some great line ups this year."

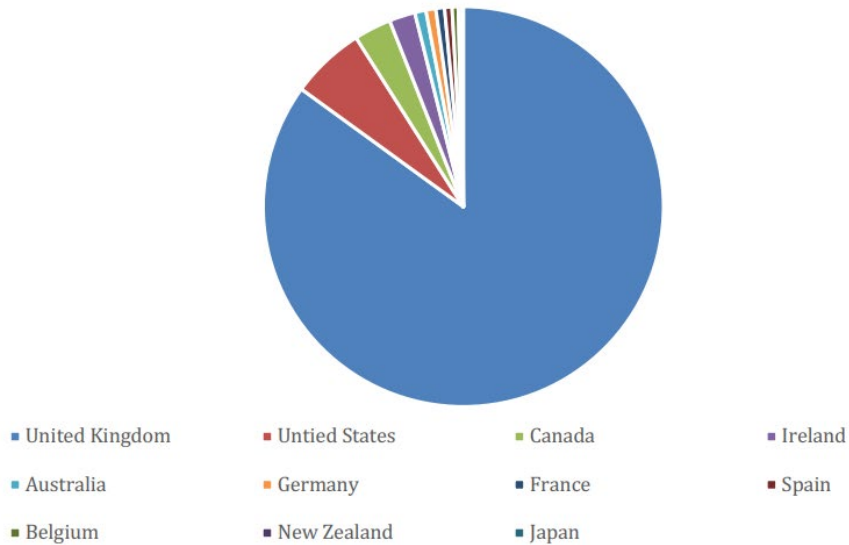
“Fantastic concert, such talented performers and a beautiful atmospheric venue. Thanks!” “It was absolutely wonderful, such a privilege to attend, and would love to have more opportunities next year.”

Most of the Blas audience members came from within the Highlands as shown in the chart below. FnanG were delighted to welcome international visitors once again from America, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy and India.



The online audience was international in its reach, with people watching the livestreams from the UK, USA, Canada, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Spain, France, Belgium, Japan and New Zealand.

Online Audience



Conclusion

The 20th Blas Festival was a successful celebration of language, culture and heritage. The feedback received from those who attended the events is overwhelmingly positive with a 94% satisfaction rating for cultural, linguistic and value-based outcomes.

FnanG is pleased with the audience figures that attended Blas events and have said they are indebted to the communities and promoters that continually support the festival and work tirelessly, not only for the concerts and cèilidhs, but throughout the year to support live music in venues across the Highlands.

FnanG is grateful to the funders and partners - The Highland Council, Creative Scotland and Bòrd na Gàidhlig for continued support of the Blas Festival. They acknowledge, too, the additional support from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.