



**POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL
OF INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL DANCE**

TRAD DANCE

AS INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

**28 APR 2025
18:30**

**SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE
43-45 HIGH STREET, EDINBURGH, EH1 1SR**

**TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND**

SUPPORTING DIVERSE TRAD DANCE IN SCOTLAND THROUGH FREE
MEMBERSHIP + 3 ROUTES: RESIDENCIES, FESTIVALS & PRODUCTIONS.
PART OF **TRACS**. REGISTERED CHARITY SC045085 INFO@TDFS.ORG

TRACS TRADITIONAL
ARTS-CULTURE
SCOTLAND



#traddance
#pomegranatesfestival
#intangibleculturalheritage

"We are thrilled to participate in the Fourth Pomegranates Festival and to showcase Scottish country dance on the eve of the UNESCO International Day of Dance. For over a century, we have championed the vibrant tradition of Scottish country dancing—an energetic blend of lively music, joyful movement, and deep-rooted culture. More than just steps and tunes, Scottish country dance is a unique social phenomenon that welcomes everyone, everywhere. Together with dancers from around the world, let's celebrate movement, culture, and unity in the lead up to this special day."

SEBASTIAN WANLESS

Chair Elect of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Pomegranates Festival is curated by the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland in partnership with

**TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
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Moray House School of
Education and Sport



**Edinburgh
College**



**DANCE
BASE**

WHY POMEGRANATES?

INTRODUCTION BY ILIYANA NEDKOVA AND WENDY TIMMONS



We are delighted that this year's Pomegranates Festival is themed around traditional dance and intangible cultural heritage, especially at a time when Scots are soon to be invited to nominate their favourite traditions to be included on an official living heritage list. Later this year, submissions for the list will be encouraged from all sectors of society, including the traditional dance communities and people who have brought dance traditions from overseas to the UK.

As a founding consortium member of TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland), which in July 2024 was officially appointed as UNESCO Advisor on Intangible Cultural Heritage, we believe that the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland could play a major role in celebrating being Scottish by supporting the diversity of traditional dance practised around the country. Whether it is through our Pomegranates Festival and Ceilidh Plus events, we aim to safeguard the age-old dance traditions and ensure they thrive in the contemporary diverse Scotland we all call home.

So, on the eve of International Dance Day, we gather for an evening of blether about the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention and the opportunities it opens up for Scotland's traditional dances in an international context.

Leading the discussion will be **Steve Byrne** Director of TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland), and an expert advisor to UNESCO on intangible cultural heritage. Joining Steve will be **Rachel Hosker** of the Centre for Research Collections, University of Edinburgh and Chair of the UK UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, **Árpád Vörös**, recipient of a knighthood for his lifetime contribution towards Hungarian folk dance and **Sebastian Wanless**, Chair Elect of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

The discussion will start with demonstrations of traditional dance, including Highland, Scottish Country Dance and Polonaise. Leading the display and accompanied on the bagpipes by **Stephen Clark** will be **Eilidh Gammons**, twice Junior World Champion in Highland Dancing, followed by **Lily and Lucy Clark** - all students at Helensburgh's Margaret Rose School of Dance, run by **Margaret MacInnes**, a recipient of the British Empire Medal for services to Highland dancing.

Edinburgh-based members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society **Andrea Ritchie**, **Eilidh Garden**, **Faye McNeil**, **Rachel Shankland**, **Andrew Nolan**, **Jürgen Munz** will perform a fine selection of Scottish Country Dances, accompanied on the accordion by **Matthew MacLennan**.

These will be followed by a short display of Polonaise, performed by **Anthony Carter**, **Fiona Lynch**, **Natalia Nowak** and **Renata Grillanda** - all members of Parzenica, Scotland's Polish Folk Dance Group. The Polonaise was inscribed in UNESCO's list of intangible heritage and list of humanity to be safeguarded in December 2023.

PROGRAMME



WELCOME TO POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL EXHIBITION

ILİYANA NEDKOVA AND LORRAINE PRITCHARD

SEANN TRIUBHAS DANCE

EILIDH GAMMONS, ACCOMPANIED ON THE BAGPIPES BY
STEPHEN CLARK

HIGHLAND SWORD DANCE

LILY AND LUCY CLARK, ACCOMPANIED ON THE BAGPIPES
BY STEPHEN CLARK

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE MEDLEY

ANDREA RITCHIE, EILIDH GARDEN, FAYE MCNEIL, RACHEL
SHANKLAND, ANDREW NOLAN AND JÜRGEN MUNZ,
ACCOMPANIED ON THE ACCORDION BY MATTHEW
MACLENNAN

POLONAISE DANCE

ANTHONY CARTER, FIONA LYNCH, NATALIA NOWAK AND
RENATA GRILLANDA

SHORT INTERVAL

PRESENTATIONS, PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q&A

STEVE BYRNE, RACHEL HOSKER, ÁRPÁD VÖRÖS AND
SEBASTIAN WANLESS, CHAIRED BY WENDY TIMMONS

FIND FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE PROGRAMME BY VISITING THE FESTIVAL WEBSITE OR SCANNING THE QR CODE

WWW.TDFS.ORG/POMEGRANATES

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND AS PART OF TRADITIONAL ARTS AND
CULTURE SCOTLAND (TRACS) | CURATED FOR POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL 2025 | CURATORS/PRODUCERS:
WENDY TIMMONS AND ILİYANA NEDKOVA | ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE: **LORRAINE PRITCHARD** | SOUND &
PROJECTION: **RODDY SIMPSON** | CURATORIAL SUPPORT: **XIAOXUAN ZHONG, JINGYIN CAI AND YU XIE** | PR
AND PUBLICITY: **EMMA HENDERSON** | SOCIAL MEDIA: **ALISON HARM** | INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT: SCOTTISH
STORYTELLING CENTRE, MORAY HOUSE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SPORT, UNIVERSITY OF
EDINBURGH.