

Debut CD for Huntly traditional musician

A young woman whose love of traditional music was nurtured in Huntly releases her first CD today, just as she and her band embark on a tour which takes in a top Italian folk music festival.

"East" is the debut extended play CD from award-winning folksinger, Iona Fyfe.

Throughout her childhood in Huntly, Iona took part in Traditional Music and Song Association (TMSA) of Scotland competitions.

She is a fine exponent of Doric poetry as well as traditional ballads and bothy ballads.

Iona has a string of musical successes to her name, including the best female singer both at Aberdeen TMSA 2016 and Buchan Heritage Society 2016.

A formidable force on the traditional song competition circuit, Iona was a BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award 2015 semi-finalist. Central to her passion for music is a desire to promote the language of Aberdeenshire throughout the UK and further afield.

Iona said: "I've always wanted to release a physical CD and I'm very excited about the finished product. The host of wonderful musicians who have been working on this project have used their expertise and talent to bring to life the traditional songs which I feel so passionate about."

On East, Iona puts her own stamp on a number of folk songs from the well known bothy ballad, Sleepytoon, to the ballad Queen Amang the Heather to a self-penned song, Pride of Aberdeen.

Iona added: "The EP draws inspiration from north east and east folksong style in particular but with a host of instruments from border pipes to bodhran, it places a very contemporary edge on the songs."

Some of the songs are accompanied by her band and others unaccompanied.

The band line-up of Chris Ferrie, Callum Cronin and Charlie Grey was joined by guest Ross Miller, a Celtic Connections 2016 Danny Kyle award winner.

Iona recently played at Portsoy's 7th Haal Folk Festival and when she and her band return from Italy, they embark on a UK tour which will take them to Stockton and South Shields as well as Aberdeen International Youth Festival and Speyfest.

A very special performance will be the Aberdeen launch of the CD at Old Blackfriars on July 30.

East is on sale at the Linden Tree in The Square, Huntly or online at iTunes or at my Bandcamp.



Iona Fyfe.

