

➤ **Manran** - Here for one night only and variously tagged as “folk-rock”, “trad-rock”, and “Celtic-rock”, Mánran are one of the best-known and best-loved Scottish bands on the scene today. The band members appearing in Shetland will be Gary Innes (accordion), Ewen Henderson (fiddle/pipes), Ross Saunders (bass), Ryan Murphy (uilleann pipes/flutes), Mark Scobbie (drums) and Craig Irving (Guitar). Following their first footstomping appearance at the Shetland Folk Festival in 2012, the Committee are delighted to welcome them back to headline this year's Spanging Spree.

➤ **The East Pointers** - This young trio from Prince Edward Island, Canada have talent and a penchant for traditional Celtic tunes of decades past that greatly belie their respective ages. And while each member of the trio – banjoist/vocalist/step-dancer Koady Chaisson, fiddle player/vocalist Tim Chaisson, and guitarist/vocalist Jake Charron – is an accomplished musician in his own right, their union produces a blend of Celtic tunes, songs and step-dances moulded into something uniquely Canadian which goes back generations.

➤ **Tsuumi Sound System** - is one of Finland's internationally most notable modern folk music bands. This seven-piece ensemble draws their strength from a huge mixture of influences. The band is known for their unique compositions and have been described as the rock band of the Finnish folk music field. Traveling to Shetland will be Juha ** (harmonium, piano), Tarmo Anttila (double bass), Joakim Berghäll (saxophones, percussion), Esko Järvelä (fiddle), Hannu Kella (accordion), Jani Kivelä (guitars) and Jussi Nikula (drums).

➤ **Laura Cortese & The Dance Cards**- Hailing from San Francisco, Laura Cortese has built a distinguished career as a fiddler and vocalist and is now one of the most in-demand musical collaborators on the circuit. It's bold and elegant, schooled in the lyrical rituals of folk music and backed by grooves that alternatively inspire Cajun two-stepping and rock 'n' roll swagger. She is joined by accomplished musicians Valerie Thompson (cello/vocals), Jenna Moynihan (fiddle/vocals) and Natalie Bohrn (bass/vocals) , whose sophisticated string arrangements and rich vocal harmonies pair with Cortese's poignant and powerful singing.

➤ **Alan Kelly Gang**- Hailing from the West of Ireland, the powerful and emotive Alan Kelly Gang sit at the cutting edge of the traditional and world music scene. Fronted by Ireland's piano accordion maestro and with three critically acclaimed masters of their craft in tow, the band have been taking global audiences by storm. Performing with acclaimed New York singer and flautist, Steph Geremia, master guitarist, Ian Carr and double bassist, Kevin McGuire – they blend instinctively to create a sound with depth, groove and musicality of the highest order.

➤ **De Temps Antans** - To say that De Temps Antan is a super-group of Quebecois folk music is an under-statement. Each member of the trio was a leader in the massive, multi-platinum Quebec folk band La Bottine Souriante and have toured the world over on some the biggest stages. Their sound is anchored by the "tac-tic-a tac" of "les pieds" (a form of seated clogging found only in French Canada), the blazing fiddle of Andre Brunet, the brash accordion playing of Pierre-Luc Dupuis and the pristine voice and exquisite guitar accompaniment of Eric Beaudry.

➤ **Rose Room**- Back by popular demand following their debut Festival appearance in 2014, the Glasgow-based Scottish Jazz Awards finalists have become one of Scotland's leading ensembles influenced by the Gypsy Jazz genre. Sharing a love of Swing music and the style of the great Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli. The quartet features award-winning violinist and vocalist Seonaid Aitken, Jimmy Moon on double bass, and Danny Kyle Award-winners Tam Gallagher and Tom Watson on rhythm and lead guitars respectively.

➤ **The Elephant Sessions**- Winners of the “Up and Coming Act of the Year” at the MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards in 2014, The Elephant Sessions are an uplifting Scottish Neo-Trad quintet. Renowned for their breathtaking live shows, the band combines traditional Scottish folk music with more modern genres. The band consists of Euan Smillie on fiddle, Mark Bruce on electric and acoustic guitar, Greg Barry on drums, Alasdair Taylor on mandolin and Seth Tinsley on bass. The Elephant Sessions' ceilidh-esque sound combined with undertones of ska, rock and funk will definitely leave you beating a trail to the dance floor!

➤ **Sheesham and Lotus & 'Son** - From Ontario, this trio is one of the most popular Old-time Roots acts on the circuit. Tunes played on jaw-harps, gourd banjos and homemade instruments add depth and absurdity to their amazing sound as well as providing a visual delight for all. At the core of their ragtime and blues show, is a repertoire based on their love of the American fiddle tune, joyously played with banjo and before long, a startling array of traditional and non-traditional instruments make appearances. Their musical inventions have been instrumental in building a show that is vividly antique in both sight and sound, and along with their excellent musicianship.

➤ **Gordon Gunn, Brian McAlpine & Friends** - Gordon Gunn is regarded as one of Scotland's finest fiddlers, and attends this year's festival along with three superbly talented fellow musicians – all four of them are members of Scottish 'supergroup' Session A9 who last performed at the Shetland Folk Festival in 2010. World class multi-instrumentalist Brian McAlpine (piano) is well known on the Scottish music scene, working with some of the country's best musicians. Marc Clement on guitar and David 'Chimp' Robertson on percussion completes this sensational Scottish quartet.

➤ **The Railsplitters** - has the kind of raw power that will always impress. Based in the Colorado Rockies, their down-to-earth approach is as well appreciated as their exhilarating performances and great material. The Railsplitters call on genre influences from roots/Americana, country twang, 50s doo-wop, modern pop and rock 'n' roll. The band consist of song-writer Dusty Rider on banjo, Lauren Stovall's powerfully distinct vocals, Christine King on fiddle, Peter Sharpe on mandolin and upright bassist Leslie Ziegler.

➤ **Outside Track**- Hailing from Scotland, Ireland, and Cape Breton, its members are united by a love of traditional music and a commitment to creating new music on its foundation. Playing fiddle and providing vocals for the band is Mairi Rankin from Nova Scotia, Canada. Award-winning Ailie Robertson (harp/electro harp) hails from Edinburgh, and Fiona Black from the Highland village of Evanton is an accomplished accordion player. Teresa Horgan from County Cork plays flute and also provides an emotive vocal.

➤ **Talisk**- Winners of the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award in 2015, Talisk have already made a big impression on the folk scene since their formation in 2014. The group also won a coveted Danny Kyle Award at Celtic Connections 2015, have performed live in session on BBC Radio 2 and were this year's house band at the MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards. Their engaging and energetic performances have already landed them slots at some of Britain's biggest festivals. The band consist of Mohsen Amini (Concertina), Hayley Keenan (Fiddle), and Craig Irving (Guitar).

➤ **WOR** - Wör are aF lemish five-piece band bringing new energy to old 18th century Belgian tunes .Wör have taken collections of dance tunes from 18th Century Flanders and put together their own finely textured arrangements. Saxophones and accordions are added to the timeless fiddle, guitar and bagpipes to create a sound which is lively and appealing while clearly close to renaissance music. The band members are: Pieterjan Van Kerckhoven (bagpipes, saxophone), Oscar Beerten (violin), Bert Ruymbeek (accordion), Jeroen Knapen (guitar) and Fabio Di Meo (baritone saxophone).

➤ **Fromsier Hockings** - Fromseier Hockings duo consists of award winning Ditte Fromseier and Sigurd Hockings, who perform as a lively, impulsive and playful duo full of virtuosity. In 2013 Fromseier Hockings released their EP Flot Gevir” for which they received a nomination for a Danish Music Award. Having toured worldwide as a duo for many years, they have developed a unique intimacy in their music and they combine old swiny traditional tunes and songs with many of their own compositions. Previous performances include the Tønder Festival in Denmark, Port Fairy Folk Festival in Austraila and Folkealarm in Norway.

➤ **Gary Innes & Ewen Henderson**- From Lochaber in the Scottish Highlands, Gary and Ewen have been performing together for over ten years. Both are founding-members of Scots supergroup Mánran. As a duo, their performances are characterised not only by their obvious dexterity and flair for lively upbeat Scottish music, but also by some of the most tender treatment of slow-airs to be heard today. Audiences can expect a healthy dose of true Highland “craic”.