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The organisers of the award-winning and world-renowned Shetland Folk Festival have announced the visiting artiste line-up of fifteen acts for this year's four-day folk extravaganza of concerts, sessions and late, late nights!

With the 35th festival featuring an eclectic mix from USA, Canada, Europe and as far afield as Australia, there's bound to be something for everyone.

Travelling across the Atlantic to perform at this year's festival are an exciting variety of acts. Grammy Award Winning vocalist **Mollie O'Brien with her partner Rich Moore** have been making critically-acclaimed music together since they met in 1981, with Mollie having a large Shetland fan base already following previous Festival appearances with her brother Tim. American roots music will receive a contemporary twist with sweet harmonies and tight-knit playing by bluegrass outfit **Lindsay Lou and the Flatbellys**, who are one of the most exciting emerging bands on the American roots music circuit and who will be making their UK debut at the Festival. With more of an old country feel are multi-instrumentalists and harmonic duo **Cahalen Morrison and Eli West** from Seattle who have already been creating quite a stir on both sides of the Atlantic. From across the border and completing our North American contingent, are two of Canada's finest fiddlers **Troy MacGillivray and Shane Cook**. Both are award-winning players who perform a blend of Canadian old-time, Cape Breton, French-Canadian, Celtic and other tunes from a variety of traditions.

Travelling the farthest to join the Festival's programme is **Frank Yamma**, one of Australia's most sought-after indigenous artists. Featuring just himself, his deeply evocative voice and some magical guitar playing, Frank promises to take audiences on a journey featuring mighty songs in his native language and in English.

Scandinavia is well represented with a diversity of styles from Sweden, Finland and Denmark. Performing a mixture of traditional Swedish tunes and polskas as well as their own compositions are award-winning trio **Ahlberg, Ek and Roswall**. Esko Järvelä from Finland is no stranger to Shetland having performed previously with Frigg and Baltic Crossing, and this year he is back and sure to cause a stir with his own progressive folk rock band **Esko Järvelä Epic Male Band**. From Denmark, **Habadekuk** are another lively band featuring eight talented musicians who are guaranteed to get audiences on the dancefloor with their wild polkas, jigs and rough 'n' ready sailor songs.

From Ireland, this year's festival will feature award-winning alt-folk band **Tupelo**. Featuring four musicians from different musical backgrounds and some fantastic vocals, the band takes sounds as disparate as Irish traditional and American folk to produce their own, which has been likened to hugely popular Mumford & Sons. Also representing Ireland and England too, the festival committee are delighted to be welcoming back the mighty **Flook**, who last appeared at the Shetland Folk Festival in 1998. Traditionally rooted tunes are turned into a breathtaking sound featuring the technical brilliance of its award-winning flute, guitar and bodhran players.

From closer to home, Orcadian five-piece **Fara** will perform their fiery sound in Shetland for the first time. Featuring four fiddles and a piano, the all-girl ensemble who have been friends since they were in nappies, will play a mixture of self-penned and traditional tunes as well as some songs.

Also from Scotland, fiddle extraordinaire **Duncan Chisholm** will appear with Jarlath Henderson and Matheu Watson, performing their highly rhythmical and powerful selection of tunes. As one of the country's most recognised and accomplished players and composers, Duncan's appearance at the Festival is well overdue. Another act at the forefront of the Scottish folk scene, **Rura** will also be featured in this year's line-up. The band has been going from strength to strength recently with their powerful sound, which is refreshingly contemporary but rooted in tradition. Rura features three 'BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year' finalists and an All-Ireland Bodhran Champion as well as the beautiful vocals of Adam Holmes, who played last year's Shetland Folk Festival with his band Adam Holmes and The Embers.

Another act receiving rave reviews and achieving multiple awards is Welsh band **Jamie Smith's Mabon**. Described as folk's latest hit boy band, they perform a captivating set varying from Welsh-language love songs to energetic jigs and reels, all the time treading the line between Celtic heritage and contemporary music. Completing the visiting band line up is **Sheelanagig**, Bristol purveyors of the finest Balkan jazz-folk mayhem. Their vibrant and energetic performances include elements of story-telling, street theatre and even acrobatics! Additional street theatre, comedy and circus skills will be brought to the Festival by variety entertainer Steve Cousins from Wangi Wangi, Australia who has been booked to assist with some of the Festival's additional community events.

As in previous years, all visiting acts will be in Shetland for the festival's duration, performing at concerts all over the isles alongside fantastic local acts that never fail to do Shetland and the Folk Festival proud. The festival will conclude as usual with the famous 'Foy's' – three venues open on the Sunday night featuring a short 15-minute set by all fifteen visiting bands. The Foy's continue to be the festival's hot ticket events, with virtually all tickets selling out to early members.

Early memberships will be on sale from 1st February and will close on the 28th February through our website at www.shetlandfolkfestival.com. These customers will be able to book their concert tickets online for the three weeks before they go on sale to the general public. Tickets will go on sale to early members from mid March and to the general public from 4th April. The Festival now operates exclusively with an online system for the purchase of memberships and concert tickets.

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For further information, please contact

Louise Johnson, Publicity and Sponsorship Representative
Shetland Folk Festival Society, Registered Scottish Charity (SC013445)
Mobile – 07766008556 Email – louise.johnson1975@sky.com

Notes to Editors - The annual Shetland Folk Festival continues to be organised 100% by volunteers and the Shetland Folk Festival Society acts as an independent arts provider in the isles. It is supported annually by the Shetland Charitable Trust and won Event of the Year award (sponsored by Visit Scotland) at the 2010 MG Scots Trad Music Awards. In 2015, the Festival is also receiving investment from the Creative Scotland National Lottery Funds.