

Brighde Chaimbeul

The aim of my year out is to develop my musical experience and knowledge before I head to study music at University. As part of this, I am planning on traveling to Bulgaria to explore Balkan folk music and in particular the Bulgarian gaita (bagpipe). As a piper, I have had a strong interest in indigenous piping for some time, particularly listening to Patrick Molard on the Breton pipes and Petri Prauda on the newly revived Finnish bagpipes. I like to research, learn and perform tunes from other piping cultures, for example, Galicia, Sardinia, Sweden and Ireland. There are links between them all, in terms of their style, their rhythms and their sound.

Speaking to Barnaby Brown, his enthusiasm about Balkan folk music spurred my interest and I believe I will learn a huge amount there. What interests me particularly about Balkan music are the unusual time signatures that we do not hear very often in Scottish music. Furthermore, both the gaita and the kaval flute are instruments connected to the Scottish smallpipes and the whistle, and to learn these would open an entirely new window into folk music that I am desperate to explore.

So far, I have only had the internet to explore the music of the Balkans and the amazing sound of the Bulgarian gaita. Despite the blessings of the internet I have found it very difficult to find tunes that I can adapt or learn, and thus why I am so keen to travel and immerse myself in the tradition and its experts. I believe that an experience in the Balkans will allow me to collect the knowledge to cross-over music from Scotland and Bulgaria, through tunes, dance and instruments. I am very excited about this prospect and about the unique sounds and music that it will allow me to create.

Education:

St Mary's Music School 2010-2016

Awards:

2016 BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award

2016 3rd Dunvegan Medal at Skye Gathering

2016 Overall winner at North Uist Games

2016 1st March, Strathspey and Reel Highlands and Islands Music Festival

2015 Overall winner Under 18 Northern Meeting

2015 Overall winner Under 18 National Piping Centre Competition

Performances:

2016 Towersey Festival

2016 Fairport's Cropredy Convention

2016 Piping Live

2016 Skye Festival

2016 Cambridge Folk Festival

2016 Blas Festival

2016/15 Highland Tattoo Lone Piper

2015 Feis Rois National Ceilidh Trail

2015 Royal Yacht Britannia Reception

2015 Recital at St Mary's Cathedral, Haddington

2014 UKM Arctic Festival, Norway