

Nigel Gatherer's Workshops

SCOTS FIDDLE
FESTIVAL 2026

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MX22 WE ARE *very* fortunate in Scotland to have an extraordinarily rich legacy of fiddling lore and repertoire. Here we celebrate some of the great ones.

Scottish Fiddlers

The Roshven Fiddler (Fergie MacDonald)

strathspey

The Roshven Fiddler was **Farqhar MacRae** (1925-2000), pictured above, who played alongside Aonghas Grant in the Roshven Ceilidh Band. He composed the popular tune Farquhar & Hettie's Waltz.

Cameron Men Polka No.2 (traditional)

The Cameron Men were four brothers, **Bill, Jim, George and Stewart Cameron** from Kirriemuir who recorded many 78s during the 1930s, including a couple of untitled polkas which now bear their name.

MX22-1

Lucy Johnston's Compliments to Niel Gow (L Johnston)

Sheet music for Lucy Johnston's Compliments to Niel Gow (L Johnston). The music is written for Mandolin (T) and Bass (B) in 4/4 time, featuring a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The piece consists of four systems of music, each with a treble clef staff and a mandolin/bass staff. The mandolin staff shows the melody with various chords (D, G, Em, A7) indicated above it. The bass staff shows the accompaniment with fingerings (0-5) and a 'T' (thumb) or 'B' (bass) indicator. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Louisa "Lucy" Johnston (1760-1797) inspired tributes from prominent fiddlers of her day. Niel Gow, Daniel Dow, Robert "Red Rob" Macintosh and Niel's son Nathaniel all composed tunes in her honour, and in 1795 Robert Burns sent her a poem he had written about, he said, "that incomparable woman."

The Gows published her composition Miss Lucy Johnston's Compliments to Niel Gow in their third collection of 1792. Niel Gow was, of course, the most celebrated Scottish fiddler of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

