



# Musicians' Workshop

**Saturday 22 February 2020**

**£30.00 (including lunch and refreshments)**

**Students £20.00**

St. Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road, Leeds LS16 5JT

Course Leader: Ian Muir (Craigellachie)

A large, stylized treble clef is positioned on the left side of the page. A musical staff with various notes and symbols (including a sharp sign) curves across the bottom half of the page. The background features a faint, abstract pattern of musical notes and symbols.

For further details and/or  
to register initial interest  
please contact Heather Foote  
Tel: 0113 255 0860  
email: [heather@feete.org](mailto:heather@feete.org)  
[www.rscdsleeds.org.uk](http://www.rscdsleeds.org.uk)



The workshop is principally aimed at giving musicians a grounding in good technique and style for playing for Scottish country dancing. The underlying philosophy is to encourage musicians to understand and appreciate the unique style of Scottish country dance music to ensure that the music contains the necessary drive and lift to inspire the dancers. The course is also designed to highlight the skill set needed to be a class musician. In doing this the course will cover the following:

- the characteristics of the different dance types: reel, jig and strathspey;
- the instrumental techniques that are unique to the Scottish style;
- repertoire and arranging sets of suitable tunes, composition techniques;
- playing within the context of a band;
- playing for class.

It is anticipated that there will be an opportunity to explore tempos and genres that are not usually encountered on the dance floor including slow airs, waltzes, and two-steps, and the scope that these give bands and musicians to explore harmony and rhythm through arrangement.

Participants do not need to have had previous experience of playing in a band, for class or for dancing but need a good grounding on their instrument. The focus will be on accordion, fiddle and band keyboard/piano but other instruments are welcome at the discretion of the organisers.

As a guideline the minimum standard is around the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Grade 5 or equivalent and we would actively encourage younger players to apply for a place on the workshop. Student discounts are available at a cost of £20.

### **Ian Muir (Tutor)**

Ian started playing the accordion at school when he was 12 and playing for dances with his own band at the age of 14. At the age of 17 he was lucky enough to be invited to join McBain's Band, one of the South's most popular Scottish country dance bands at the time. In 1986 he formed his own band and since its inception the band has been well received both in the UK and abroad. The band has appeared twice on BBC television, and has broadcast twice on Radio Scotland's Take the Floor dance programme. Ian's philosophy for the band has always been that the musical arrangements the band uses in its repertoire must be as good to listen to as they are to dance to and that the future of the music lies in encouraging youngsters. Ian is also a keen composer and many of his compositions have been published and recorded by other Scottish dance bands, and several have been adopted as originals for dances. As a solo musician Ian has played the accordion for classes and day schools world-wide and is currently the Music Director of the RSCDS.