

Press Release
8 April 2013
For immediate use

Knockengorroch - A Festival under the Stars
Thursday 23 – Sunday 26 May 2013

The Galloway valley in which Knockengorroch World Ceilidh nestles has been designated as an International Dark Sky Park, meaning the festival takes place under some of the darkest skies and the brightest stars in the world. This recent accolade for its environs confirms Knockengorroch as one of the most beautiful and 'off the beaten track' locations for a music festival in the world, organisers claim.

The festival organisers are particularly keen to celebrate their setting in Galloway; an area fast becoming internationally recognised for its rich natural beauty and diversity. Not only has Galloway been designated one of only five international Dark-sky Parks, it has also been recognised as one of 580 UNESCO biospheres in the world, Biospheres are places with world-class environments, designated by the [United Nations](#) to promote and demonstrate a balanced relationship between people and nature, hosting a rich combination of landscape, wildlife and culture with communities that care about and for their environment.

To celebrate the area's beauty festival organisers are working in partnership to bring new attractions to the festival; there will be the **Dark-sky Planetarium** with Brian Cox style talks and ambient music talking people through the night skies. In addition the festival is hosting the RSPB to create activities to raise awareness of the abundance of different types of birds which reside in the area. And to reflect these partnerships, everyone at the festival is being encouraging to dress to the theme of 'Birds and Stars' on the Friday night.

Festival organiser Katriona Holmes says that *"its absolutely brilliant that Galloway is being recognised as an internationally outstanding natural location. There are not many festivals that can claim to have the best night sky views in the world! I hope everyone manages to get a moment to look up and lose themselves in the breathtaking beauty of a night sky free from light pollution. The World Ceilidh affords its visitors the perfect combination of a great festival in the great outdoors. Lovely vibes under the darkest skies (and that is certified)!"*

The celebrated musical programme will span a multitude of genres including acts such as **Asian Dub Foundation**, one of the first bands to merge contemporary Western sounds with traditional Asian beats and melodies; **Dizraeli and the Small Gods**, a multi instrumental outfit fusing hip-hop with folk for a fresh outlook on both genres; **Breabach**, a young band making waves in the Scottish traditional scene who won the Scottish Folk Band of the Year at the 2012 Trad Awards; **Cedric Watson & Bijou Creole**, four time Grammy-award nominated Texans playing authentic and soul stirring music from Southern Louisiana and Cornishman Luke Vibert, alias **Wagon Christ**, a lauded creative voice in electronica and 'ambient trip-hop.

Alongside the festival's exciting new additions, the unusual setting and superb musical line-up, there will be an array of theatre, comedy, workshops in all manner of new skills, good food, healing zones, sauna, fire shows, solar cinema and many more activities for young and old.

About the International Dark Skies Places Program: IDA established the International Dark Sky Places conservation program in 2001 to recognize excellent stewardship of the night sky. Designations are based on stringent outdoor lighting standards and innovative community outreach. Since the program began four communities, five reserves, and ten parks have also received Dark Sky status.

Read more about the amazing dark skies observatory at www.scottishdarkskyobservatory.co.uk/.

Read more about the Galloway's inspiring Biosphere project at <http://www.gallowayandsouthernayrshirebiosphere.org.uk/>

Advance tickets are available from the Knockengoroch website www.knockengoroch.org.uk
Family and concession tickets are available.

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Please contact Katch@knockengoroch.org.uk for further information and images