

# SKYRIE

SCOTTISH & IRISH FOLK • ORIGINAL MUSIC • TRADITIONAL ROOTS



**CHRIS**

Drums • Whistles  
Bodhrán • Vocals



**LESLEY**

Fiddle • Whistles  
Live Looping • Vocals



**JIMMY**

Guitar • Vocals

POWERFUL SONGS. DRIVING TUNES. A MULTILAYERED LIVE SOUND

★★★★★ EDINBURGH FRINGE 2026 — COUNTER CULTURE

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT 2026

[skyrie.co.uk](http://skyrie.co.uk)

# ABOUT SKYRIE



**Skyrie is a Scottish three-piece creating a remarkably big sound from fiddle, guitar, whistles, percussion, three voices and live looping.**

Rooted in the traditional music of Scotland and Ireland, Skyrie bring together powerful original songs, driving traditional tunes and rich vocal harmonies with contemporary arrangements and an imaginative use of live looping.

At the heart of the band's sound is Lesley Thompson Smith's fiddle. Layered live on stage, it can move from a single melody to interwoven harmonies and sweeping soundscapes, while Jimmy Anderson's guitar provides both rhythmic drive and subtle accompaniment. Christopher Martin Smith adds drums, bodhrán and whistles, giving the trio a breadth and energy that belies its size.

The result is music that can move from an intimate song or unaccompanied melody to the sound of a full ensemble — created live by just three musicians.

Skyrie's repertoire crosses naturally between original material and the traditional music of Scotland and Ireland. Their performances are rooted in heritage without being constrained by it: atmospheric, energetic and unmistakably contemporary.

***"Skyrie are one of those rare Fringe acts that feel both polished and deeply personal."***

**★★★★★ Jacqueline Sharp — Counter Culture, Edinburgh Fringe 2026**

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**THREE MUSICIANS • ONE STAGE • A MUCH BIGGER SOUND**

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# PRESS & REVIEWS

★★★★★ EDINBURGH FRINGE 2026

***“One of the most uplifting music events of the Fringe, and absolutely not to be missed.”***

Jacqueline Sharp — Counter Culture, Edinburgh Fringe 2026



★★★★★  
Some Fringe venues feel like they're trying to be something they're not. The Ukrainian Community Centre isn't one of them. Its main room — cosy, lived in, almost like stepping into someone's front room — turns out to be the perfect setting for Celtic folk. The atmosphere wraps around you before the music even begins, and when Skyrie take the stage, the space feels made for them.  
Formed in 2015 by Lesley Thompson Smith and Christopher Martin Smith, with James "Jimmy" Anderson joining in 2020, Skyrie have built a reputation for blending Scottish and Irish traditional tunes with their own original compositions. Their albums *Ceilidh – Celi* (2023) and *Hunger Road* (2024) show a band rooted in tradition but unafraid to push into new territory.

What stands out immediately is how accomplished they are as instrumentalists. Lesley, a multi instrumentalist and composer, moves between fiddle, whistle, pipes and mandolin with ease. She's competed three times in the Glenfiddich fiddle competitions — a detail that tells you everything about her calibre — yet she speaks to the audience with warmth and humour, introducing her fiddle "Smillie" as though it were an old friend. Hearing her play her own "Smillie" composition is a highlight: tender, expressive, and full of character.

Her stories add a lovely intimacy to the evening. She talks about fiddle retreats in Inverness, all day sessions, late night concerts, and how those experiences inspired her composition "Beaully Sleep Song." Another touching moment comes when she introduces "Come Back Home," written when her children left home. These personal threads give the performance emotional depth without ever feeling sentimental.

Jimmy Anderson brings a steady, confident presence on guitar, and the fact he has toured with Shirley Manson adds a quiet prestige to the trio. Christopher Martin Smith plays a variety of whistles and anchors the rhythm on drums, bodhran and percussion. His background as a session drummer with a variety of artists including Dougie Maclean, Big Country and Nazareth shows in his precision, but it's his storytelling that wins the room.

The audience love hearing Scotland and Ireland's history, and his tale of writing "Take Me Home With You" — a song about two desperate middle aged in a bar at closing time — is delivered with a charming self deprecating grin.

One of the most memorable moments of the night comes when the band talk about performing in Colorado in 2024. Their story of a four wheeler ending up in a ditch at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is told with such good humour that the audience is already laughing before the song begins. "Jimmy's Ditch," performed with Lesley on fiddle, Jimmy on guitar and Christopher on bodhran, is beautiful — lively, melodic, and clearly a favourite with the crowd.

Skyrie are one of those rare Fringe acts that feel both polished and deeply personal. Their musicianship is exceptional, their rapport with the audience effortless, and their storytelling adds richness to every tune. This is Celtic folk at its most heartfelt: rooted in tradition, shaped by lived experience, and delivered with genuine joy.

It's one of the most uplifting music events of the Fringe, and absolutely not to be missed. Listen to their music, buy their albums, and if you're in North Carolina later this year, catch them at the Raleigh Wide Open Festival on 3rd October or at the Scottish Society of Wilmington on 4th October.

Reviewed by Jacqueline Sharp

## FROM THE REVIEW

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## FIVE STAR LIVE REVIEW

★★★★★ EDINBURGH FESTIVAL 2026

# MEET THE BAND

# C



## CHRISTOPHER MARTIN SMITH

DRUMS • BODHRÁN • WHISTLES • VOCALS

Christopher is a multi-instrumentalist, drummer and vocalist whose musical career spans several decades of live performance and recording. His previous professional connections include **Big Country**, **Nazareth**, **The Platters**, **Dougie MacLean**, **Martin Taylor** and **Maggie Reilly**, and he played and recorded drums with **Big Country** in the late 1980s.

Within Skyrie, Christopher combines drums and percussion with bodhrán, whistles and vocals, providing both the rhythmic foundation and much of the traditional instrumental colour of the band's sound.

# L



## LESLEY THOMPSON SMITH

FIDDLE • WHISTLES • LIVE LOOPING • VOCALS

Lesley's fiddle is at the heart of Skyrie's distinctive sound. Combining traditional playing with sophisticated live looping, she builds melodies, harmonies and layered fiddle arrangements in real time, allowing the trio to create the scale and texture of a much larger ensemble.

Alongside fiddle, Lesley plays whistles and contributes vocals and harmony. Her playing moves naturally between driving traditional tunes, atmospheric arrangements and the band's original material.

# J



## JIMMY ANDERSON

GUITAR • VOCALS

Jimmy's acoustic guitar provides both rhythmic drive and harmonic depth to Skyrie's arrangements, moving effortlessly between powerful accompaniment and the more understated playing required by the band's songs and slower material.

An experienced musician, Jimmy's previous musical connections include **Shirley Manson of Garbage** and **Dougie MacLean**. His guitar and voice complete the trio's instrumental foundation and contribute to the rich vocal harmonies that are an important part of Skyrie's sound.

THREE VOICES • THREE MUSICIANS • ONE DISTINCTIVE SOUND

# MUSIC & PROJECTS

## ORIGINAL MUSIC

Skyrie's original songs draw on Scottish and Irish musical traditions and history while embracing contemporary influences. Driven by rich melodies, powerful lyrics and the band's signature layered live sound, the songs move seamlessly between intimacy and energy, tradition and innovation.

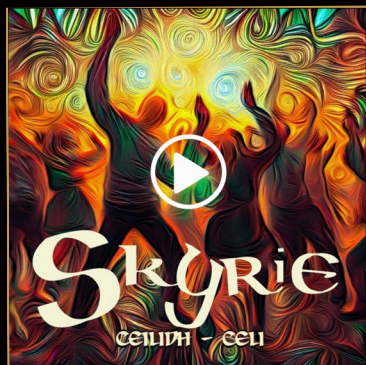


### LISTEN ON SPOTIFY

Original songs, driving tunes and more on Spotify.

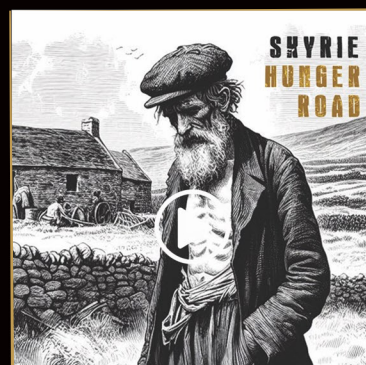
<https://open.spotify.com/artist/1ozYbS80HQi31W6mb82jI3>

## RECORDINGS



### CEILIDH-CELI 2023

An album of energetic traditional tunes presented in a distinctly modern style, brought to life by layered live arrangements and innovative looping



### HUNGER ROAD 2024

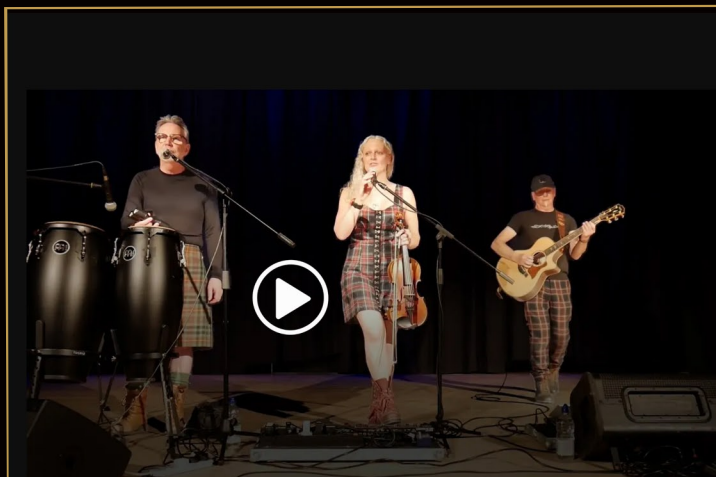
A rich collection blending original songs and tunes with reimagined traditional tunes and songs, featuring powerful vocal harmonies, modern arrangements and timeless stories.

### LISTEN . STREAM . FOLLOW



<https://www.facebook.com/skyrieband>

## LORDS OF WAR - A NEW PROJECT



### WATCH LORDS OF WAR ON YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqZqHXhpmGg>

A powerful original song that honours Scotland's precious land and the many invaders who have tried to conquer it over the centuries. A stirring tribute to resilience, heritage and the enduring spirit of a nation.

Through original and traditional songs tunes and spoken narrative, the show creates a moving and thought provoking experience for audiences everywhere.

## LIVE PERFORMANCE

At the heart of Skyrie's sound is the power of three musicians creating a much bigger sound. Layered live with loops, harmonies and dynamic arrangements, each performance is unique.



THREE  
MUSICIANS



LIVE  
LOOPING



RICH VOCAL  
HARMONIES



ONE STAGE  
BIG SOUND

“ Powerful songs. Driving tunes.  
A multilayered live sound. ”

[www.skyrie.co.uk](http://www.skyrie.co.uk)