

MARK SPENCER TURNER
MARCAS MAC AN TUAIRNEIR

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- A proven track-record in the fields of the arts, journalism publishing, education, and language development, with excellent written and spoken communication and customer service skills.
- Fluent and highly literate in English, Scottish Gaelic, and Spanish.
- An experienced educator working across Early Years, Primary, Further Education and Community settings.
- A competent computer user with digital and word-processing skills.
- An original outlook, with the confidence to use initiative to achieve goals creatively.
- An enterprising writer with impeccable spelling grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- A team player, a born leader and keen attention to detail.

CONTACT

17/2 St John's Hill,
Edinburgh,
EH8 9UQ

07951 731 325
marcasmac@hotmail.com
www.marcas.scot

FREELANCE EXPERIENCE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

BUAIDH, MISNEACHD, EDINBURGH

2019 – 2020

Since 2019, with the launch of issue two, I was Editor-in-chief of Misneachd's 'Buaidh' magazine, a periodical which publishes political, critical and creative writing in Gaelic, and is unique in those respects, as the only publication of its kind, within the Scottish publishing. My role included those of submissions and sub-editor, typesetter as well as being involved with marketing and subscriptions, online and through social media.

CEANNARD

BOTHAN DHÙN ÈIDEANN, EDINBURGH

2018 – 2020

As the Chairman of Bothan I was at the helm of one of Edinburgh best regarded Gaelic-interest and cultural organisations. Overseeing a committee, I directed the programming and marketing of monthly music events at *Canon's Gait*, which I hosted, in Gaelic, as *fear-an-taighe*. I vastly developed the organisation's remit and established a host of other cultural events throughout the year. This involved creating a brand new business plan, assessing the efficacy of the organisation, its committee and outreach and overseeing applications to external bodies such as Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

COMMITTEE MEMBER

THE HERETICS, EDINBURGH

2018 – PRESENT

As a committee member of this Edinburgh-based arts collective, I am involved in the organisation and the programming of its regular events, which take place every month at The Waverley as well as other cultural centres throughout the city. I am the regular co-host of the group's Gaelic-interest events, alongside stalwart member and Gaelic hero Dolina MacLennan.

BOARD MEMBER

SCOTTISH POETRY LIBRARY, EDINBURGH

2018 – PRESENT

I am one of two poet practitioners elected to the board of this, one of the UK's premier arts organisations and home of poetry in Scotland. With responsibility for the governance of the organisation and directing its inclusive ethos, one of my key roles is leading on the forthcoming Gaelic language plan, with input into similar Scots and BSL language plans, to be launched alongside.

GAELIC AND SOCIAL MEDIA CO-ORDINATOR

FEDERATION OF WRITERS (SCOTLAND)

2018 – PRESENT

Overseeing projects specifically designed to boost use of Gaelic within the organisation and to catalyse new Gaelic writing, the role includes programming events and judging bi-annual competitions.

EDUCATION

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY
MA TELEVISION FICTION WRITING
 2011 – 2012

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
MLITT IRISH-SCOTTISH STUDIES
 2008-2010

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
MA HONS GAELIC- HISPANIC STUDIES
 2003-2008

ALL SAINTS' RC SCHOOL, YORK

A LEVEL

A FRENCH
 B ENGLISH LITERATURE,
 SPANISH

AS LEVEL

A ENGLISH LITERATURE
 FRENCH
 SPANISH
 B GENERAL STUDIES
 D MUSIC

GCSE

A* ENGLISH LANGUAGE
 ENGLISH LITERATURE
 FRENCH
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
 SPANISH
 A DOUBLE SCIENCE
 LATIN
 B MATHEMATICS
 TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY

LITERARY EDITOR, SUB-EDITOR, PROOF-READER AND TRANSLATOR

FREELANCE

2016 – PRESENT

This varied and creative role includes proof-reading, correction and formatting of literary and educational texts in Scottish Gaelic and English, for several clients including Bradan Press. My latest projects with them were Emily Mcewan's "The Scottish Gaelic tattoo handbook" and a forthcoming volume of *puirt-à-beul* and pipe tunes and folklore. Dramatic writing also features in my work as a translator and in 2018 I translated sections of Andrew Gunn's 'Violent Bloom' into Gaelic, for a production staged by Pressure Point Collective, in New Zealand. I have also fulfilled simultaneous interpretation and textual translation projects for the Scottish Parliament.

MAGAZINE EDITOR

THE POETS' REPUBLIC, STONEHAVEN

2015 – PRESENT

As a member of the editorial team of Scotland's most dynamic poetry magazine, I am involved oversee the submissions process for writing in Celtic languages and assessing the quality of works submitted. Thus, I manage the only pagination specifically ring-fenced for Celtic-language poetry in any periodical in Scotland and use this position to mentor emergent writers. The role also includes sub-editing poetic and biographical texts in Scottish Gaelic, Irish and English, coordinating social-media and publicity, and translation of texts into and out of Gaelic for marketing purposes. I am also one of the editors of the online series *Poets React* and have sole responsibility for updating the magazine's website. I am also required to source funding from external bodies and manage these applications as well as regular events organization throughout Scotland, as well as liaising with writers and partners.

CREATIVE WRITING TUTOR AND COMPETITION JUDGE

FREELANCE

2016 – PRESENT

For a number of years I have designed and delivered creative writing seminars and workshops on a free-lance basis, working with partners such as the LGBT writers group in Inverness and the Federation of Writers (Scotland). Another aspect of this role involves the judging of literary competitions, such as the William Soutar Competition for Children writing in English, Scots and Gaelic for Perth and Kinross Council.



SALARIED EXPERIENCE

GAELIC TUTOR AND COURSE CO-ORDINATOR

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, CENTRE FOR OPEN LEARNING, EDINBURGH

2017 - 2020

Having developed the six-week *Gaelic Tasters* course, under the proviso of its Gaelic Language Plan, I teach this course to staff and students at the University through the year. I am also a tutor on the twelve-week *Gaelic Elementary* course, as well as being involved, on an ad hoc basis, with the delivery of Gaelic courses at intermediate and advanced levels.

CHILDCARE CO-ORDINATOR, CLASSROOM ASSISTANT and EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER

BUN-SGOIL GHÀIDHLIG INBHIR NIS, INVERNESS

2015 – 2017

This blended role involved the coordination of wrap-around childcare for Early Years and Primary School-age children at Inverness' Gaelic-medium school, including the after-school club. Supervising a team of three assistants, I facilitated awareness of and compliance with curriculum for excellence, child protection and various other policies, maintaining a bi-lingual learning-through-play environment. I was also involved with the planning, delivery and evaluation of Early Years provision, through the Gaelic medium, and learning support for pupils in Primary 1 through to Primary 7, including mentoring in Literacy, Mathematics, Music and Performing Arts.

INTERNET AND INFORMATION OFFICER

BÒRD NA Gàidhlig, INVERNESS

2013 – 2014

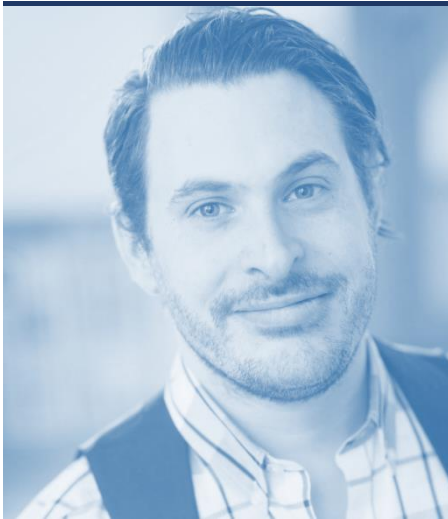
This busy role at the heart of the Bòrd's corporate and communications team involved maintaining and rejuvenating the Bòrd's social media presence, using Twitter and Facebook, as part of the Bòrd's wider corporate identity. I used my project management skills to design the specification and lead on the development of the Bòrd's first smartphone application, liaising with the developer to ensure the project was completed timeously and as proposed. This project also involved market research within the field, as well as a full audit of the Bòrd's paper and electronic records, in order to build databases for the application and maintain this information's accuracy. I also maintained the Bòrd's own website, updating the information and simple web design through a content management program. Other tasks included research, designing surveys using Survey Monkey, and general office tasks including answering administration queries, customer service and translating to and from Gaelic.

CLASSROOM ASSISTANT

MEADOWBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL, BISHOPBRIGGS

2012 – 2013

As a peripatetic classroom assistant, my work included tutoring and mentoring small groups of pupils, from Early Years to Primary 7. The role also included translating and creating Gaelic teaching resources, playground supervision, and basic first aid. Whilst in the role I pioneered the 'Gaisgeach na Gàidhlig' scheme, a weekly prize aimed at promoting the use of Gaelic in social settings outwith the classroom.



Gaelic Tutor and Course Co-ordinator
East Dunbartonshire Council, Bishopbriggs
 2012 – 2013

In this role I created, coordinated and delivered brand-new courses for Beginners 1, Beginners 2, and Intermediate levels. These courses provided students with grounding in written and spoken Gaelic, with emphasis on grammar and spoken fluency and were taught to small groups of adults of all ages and backgrounds.

Course-coordinator and Lecturer of Gaelic
Strathclyde University, Centre for Lifelong Learning, Glasgow
 2011 – 2013

In this role I created, coordinated and delivered a lecturer series which introduced students to various aspects of Gaelic culture in Scotland and Canada, including music, literature, socio-linguistics. This was coupled with a beginners' language course.

Gaelic Tutor and Course Co-ordinator
East Renfrewshire Council, Barrhead
 2011 – 2012

In this role I coordinated and delivered a Gaelic language course for beginners. This course provided students with grounding in written and spoken Gaelic, with emphasis on grammar and spoken fluency and was taught to small groups of adults of all ages and backgrounds.

Tour-guide and Marketing Assistant
City Sightseeing, York
 2011 – 2011

Working for the original branch of sightseeing company, now recognized throughout the world, conducting tours of the city on open top buses. Semi-scripted this role also incorporated by love and in-depth knowledge of my hometown, with historical facts, local folklore, and anecdotes. The role also required language and communication skills as well as sales and customer service.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

AUTHORED

- 'Deò'
Grace Note Publications, 2013
- 'Lus na Tùise'
Bradan Press, 2016
- 'heelstergowdie'
(with Stuart A. Paterson)
Tapsalteerie, 2017

EDITED

'180 Bliadhna'
(with Christopher Lewin)
Edinburgh University Highland Society, 2017

PLAYS

- 'Diuchdadh'
Eden Court, Inverness, 2015
- 'Tilleadh'
In development
- 'Tioradh'
In development

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

SONGWRITING

- 'Ainneamhag'
with Mary Ann Kennedy
Inverness Gaelic Choir
(Royal National Mòd, 2016)
- 'Grioglachan'
with Mary Ann Kennedy
Mary Ann Kennedy - *An Dàn*
(Watercolour Music, 2017)
- 'Speactram'
with Gillie MacKenzie
Interrobang - *Fieldwork*
(TBC, 2018)
- 'Dùn Èideann'
with Pàdruig Moireasdan
Interrobang - *Fieldwork*
(Scottish Storytelling Centre, 2018)

CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

POET AND SINGER-SONGWRITER

FREELANCE

2011 – PRESENT

Publishing under my Gaelic name, Marcas Mac an Tuairneir, I am one of Gaelic Scotland's most dynamic and celebrated contemporary writers, with work that is both award-winning and critically acclaimed. I have published two full-length collections and a pamphlet alongside former BBC Scotland poet-in-residence, Stuart A. Paterson.

With poetry that has been published in various journals, including *Causeway*, *Dàna*, *Evergreen*, *Gutter*, *Irish Pages*, *New Writing Scotland*, *Poetry Scotland*. My work has been anthologised in 'Treasures' (2013, Scottish Book Trust), 'Out There' (2014, Freight Books), 'A Stillness of Mind' (2015, Skye Reading Room), 'Litrichean chun an t-Saighdeir gun Ainm' (2015, Clàr), 'An Leabhar Liath' and 'Aiblins' (both 2016, Luath Press).

I have been short-listed for several poetry prizes including 'Duais Filíochta Dhúbhglas de hÍde' (Strokestown International Poetry Festival) 'Comórtas Filíochta an Chornéil Eoghain Uí Néill' (Conradh na Gaeilge) and 'Off the Stanza' (Stirling City Council). In 2014, I was awarded the Highland Literary Salon prize for poetry and both second and first place in the 'The Baker Prize' for Gaelic Literature. In 2015, I was a runner up in the national William Blake Poetry Prize, for my poetry in English. In the same year I was the winner of the Scottish Association of Writers' 'Write Up North!' poetry competition. I was runner up in the Wigtown competition, in 2015 and 2016, and was named outright winner in 2017.

I was nominated for Saboteur Awards in 2016, 2017 and 2018: in 2016, shortlisted in the Wildcard category; in 2017 for the Best Collaboration with 'Ainneramhag' a brand new poetic and choral work, alongside Mary Ann Kennedy, Best Event and Best Reviewer; and in 2018, shortlisted alongside Stuart A. Paterson for our co-authored pamphlet 'heelster-gowdie / beul-fo-bhonn'.

I was shortlisted for a National Gaelic Award in the category of Arts and Culture in 2017. Previously Edinburgh University Highland Society's bàrd, I am not the poet-in-residence at The Balmoral Hotel.

SINGER-SONGWRITER

FREELANCE

2011 – PRESENT

I am a member of the award-winning Lothian Gaelic Choir and the Gaelic male-vocal ensemble Trosq, with whom I have performed throughout Scotland including high-profile engagements at Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival and Celtic Connections. I was Mòd Gold Medal finalist in 2016.

I have written songs with some of the finest musical talent in Gaeldom, including Gillie MacKenzie, Pàdruig Moireasdan, Julie MacFadyen and Malina MacDonald. Two songs co-written with Rachel Walker, feature on her album, *Gaol* (Ròs Dearg record, 2020). Alongside Mary Ann Kennedy he co-wrote 'Ainneamhag', a brand new poetic and choral composition written for Inverness Gaelic Choir and the 2016 Royal National Mòd. Another song co-written with Mary Ann, 'Grioglachan', featured in Mary Ann's Blas Festival Commission 'Beul na h-Oidhche gu Camhanach' and on her acclaimed album *An Dàn*, album (Watercolour Music,

AWARDS / NOMINATIONS

2013

SHORTLISTED

Comórtas Filíochta an Chornéil
Eoghain Uí Néill
Conradh na Gaeilge

2014

WON

- The Baker Prize (Gaelic)
Skye Reading Room
- Poetry Prize
Highland Literary Salon

SHORTLISTED

- Off The Stanza
Stirling Book Festival

2015

WON

- Write Up North!
Scottish Association of Writers

SHORTLISTED

- Gaelic Poetry Prize
Wigtown Book Festival
- National William Blake
Poetry Prize
The Big Blake Project

2016

WON

- Duais Filíochta Dhúbhglas de
híde
Strokestown Poetry Festival

SHORTLISTED

- Gaelic Poetry Prize
Wigtown Book Festival
- Vernal Competition
*Federation of Writers
(Scotland)*
- Wildcard
Saboteur Awards

2017

WON

- Gaelic Poetry Prize
Wigtown Book Festival

SHORTLISTED

- Arts and Culture Award
National Gaelic Awards

2017). The collaboration was also the Scottish entry to the Liet Lávlut International Song Competition, which took place in Kautokeino, Norwegian Samiland, in 2016.

My solo musical career commenced with the premiere of original Gaelic songs 'Speactram' and 'Dùn Èideann' as well as reworkings of traditional Gaelic songs recorded by Flora MacNeil at Interrobang's *Field Work* (Scottish Storytelling Centre), having worked with composers Pàdruig Morrison and Paul Walker. Over 2020 and 2021 I have released three singles to date - Fichead 's a h-Ochd, Bruidhinn and Nochd. The first was the result of a commission from NLS and the second, likewise, from Ceòl is Craic.

DRAMATIST AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR

FREELANCE

2011 – PRESENT

I am an award-winning Gaelic-language playwright, having won An Comunn Gàidhealach's 'Stornoway Gazette Trophy' for new Gaelic plays, two years running, in 2016 and 2017. My plays 'Tilleadh' and 'Turadh' were first developed during two successful week-long residential courses, organised by National Theatre Scotland and Pròiseact nan Ealan, for Gaelic dramatists, under the tutelage of Iain Finlay MacLeod and Frances Poet. 'Tioradh,' was completed under the mentorship of Alison Lang as the recipient of Comhairle nan Leabhraichean and Playwright's Studio Scotland's 'New Gaelic Playwright' award in 2016.

In 2015, I made my theatrical début writing, curating and directing Trosq's multi-genre performance, 'Diuchdadh', for Eden Court. The performance included a brand new micro-play - a two-hander written in Gaelic verse - and musical performances.

I was the recipient of the full MG Alba scholarship in 2011 with which I completed his MA in Television Fiction Writing at Glasgow Caledonian University. Work for television includes BBC Alba's Ceitidh Mòrag drama series, for children.

PRINT AND RADIO JOURNALIST AND ARTS CRITIC

FREELANCE

2011 – PRESENT

I am a regular contributor to *Dàna*, *Cothrom Ùr*, and *Bella Caledonia*. Published widely, my editorials, articles, and reviews have covered a wide-range of subjects including arts and books, current affairs and politics and minority community issues. I have also been published, championing the Gaelic language in *Am Pàipear*, *The Courier*, *The National*, and on the blog *Hebrides Writer*. I regularly appear on BBC Alba and BBC Radio nan Gàidheal, with broadcast credits including *Aithris na Maidne*, *Aithris an Fheasgair*, *An Là*, *Feasgar*, *Gun Sgot*, *Leugh Mi*, and *MacIlleMhicheil*. I was formerly the presenter of *Tir gun Chrìochan* and *Buille* on Celtic Music Radio (2011-2013).