

Aoife Scott Band

Teacher Resource Guide

Lotus Blossoms 2024



lotus
BLOSSOMS

About Aoife (ee-fah) Scott Band



Aoife Scott is an acclaimed folk singer and songwriter from Dublin, Ireland. She has made a significant mark in the traditional and folk music scene. Aoife's music is deeply rooted in Irish folk and traditional genres¹. Born into a family with a rich musical heritage, Aoife has been deeply influenced by the traditional Irish music that surrounded her from a young age. Her music is a blending of Irish folk with contemporary elements, creating a sound that is both unique and familiar. Her lyrical content, marked by its depth and emotiveness, often has

themes of love, personal resilience, and social justice, reflecting her keen observational skills and deep empathy. Aoife's storytelling ability, combined with her musical talent, has earned her widespread acclaim and a dedicated following across the globe. Her performances are known for their authenticity and emotional intensity, making them a captivating experience for listeners.

Andrew Meaney is a gifted guitarist from Rathmines, Co. Dublin. He stands out in the contemporary Irish music scene for his dynamic and rhythmic guitar playing. Largely self-taught, Andrew's approach to guitar transcends traditional methodologies, embodying a powerful and energetic style that has become his signature. He has carved a niche for himself



¹ <https://www.aoifescott.com/about>

in the Irish music circuit, especially known for his presence in the session scene and at numerous music festivals. His journey in music took a professional turn following his studies at the Dublin Institute of Technology (D.I.T.), where he honed his skills and expanded his musical knowledge.

Joining Aoife and Andrew for this Lotus Blossoms tour is Joanna Hyde. Joanna grew up in a musical family. Growing up she had a love for bluegrass, classical, jazz, Appalachian, Irish, Cape Breton, and other folk music. Her journey in music began with classical training, but her passion and curiosity led her to explore and master other styles. Her fiddling has been recognized through numerous awards and high placements in national contests, including the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest. Joanna's musical education

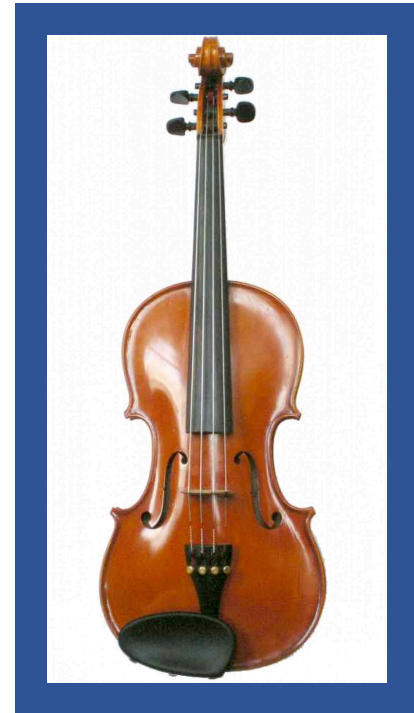
was enriched by attending various music festivals and camps, where she had the opportunity to learn from revered Irish fiddlers like James Kelly and Martin Hayes. Her academic accomplishments in music are equally impressive, having graduated magna cum laude from Colorado College with a BA in Music, a testament to her dedication and talent.



Instruments

Violin (Fiddle)

The violin is probably the best-known and most widely distributed musical instrument in the world. The rich sound of the violin partially comes from a small dowel inside the instrument beneath the bridge, called the “sound post.” It does this by receiving the vibrations, created by the strings, from the bridge and transmitting them to the back of the violin.²



Bodhrán [bough-rawn]

The bodhrán, a traditional Irish drum There is a single-headed, frame drum. The musician usually rests the instrument on their knee and holds the cross-piece on the open back of the bodhrán with one hand, they strike the skin with a short

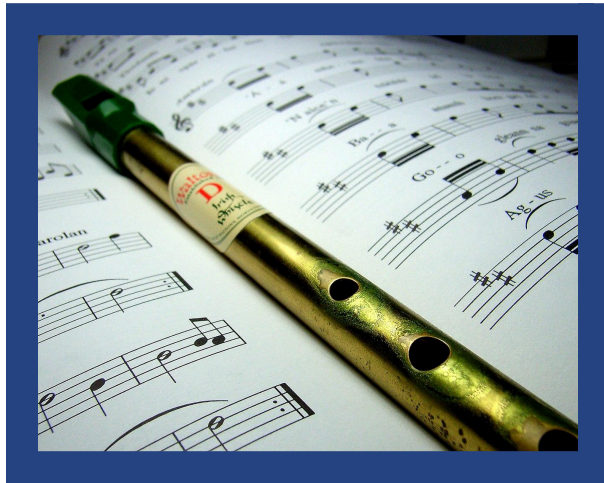


double-ended stick also known as a tipper or a bone. When the tipper is struck on the bodhrán skin a thudding sound is produced. The name bodhrán may be derived from the Irish word bodhar (bough-er) meaning ‘deaf’ and ‘dull-sounding’.³

² <https://www.britannica.com/art/violin>

³ <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Collections-Research/Collection/Documentation-Discoveries/Artefact/Bodhran/44185e00-370d-4940-88ad-77c84f4b339a>

Tin Whistle



The tin whistle, also known as the penny whistle, is a small and simple wind instrument deeply rooted in Irish music tradition. This flute-like instrument is straightforward, with a mouthpiece, six finger holes, and no thumb hole. In Irish folk music, the tin whistle is very popular due to its distinctive sound and ease of

playing.⁴ It's been used by many renowned Irish musicians and is a staple in traditional Irish tunes and melodies. Its portability and accessibility make it a common choice for both casual and professional players in Irish music circles.

Uilleann [ILL-an] Pipe

Uilleann Pipes are a type of Irish bagpipe. They have been an integral part of Irish traditional music for over two centuries and are seen as a symbol of Irish national identity and cultural heritage.⁵ When playing the Uilleann Pipes there are a lot of different movements of the arms, hands, and fingers that must be coordinated. The bellows are usually operated by the right arm, while the left arm is used to control the pressure in the windbag. At the same time, hands and fingers are used



⁴ <https://centerforworldmusic.org/2016/02/world-music-instrument-the-tin-whistle/>

⁵ <https://nationalinventoryich.tcagsm.gov.ie/uilleann-piping/>

to play the melody on the chanter. When playing a full set, the edge of the right hand is also used to operate the regulators.

Irish Language

Depending on the region of Ireland, the Irish language is referred to as Gaeilge (gail-gyuh), Irish Gaelic (gail-ic), or Irish. This Celtic language is one of the oldest and historic written languages in the world.⁶ Irish was adopted as an official language of Ireland, along with English, in 1922.⁷

Count to 10 in Gaeilge!

Number	Gaeilge	How it Sounds
1	a hoan	ah hayn
2	a dó	ah doh
3	a trí	ah tree
4	a ceathair	a kah-her
5	a cúig	ah ku-wig
6	a sé	ah shay
7	a seacht	ah shokht
8	a hocht	a hukht
9	a naoi	a nee
10	a deich	ah jeh

Use [this helpful video](#) by Bitesize Irish to hear the pronunciation of each number.

⁶ <https://www.ireland.com/en-us/help-and-advice/practical-information/languages-of-ireland/>

⁷ <https://www.mustgo.com/worldlanguages/irish-gaelic/>

Ireland

- Capital City: Dublin
- Primary Language: English
- Currency: Euro
- Population: 5,203,000 (2023)



For more information about Ireland visit:

- [Ireland Geography](#)
- [Ireland Cultural Life](#)
- [Ireland History](#)

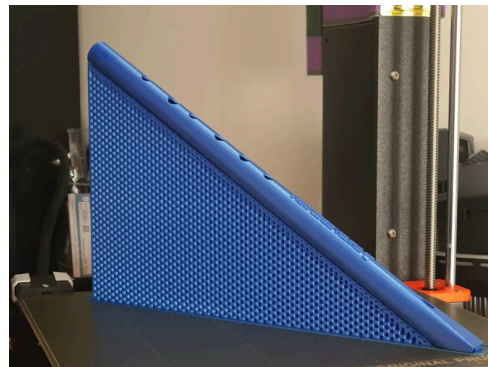
For more information about Aoife Scott Band visit:

- Website: [Aoife Scott Band](#)
- Facebook: [Aoife Scott Band](#)
- Instagram: [Aoife Scott Band](#)

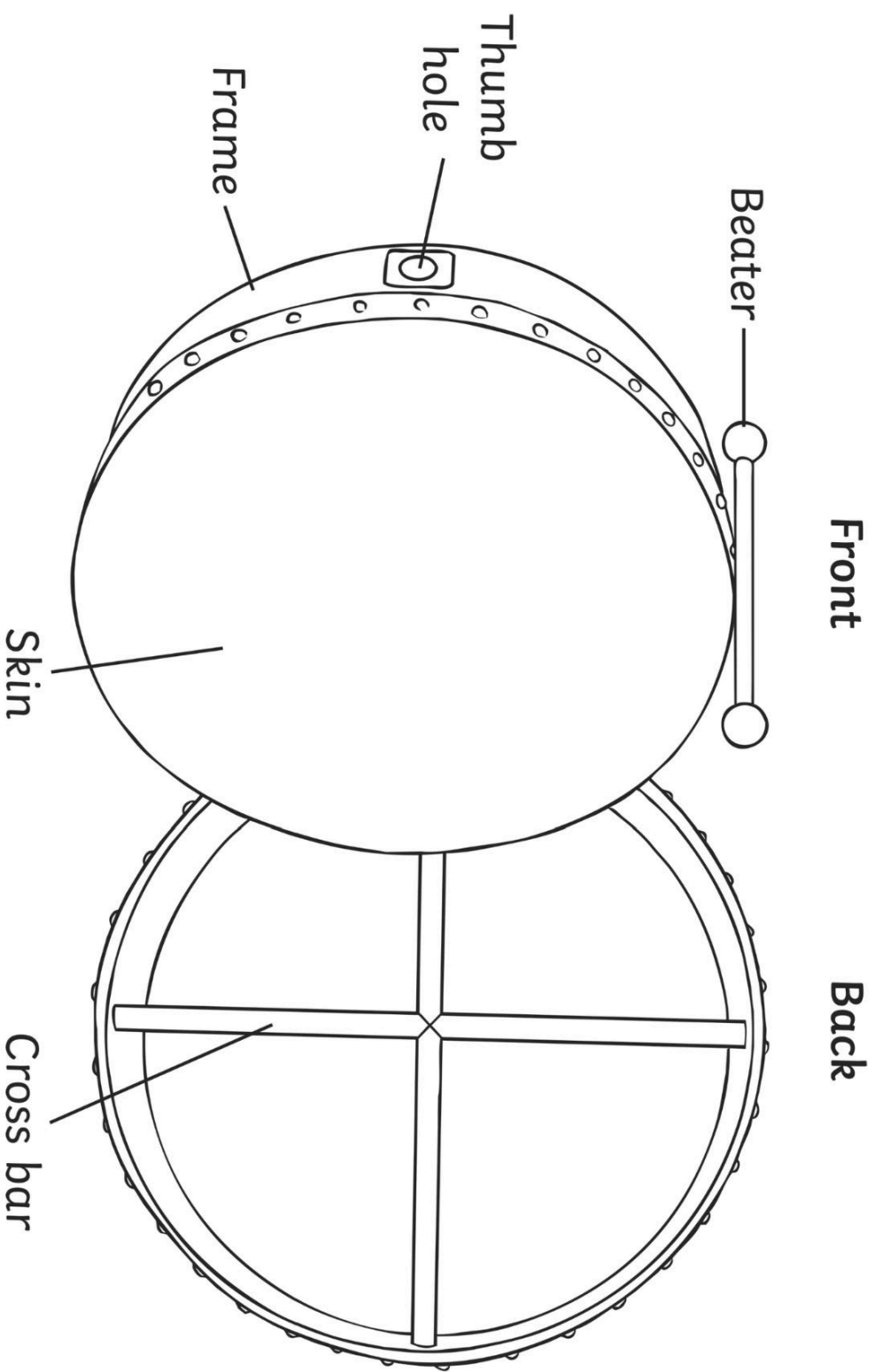
STEAM Activity

3D Print Your Own Tin Whistle

There are several ways to make music. 3D printing is a great new way to make instruments! The link below will take you to a file that you can try yourself. What will happen if you print this file bigger or smaller? How will the sound change? Try it out!



<https://www.printables.com/model/299709-irish-tin-whistle-in-d>



Bodhrán [bough-rawn] Drum Coloring Sheet

visit [twinkl.com](https://www.twinkl.com)



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Special thanks to the **MCCSC STEAM/CS Team** for providing fun STEAM activities for our 2024 Lotus Blossoms study guides!

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