In 2006 Urras Shomhairle embarked on an ambitious project to bring the poetry of Sorley MacLean to a wider audience by:

- Commissioning the best traditional composers to set some of Sorley’s poems to music or compose new music inspired by Sorley’s work
- Establishing a Gaelic and a Music Residency at Sgoil Chiùil na Gaidhealtachd in Plockton to work with the students to create settings of Sorley’s poems and other new works

The Trust appointed Kenneth Thomson as Project Director and he, in turn, appointed the residents, composers and performers. The result was a programme of some of the best music created in recent years.

The concerts were held in June 2007 in Plockton, Fort William, Portree, Clashmore, Inverness and Dingwall.

**The composers were:**

- Mary Ann Kennedy
- Blair Douglas
- Marie-Louise Napier
- Eilidh Mackenzie
- Allan Henderson
- Allan Macdonald
- Donald Shaw
- Louis de Paor and John Spillane
- Kenneth Thomson

**The works were performed by**

**Singers**

- Jenna Cumming
- Kirsteen MacDonald
- James Graham
- Alasdair Whyte

**Instrumentalists**

- Mary Ann Kennedy
- Christine Hanson
- Jack Evans
- Gordon Gunn
- Brian McAlpine
- Dougie Pincock
Choirs

- Coisir Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis
- Dingwall Gaelic Choir
- Oban Gaelic Choir
- Strath Gaelic Choir
- Melvich Gaelic Choir
- Lairg Gaelic Choir
- Portree Primary School Choir
- Lochaber Junior Gaelic Choir
- Deugairean Inbhir Nis

Plockton Residencies

- Music: James Ross
- Gaelic: Myles Campbell

The Student Musicians were

- Suzanne Houston
- Lauren Weir
- Coralea McKay
- Emma MacInnes
- Rachel Lincoln

The concerts were recorded for future transmission by Radio nan Gàidheal when they will be included in the Christmas / New Year schedule. The release of a CD is also planned.

Sponsors

An ambitious event like this would not be possible without a large number of sponsors and supporters. The Trustees gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance received from

- Bòrd na Gàidhlig
- Highland 2007
- Proiseact nan Ealan
- Scottish Arts Council
- Colmcille
- PRS Foundation
- Comunn na Gàidhlig
- BBC Alba
- Gaelic Media Service
- Highland Council
- HIE Inverness and East Highland
- HIE Skye and Wester Ross

The award from Colmcille was in respect of the composition by John Spillane and Louis de Paor. The new music award from the PRS Foundation was for the composition by Mary Ann Kennedy.

The project brought together some of the best composers and performers in Gaeldom to celebrate the rich legacy of the poetry of the best Gaelic poet - and arguably one of the best poets in any language - of the twentieth century.