Liza Mulholland

University: Glasgow University (MA Scottish History & Sociology),
Edinburgh University (winner Hume Brown Prize, external graduate essay prize in Scottish History)

Music Commissions & Musical Directorships

2023 – Present 2025: co-devised and created, with writer Donald S Murray, multi-artform show In the Wake of Metagama: An Atlantic Odyssey in Story and Song. This live music/literary/visual art show, marking the centenary of the mass emigrations on the ships SS Metagama and Marloch from the Scottish Hebridean Islands to Canada in 1923 and 1924, was supported by Creative Scotland and toured across the Highlands and Islands in April 2023, to wide acclaim and sell-out audiences. This was followed by a sold-out concert in Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall at Celtic Connections Festival in 2024. The ensemble of nine renowned musicians, composers, artistes and writers included Liza, who also production managed the tour.
Liza gained further support from Creative Scotland to enable the ensemble to record the music and song from the show and this was done between March and April 2025. The album is due for release in July 2025 with new tour dates in place for Autumn 2025 and beyond.

2022 / 2023 Spirit:360: commission from Spirit of the Highlands project and Highlife Highland to compose three pieces of music for Spirit:360 Stories in connection with refurbishment of Inverness Castle.

This trio of pieces, entitled Na Gaisgich (The Heroes), is based on the trial for trespass of land reform crofters on the Isle of Lewis in 1891 and their subsequent imprisonment in Inverness castle jail. The music and accompanying photo montage videos are featured on the recently published Spirit:360 platform.

2021 - 2024 Elphen Chronicles: commissioned by independent production company Three Quills to be Musical Director on Elphen Chronicles and composer of instrumental music and song soundtrack to story and visual art films by fine artist and author Paul Taggart. The EC album is to be released in 2025.

Other Projects
Devised, produced, and performed the cross-artform show **Stand and Stare** for Celtic Connections 2017, based on poem Leisure by Welsh poet WH Davies on the natural world and environment. The ensemble of musicians, writers and actors included writers Donald S Murray and Welsh National Poet Gillian Clarke, musicians/composers Charlie MacKerron, Alasdair Taylor, Christine Hanson, artist Doug Robertson, actors Davy Walker and Eileen Scott.

Performing and recording with wide range of fellow-musicians and artistes, including the Deaf Heights Cajun Aces, the Peyote Family, the Choir of Loretta, Cirmhòr, cellist Christine Hanson, Gaelic singers Fiona Mackenzie and Brian O h-Eadhra, Martin Stephenson of The Daintees, the blues guitarist Andy Gunn Band, actor/director/singer-songwriter Hamish MacDonald, Davy Cowan and the Stormchasers, and currently with own female-fronted indie-folk band, Dorec-a-belle, and country line-up Wounded Moose.

Released debut solo album, Fine 'n' Rosy in September 2016, a track from this recording, Took My Breath Away, being featured as soundtrack to the promotional film made by Glasgow University and Glasgow Women's Library with Scottish Women's Aid to mark 40 years of their work in Scotland, raise awareness and support women and families affected by domestic abuse. A second track, The Funk Trunk, featured in a short promotional film made by Cranachan Publishing for the children's historical novel, Punch, by writer Barbara Henderson.
Several singles self-released since 2016, including Big Wide World released for COP26 and featured in a livestreamed COP26 event.

TV & Radio:
1995 set up own independent production company, Metagama Productions, in Inverness. Over a number of years, devising, writing and producing a slate of television and radio arts documentaries for BBC Scotland, filming in the USA, Canada, Italy, Tonga and across Britain.
Profile of Gaelic bard, Murdo MacFarlane, won Best TV Arts Documentary at the 2001 Celtic Film & TV Festival. Additional profiles of musicians, songwriters and poets and other arts documentaries, including several also short-listed in Best TV Arts Documentary and Best Radio Arts Documentary categories at Celtic Film & TV Festivals.

Writing and Books
2023 Storyflower: commissioned by Ablekids Press, Inverness to write 'A Musician's Storyflower' children's book (with accompanying music) as part of their Storyflower project. This book was published and launched in May 2023.

2020 Penguin Books: chosen from 1500 applicants for Penguin's Write Now scheme for unpublished writers and duly participated in their two-day online workshop sessions, including feedback on my adult fiction manuscript from one of their editors.

2018: Self-published 'Inside Folk: Notes From a Scottish Musician's Year', a narrative non-fiction book based on my experiences as a folk musician.

2012 – 2025 Teaching & Tutoring in Schools, Nurseries & other settings:

Fully Disclosed Tutor with Fèis Rois on the Youth Music Initiative project delivering traditional music and song sessions in Highland primary schools (since 2012), and Music Specialist and Teaching Artiste with Artsplay Highland (since 2014), delivering Early Years and other music workshops in nurseries and primary classes.
Freelance musician on Fèis Rois's Lullaby Project (2020 - 2025), working with mums to write lullabies for their babies and toddlers.
Private piano teacher and also tutor with Music Plus charity (2022 - 2025) delivering music lessons to care-experienced children.

Previous recent projects with Fèis Rois include delivering individual music lessons and group music workshops to care-experienced young people in weekly sessions and also residential settings. Also lead musician on a a creative summer Transition project, working with young care-experienced children transitioning from Primary 7 to secondary school. During the pandemic delivered online music videos for Fèis Rois and Artsplay Highland.

Tutoring primary-aged children at numerous Fèisean across the Highlands and Islands since the mid-1990s.