



## **Les Trois Blondes Concert Review (02/10/21)**

It was another wet evening and Mid Argyll Arts Association transported their audience to the pavement cafes of Paris. The real venue was the newly refurbished Ardrishaig Hall, and the performers were Les Trois Blondes – Scotland’s only Bal-musette band who play classical Parisian café music. The trio were 1<sup>st</sup> accordion – John Burns with 2<sup>nd</sup> accordion - James Coutts. On Drums was Fergus Wood who was also a very informative compere.

The hall was laid out with tables adorned with checked tablecloths and candles so when music started with a typical musette-style waltz, it set the flavour of the evening. We were provided with a snapshot of historical background and the introduction of the accordion to the café culture of France in the 1920’s and its development, before some information on the music and composers.

The music performed was all dances – Waltzes, Foxtrots, Polkas, Quicksteps and Tangos. Much of the music was well-known with highlights including a Foxtrot “C’est Si Bon” “Under the Bridges of Paris” and the theme for “Allo, Allo”, which everybody knew! It wasn’t just Parisian café music as a selection of Gaelic Waltzes and a set of Irish jigs were included. “Concinnous Waltz” an intricate piece, composed by John Burns for their band was included in the programme. Catering for the jazz supporters the exciting, bluesy Foxtrot “Nuages” was another style which Les Trois Blondes were very happy to perform, which wouldn’t have been out of place in a jazz club.

This was the first concert in the MAAA Season back in Ardrishaig Hall and it was great to be back here. The audience certainly were enjoying the atmosphere of the Parisian café if the smiling, gently tapping feet and enthusiastic applause is anything to go by.