

Rory (1932-82) and Alex (1935-2008) McEwen were both born at Marchmont, the fourth and fifth children of Jock and Bridget.



*Rory McEwen 1*



*Alex McEwen 1*

Inspired by their elder brother Jamie's record collection and by the wonderfully rich Scottish folk song tradition, they taught themselves to play guitar and became an accomplished and acclaimed duo, leading lights in the post-war folk song revival. In 1955 they travelled to America, to play and to learn from the greats; they appeared twice on the Ed Sullivan Show, and met the widow of Leadbelly, who inspired Rory to play twelve-string guitar; Alex, known as Eck, took lessons from the legendary bluesman Blind Gary Davies and his playing was transformed. Reunited back in the UK in 1958, the brothers were the hit of that year's Edinburgh Festival and seemed set for a lengthy career as "Scotland's answer to the Everly Brothers". They both presented television programmes in which they played with guest musicians, Rory, "Hullabaloo" in London, while Alex hosted "Alex Awhile" for STV. In 1965 they retired from performing when Rory took up painting full-time (he was one of the greatest botanical painters of the century) and Alex became an executive for John Menzies and, later on, the laird of Bardrochat, the family seat in Ayrshire.

This [news article](#) on **Rory McEwen**, and this [Wikipedia entry](#) provide more details

This [obituary](#) for **Alex McEwen** provides more details