

Live in Concert!





14th Annual Balmoral Classic

Nov. 14

2020

US Junior Solo Piping & Drumming Championships

Coming to YouTube on the "Balmoral School" Channel







BALMORAL CLASSIC 2020

Schedule of events

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Competition: United States Junior Solo Piping & Drumming Championships
Video performances of 15 pipers and 4 snare drummers to be streamed via our <u>YouTube channel</u>
Piobaireachd, 8:30am EST
Snare MSR, 12:30pm EST
Piping MSR, 1:00pm EST
Snare Hornpipe & Jig, 3:30pm EST

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Concert: Acclaimed Scottish fiddler extraordinare, **Alasdair Fraser**, 7:30pm EST Visit our <u>concert page</u> for streaming information Second performance Sunday, Nov. 15, 2:30pm EST Suggested donation \$20.00.

The second act begins with performances by the Overall Winners of this weekend's US Junior Solo Championships. Overall piping winner plays his/her March, Strathspey & Reel; Overall snare drum winner plays his Hornpipe & Jig.

Live Q&A with Alasdair Fraser, 9:00pm EST, via our YouTube channel

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Piping workshop on piobaireachd tunes conducted by Robert Wallace, 11:00am-12:30pm EST Snare Drum workshop conducted by Jim Kilpatrick, 11:00am-12:30pm EST For information on how to participate in our workshops inquire at info@bagpiping.org

OUR SPONSORS







The Classic is sponsored annually by:

Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming

1414 Pennsylvania Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15233 412.323.2707

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SCHOOL OF PIPING

& DRUMMING

Setting the Standard







Balmoral School receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.







Welcome!

Welcome to the Fourteenth annual Balmoral Classic, Pittsburgh's annual celebration of Scottish Bagpiping, Snare Drumming, and traditional Scottish arts.

The Balmoral Classic's core event is the US Junior Solo Highland Bagpiping and Solo Snare Drumming Championships, the only US National competition for pipers and drummers 21 years of age or younger. This free event takes place on Saturday, November 14, and will be broadcast as a virtual event through streamed competition videos. There are fifteen piping and four drumming contestants representing Colorado, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, Wisconsin, Canada, Australia, and Scotland. They have worked intensively for years to earn their position by competing with distinction in the upper amateur grades of their respective regional pipe band associations. For any competitor at this level it takes a lot of talent, focus, and time, in some ways analogous to preparation for top athletic contests. They have entered the competition to prove their skills and compete for awards and valuable prizes, including a set of MacRae bagpipes donated by the manufacturer McCallum Bagpipes, and a Premier HTS-800 snare drum donated by Henderson Imports of Traverse City, Michigan.

The Saturday bagpiping contests begin streaming in groups of three at 8:30am EST with the Piobaireachd (classical bagpipe music) contests. During the afternoon the competition continues with the March, Strathspey, and Reel medley at 1:00pm EST. The drumming MSR contest will be streamed at 12:30pm EST, and the drumming Hornpipe and Jig at 3:30pm EST.

The Saturday evening concert, a premiere streaming event, features the outstanding solo Scottish fiddler, Alasdair Fraser. More information about this artist can be found later in this program. The Overall winners of this year's Championships will be announced during the evening concert, which will begin at 7:30pm EST, and selections from their performances will open the second set. Awards and prizes are listed elsewhere in this Program Guide. Scotsman Arthur McAra will be the emcee for the Saturday competition and the Saturday evening events.

On Sunday morning, November 15, there will be a Piobaireachd workshop conducted by Robert Wallace, of Glasgow, Scotland. The workshop will take place in a Zoom session from 11am to 12:30pm for registered participants. At the same time, snare drumming judge and champion drummer, Jim Kilpatrick will be conducting a workshop for snare drummers.

Please visit our website and follow our Facebook page to be connected to the Balmoral School and the broader Celtic cultural worldwide community through the sharing of articles, and events. If you are not on our email and street address lists, for local to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania events, please sign up so we can stay in touch.

The Balmoral Classic is made possible in part by grants and individual and organizational contributions, for which we are very grateful. We thank all of our donors for their support, which is essential to the survival of this event. To the many Balmoral Classic volunteers, we extend our sincere thanks. Without their time and talents the weekend events would not be possible.

We encourage you to patronize our advertisers and sponsors. I hope that you will join them in enjoying and supporting Scottish music and dance, traditional art forms that occupy an important place in the diverse world of North American culture.

On behalf of the Balmoral Board and Staff, Cead Mile Failte! (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes!)

George Balderose, Executive Director Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming

Leslie Clark, Associate Director Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming Registrar of the Balmoral Classic

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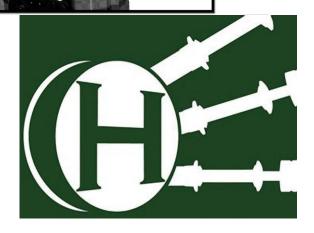


Look for our video resources online!

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BOARDS AND STAFF

The mission of the Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming is to raise the standard and promote the appreciation of bagpipe music in the USA by providing world class instruction, cultivating excellence in youth, presenting innovative musical events, and fostering tradition.

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2020 BALMORAL CLASSIC

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The Pittsburgh Firefighters Memorial Pipe Band proudly represents the firefighters of the City of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania.

The Pittsburgh Firefighters Memorial Pipe Band wishes to congratulate the competitors on their accomplishments in qualifying for the Balmoral Classic and wish you all good luck.

Pipe Major Joe Magliocca ● 412-341-9244

New members welcome

Please see our Facebook page at Pittsburgh Firefighters Memorial Pipe Band

BALMORAL SCHOOL OF PIPING & DRUMMING

SETTING THE STANDARD

THE BALMORAL SCHOOL OF PIPING & DRUMMING was established in 1979 by co-founders George Balderose and James McIntosh, MBE, "... to raise the standard and promote the appreciation of bagpipe music in the USA by providing world class instruction, cultivating excellence in youth, presenting innovative musical events, and fostering tradition." It is a non-profit, 501.C.3 a.1 tax-exempt school, and its Board of Directors include professionals from the fields of law, finance, education, management, commerce, and piping and drumming who selflessly serve to guide the organization and realize its mission.

Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming celebrates and teaches traditional bagpipe music dating as far back as the 14th century, along with more recent compositions in the traditional style including the competition repertoire. Long-term commitment to the culture and heritage associated with the great traditions of bagpiping and drumming is encouraged among the Balmoral students. Learning music through the Balmoral School builds character, promotes heritage and fully supports family values.

SUMMER SESSIONS

Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming has introduced to Pittsburgh and other US locations some of the world's most outstanding senior pipers to teach at its summer sessions, among them John MacDougall, Ron Lawrie, lain Morrison, P/S John Wilson and P/M Iain McLellan, BEM of the 12-times World Champion Strathclyde Police Pipe Band.

James McIntosh, M.B.E. also founded the Carnegie Mellon University Bachelor of Performing Arts program in Bagpipe Music, the first in the world. Balmoral past instructor & Advisory Board member Mike Cusack was the first American to win the Gold Medal at the prestigious Northern Meeting in Inverness. He also led the St. Thomas Episcopal School Pipe Band to five Junior World Championships. Noteworthy drumming instructors who have taught for Balmoral include Reid Maxwell, Bert Barr, Andrew Hoinacki, Jon Quigg, Andy White, and our Principal drumming instructor, Gordon Bell.

The Balmoral School's summer sessions attract pipers and drummers of all ages and ability levels and are held on college and academy campuses, as well as virtual settings.



BALMORAL CLASSIC

Founded in 2007, the Balmoral Classic is home to the only US Junior Solo Competitions for bagpipers and snare drummers 21 years of age and under. Judges are carefully chosen from among veteran judges in the USA, Canada, Scotland, and Australia. Successful contestants usually advance to major invitational competitions and are encouraged to compete in Scotland. Balmoral Classic events this year include the Saturday competions, Saturday evening concert and Sunday piobaireachd and snare drumming workshops.

BRINGING TRADITIONAL BAGPIPE MUSIC TO WIDER AUDIENCES

Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming and the Balmoral Classic supports the field of bagpiping in new and creative ways within the traditional idiom and widens the public's understanding and appreciation of quality bagpipe music. During the year, public concerts such as those at downtown Pittsburgh's historic First Presbyterian Church feature traditional & original bagpipe music, often in combination with other instruments. Educational books published by the Balmoral School include: The Balmoral Collection of Hymns Arranged for the Highland Bagpipe (2012) and The Balmoral Guide to Playing the Bagpipes for Community Dances (2018)





STUDIO

EQUIPMENT

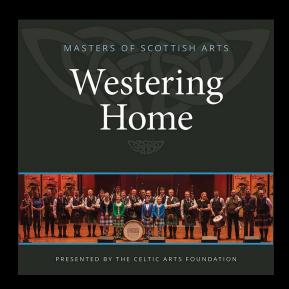
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Balmoral School: In Memory of Frank & Jane George Cary & Ken Bohl and David & Marthe Murray: In Memory of Ralph and Patricia Murray Barbara Drozdz: In Memory of Jim Drozdz Patricia Buchanan Dunkis: In Honor of the Buchanan

Family Christine Fellner: In Memory of George & Beryl, Stephen, and Nancy Ward Balderose

Denise McNerney: In Honor of Tim McNerney Pittsburgh Firefighters: In Memory of John Marthens, and Edward D. Moore

Robert Rost: In Memory of Alice Rost Joseph Stearne: In Memory of Esta Ann Stearne Raymond Popchak: In Memory of Sharon Popchak Robert Zappa: In Memory of Rosemary Zappa

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NEA Grants to the Arts PA Council on the Arts Sage Foundation

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The National Piping Centre Incorporating the College of Piping Pittsburgh Trophy Company

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Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming The Celtic Croft Duncans Highland Supply Henderson Imports, Ltd. MacLellan Bagpipes McCallum Bagpipes Ltd McGillivray Piping Inc. The Pipers Hut Scott's Highland Services Ltd. Temple Records

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2020 COMPETITORS

SOLO PIPING CHAMPIONSHIP

Duncan Winters

Sebastian Benedetto Cape Neddick, Maine, USA Gillian Blaney Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, Canada Alexandra Knox Woodbine, Maryland, USA Woodbine, Maryland, USA Elizabeth Knox Harrison Little Fergus, Ontario, Canada Hugo Mackay Redmond, Washington, USA Dearborn, Michigan, USA Calum MacNeil Deerton, Michigan, USA Thomas McCollum Alexandra Miller Safety Harbor, Florida, USA Katherine Miller Safety Harbor, Florida, USA Rhys O'Higgins Madison, Wisconsin, USA Jacob Shelton Golden, Colorado, USA David Stulpner Perth, WA, Australia Colin Swett West Chester, Pennsylvania, USA

Dollar, Scotland

SOLO SNARE DRUMMING CHAMPIONSHIP

Rowan Brown Thomas Carruthers Alec Flansburg Cameron MacDonald Middle Island, New York, USA Melba, Canberra, Australia Rotterdam, New York, USA Whitby, Ontario, Canada



HISTORY OF BALMORAL CLASSIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

<u>Year</u>	Overall-Piping	Piobaireachd	MSR – PIPER	PIPING JUDGES		
2007	Larson Stromdahl	Kegan Sheehan	Andrew Tice	Alasdair Gillies	James McIntosh	John Wilson
2008	Ryan Praskovich	Reid Bishop	Ryan Praskovich	Bruce Gandy	Amy Garson	Scot Walker
2009	Anthony Masterson	Marshall German	Anthony Masterson	Brian Donaldson	Alasdair Gillies	James MacColl
2010	Joseph Stewart	Joseph Stewart	Daniel Pisowloski	Andrew Carlisle	Donald McBride	Willie McCallum
2011	Alexander Schiele	Alexander Schiele	Alexander Schiele	Brian Donaldson	Donald Lindsay	Scot Walker
2012	Kirk Brunson	Nicholas Theriault	Jack Williamson	James Bell	Donald McBride	James MacColl
2013	Scott McCann	Christian Haars	Scott McCann	Duncan Bell	Scot Walker	Andrew Wright
2014	Griffin Hall	Griffin Hall	Andrew Hutton	Brian Donaldson	Ed Neigh	Dr. Jack Taylor
2015	Gavin Mackay	Gavin Mackay	Gavin Mackay	Dr. Bill Wotherspoon	Bill Livingstone, J	r. Duncan Bell
2016	Kolya Sier	Mark McClennan	Kolya Sier	Ian K. MacDonald	Robert Wallace	James Bell
2017	Joseph Horwath	Liam Macdonald	Callum Younger	John Bottomley	Amy Garson	Dr. Jack Taylor
2018	Charlie Morris	Charlie Morris	Charlie Morris	Dr. Angus MacDonald	Donald F Lindsay	Matt MacIsaac
2019	Kayleigh Johnstone	Kayleigh Johnstone	Kayleigh Johnstone	lan Duncan	Bruce Gandy	Lezlie Webster

YEAR	Overall-Drummer	MSR -DRUMMER	HJ –Drummer	Drumming Jud	<u>GES</u>
2009	Petey Lowrie	Petey Lowrie	Petey Lowrie	Gordon Bell	
2010	Quinn McCormack	Quinn McCormack	Quinn McCormack	Jim Sim	
2011	Petey Lowrie	Petey Lowrie	Petey Lowrie	Gordon Bell	Andrew Hoinacki
2012	Amber Stone	Amber Stone	Alastair Burgess	Alex Kuldell	Jon Quigg
2014	Miles Bennington	Miles Bennington	Nick Parr	Gordon Bell	Jon Quigg
2015	Mackenzie Chamberlain	Mackenzie Chamberlain	Mackenzie Chamberlain	Donald Bell	Gordon Bell
2016	Blair Beaton	Blair Beaton	Blair Beaton	Gordon Bell	Jon Quigg
2017	Matthew Darmadi	Matthew Darmadi	Isabella Jackson	Gordon Bell	Jon Quigg
2018	Shane Stapleton	Shane Stapleton	Shane Stapleton	Gordon Bell	Jon Quigg
2019	Nicholas Moore	Nicholas Moore	Jeremiah Whitney	Gordon Bell	Jon Quigg

US JUNIOR SOLO CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUDGES & COMPETITORS



CANADA – JIM MCGILLIVRAY began his journey in piping in 1970 in Victoria, British Columbia. In 1982 he moved to Ontario to play with the 78th Frasers Pipe Band, and over 15 years he helped them win a Grade I World championship, record three live concerts, and capture 13 North American championships. As a soloist, in 1999 he won the March, Strathspey and Reel competition at the Northern Meeting at Inverness. In Piobaireachd contests he won the Gold Medal at the Northern Meeting (2003), and the Gold Medal at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban (2004). His published works include: Rhythmic Fingerwork, Piobaireachd Fingerwork, and instructional DVD's: Pipes Ready! And Pipes Up!



SCOTLAND – ROBERT WALLACE was awarded the double Gold Medal presented by the Highland Society of London (1985 and 1995), the Clasp at Inverness in 1999, the Former Winners' March, Strathspey & Reel at Oban in 1985, the Bratach Gorm, the Dunvegan Medal and Clasp and many other prestigious awards. He is in much demand as an adjudicator and teacher, with several of his students winning piping's top awards. A professional journalist, Robert edits the Piping Press web magazine. Prior to this he was Principal of the College of Piping where he was instrumental in the rebuilding of their premises in Otago Street, re-wrote all of the College's four tutor books, and published many other publications, including three volumes of his own piobaireachd tutor books.



USA – SCOT WALKER During his solo career, Scot was rated #1 Overall Professional Piping Competitor for 7 years by the Eastern US Pipe Band Association. He has won firsts at nearly all the major North American Solo Championships, and numerous prizes as a solo competitor in Scotland. Scot was pipe major of the Lehigh Valley Pipe Band for 20 years, winning the EUSPBA Grade 2 Championship. More recently he played with Lomond and Clyde Pipe Band in Glasgow, Scotland, and is currently a member of Dunedin Pipe Band based in Dunedin, FL. He has served on the Music Faculty of Moravian College as instructor of Bagpipe Music since 1993, and holds a Masters of Education. He is sought after for teaching workshops and instructing at various piping schools throughout the year. Scot is a member of the EUSPBA judges' panel, and currently serves as a member of the music board.



USA – GORDON BELL began drumming at the age of eight under the guidance of Norman MacLeod and later received tuition from the legendary Alec Duthart. He became the drum sergeant of the Parlin & District Pipe Band in 1975, winning the North American Championship in Grade 2, and placing them in Grade 1. He has also been a member of Muirhead & Sons, Kenmure, Worcester Kiltie, 78th Fraser Highlanders, the City of Washington Pipe Bands, and most recently, the Peel Police Pipe band (Canada) Gordon also saw a great deal of success in the solo field winning the EUSPBA Overall Champion consistently from 1979 to 2003. He has recorded with The Empire Brass Quintet, 78th Frasers Live in Scotland, and with his own Celtic Rock group 51 Ash in which he plays the bass guitar.



SCOTLAND – JIM KILPATRICK MBE has won numerous drumming titles as both a solo drummer and in pipe band competitions, enjoying his greatest competitive success with the Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band. He has won the drumming title at The World Pipe Band Championships 19 times, fifteen of those as leading drummer. This includes a run of eleven consecutive times between 1988 and 1998, a record which still stands. In 1991, Shotts won the drumming title in all five major championships, the only time this has occurred. In 2015, Shotts won the World Championships for the first time in ten years, breaking a run of four consecutive victories by Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band. In 2016, Kilpatrick became leading drummer of the Spirit of Scotland Pipe Band, which was his final season of competition. Kilpatrick also competes in solo events, and has won the World Solo Drumming Championships a record sixteen times. He has been involved in teaching at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, as well as giving masterclasses around the world.



AUSTRALIA – **STEVEN SHEDDEN** Steven is originally from Glasgow, Scotland, and is the current Australian Drumming Champion, having held this title since 2017. In 2010 he had joined the House of Edgar Shotts & Dykehead Pipe Band under Jim Kilpatrick MBE, winning the world drum corps championship in 2011. Around this time Steven was also the leading drummer with the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland. In 2016 Steven joined Jim Kilpatrick's elite drum corps in the Spirit of Scotland Pipe Band. Steven now resides in Melbourne, Australia teaching drums full-time at Scotch College. He is the leading drummer of Hawthorn Pipe Band. Steven is also the director of ShedDrum -an online portal for drumming videos and education and is proudly endorsed by the British Drum Company. Steven recently represented pipe band drumming by performing at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in the United States.





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US JUNIOR SOLO BAGPIPING AND SOLO SNARE DRUMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

TROPHIES AND AWARDS

Overall Piping Winner

Ralph & Patricia Murray Memorial Award and Scholarship (Room/Board/Tuition for two weeks of the 2021 Balmoral Summer sessions)
MacRae Bagpipe, African Blackwood, engraved alloy ferules and imitation ivory projection mounts, with bagpipe case (donated by McCallum Bagpipes)

Overall 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th place winners

Balmoral Scholarship (Tuition for one week at any of the 2021 Balmoral Summer session)

Piobaireachd Winner

Balmoral Award Handcrafted blackwood pipe chanter "MAC 1"

(donated by MacLellan Bagpipes)
Pipe Major Donald MacLeod Collection of
Piobaireachd Tutorials Vol 8
(Donated by Balmoral School)

2nd Place Piobaireachd Winner

Antiqued Thistle Faux Seal Fur Sporran (donated by Celtic Croft) Pipe Major Donald MacLeod Collection of Piobaireachd Tutorials Vol 20 (Donated by Balmoral School)

3rd Place Piobaireachd Winner

1960's Hardie Pipe Chanter (donated by Balmoral School) Pipe Major Donald MacLeod Collection of Piobaireachd Tutorials Vol 17 (Donated by Balmoral School)

4th Place Piobaireachd Winner

Piobaireachd Fingerwork
(donated by Balmoral School)
Pipe Major Donald MacLeod Collection of
Piobaireachd Tutorials Vol 15
(Donated by Balmoral School)

5th Place Piobaireachd Winner

Bagpipe Carrying Case (Donated by The Pipers Hut) Pipe Major Donald MacLeod Collection of Piobaireachd Tutorials Vol 9 (Donated by Balmoral School)

- * Piping medals are awarded to the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place competitors in each event. Award plaques become the property of the winner.
 - * Drumming medals are awarded to the 2nd and 3rd place competitors in each event. Award plaques become the property of the winner.

March, Strathspey, & Reel Piping Winner

E.W.Littlefield, Jr. Award
Pipers Choice Trad A Smallpipes in the
key of A-440, with case
(donated by Scott's Highland Services)
A Controversy of Pipers CD
(Donated by Temple Records)
Piping Center 1996 Recital Series Vol 2:
Burgess & MacPherson
(Donated by Temple Records)

2nd Place MSR Piping Winner

Gift Certificate for pipetunes.ca (donated by Jim McGillivray) A Controversy of Pipers CD (Donated by Temple Records) Piping Center 1996 Recital Series Vol 3: Morrison & MacDonald (Donated by Temple Records)

3rd Place MSR Piping Winner

Scots Guards Vol 3 (Donated by Duncans Highland Supply) Piping Center 1997 Recital Series Vol 2: Patrick & Liddell (Donated by Temple Records)

4th Place MSR Piping Winner

Scots Guards Vol 2 (Donated by Duncans Highland Supply) Piping Center 1997 Recital Series Vol 3: Gillies & Stoddart (Donated by Temple Records)

5th Place MSR Piping Winner

Scots Guards Vol 1 (Donated by Duncans Highland Supply) Piping Center 1996 Recital Series Vol 4: MacColl & Duncan (Donated by Temple Records)

Overall Drumming Winner

David Peet Memorial Award Premier HTS-800 Snare Drum (donated by Henderson Imports, Ltd.) Henry Matthews Memorial Scholarship (Room/Board/Tuition for two weeks of the 2021 Balmoral Summer sessions)

Hornpipe/Jig Drumming Winner

Pittsburgh Firefighters Memorial Pipe Band Award

March, Strathspey, & Reel Drumming Winner

St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh Award

2nd Place Overall Drumming Winner

Leather Hunting Sporran with Antique Celtic Design (donated by The Piper's Hut) Balmoral Scholarship (Tuition for one week at any of the 2021 Balmoral Summer sessions)

3rd Place Overall Drumming Winner

Massed Band Drum Scores for Pipe Band Drummers by Hugh Cameron and Doug Stronach

(Donated by Balmoral School)

4th Place Overall Drumming Winner

World Pipe Band Championships DVD 2010 Vol 1

(Donated by Balmoral School)

For all: Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band-Another Quiet Sunday CD (Donated by Temple Records)

For the pipers: <u>Balmoral Guide to Playing</u> <u>Bagpipes for Community Dances</u> (Donated by Balmoral School)

CONCERT

NOVEMBER 14 AT 7:30PM EST NOVEMBER 15 AT 2:30PM EST

ALASDAIR FRASER

"One of Scotland's most valued tradition-bearers."

— BBC Radio Scotland

Alasdair Fraser is one of the greatest carriers of the Scottish fiddle music tradition, a fiddler whose warmly expressive playing, mastery of his instrument and deep understanding of his native music as a venerable and continually evolving art is an inspiration to generations of musicians on both sides of the Atlantic.

Alasdair was born in Clackmannan on May 14, 1955 and began taking classical violin lessons at the age of eight, enduring much teasing and leg-pulling from fellow school pupils at a time when carrying a fiddle case around was considered far from cool. Undeterred, he persevered and found a love of and natural aptitude for the violin which he applied to the Scottish music that he heard at home – his late father, Bob, and his brother, lain, both being musicians.

In his teens Alasdair played with dance bands and began gathering the compositions of great fiddling forebears including Niel and Nathaniel Gow, William Marshall and James Scott Skinner into a repertoire that is now vast. Twice winner of the Scottish National Fiddle Championship, he also began to notice the connection between speech patterns and musical expression, especially among Gaels and the Doric speaking players in the northeast, and incorporated this into his fiddle style.

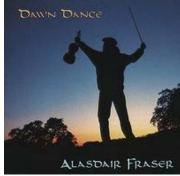
Inclined towards science as well as music at school, Alasdair went on to work as a petrophysicist with British Petroleum, a post that took him to California in 1981 and the realisation four years later, while writing out a fiddle tune during office hours, that he was in the wrong job. He decided to concentrate on music and passing on his passion and skills through programmes such as the Valley of the Moon fiddle camp, which he founded among the Californian Redwoods in 1984 and still directs, the fiddle course that he's run on the Isle of Skye since 1987, and the more recently established Sierra Fiddle Camp, near his home in California.

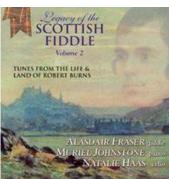


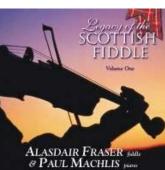
As a fiddler equally capable of playing haunting Gaelic airs and rumbustious dance tunes and improvising endless variations on traditional themes, Alasdair has worked in a variety of successful partnerships, including his duos with pianist Paul Machlis and guitarist Tony McManus and his acclaimed band Skyedance. He has also guested with The Chieftains, The Waterboys, Itzhak Perlman and Los Angeles Master Chorale, appeared on innumerable broadcasts including A Prairie Home Companion and CBS TV's Kennedy Center Honors and performed on film soundtracks including The Last of the Mohicans and Titanic. His compositions have featured in works by the Richmond (Virginia) Ballet and Shiftworks Dance Ensemble and his commissions include Fettercairn Suite.

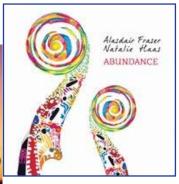
Since 2003 Alasdair has featured in a duo with cellist Natalie Haas, restoring the wee fiddle and big fiddle partnership that flourished in eighteenth century Scotland to contemporary prominence at the cutting edge of tradition-rooted creativity. Their debut album, Fire and Grace, was voted Album of the Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards 2004, adding to Alasdair's North American Independent Record Distributors award for his Dawn Dance album in 1996, and they continue to thrill audiences internationally with their virtuosic playing, their near-telepathic understanding and the joyful spontaneity and sheer physical presence of their music.

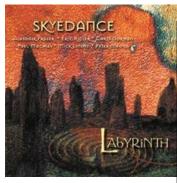
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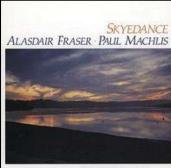


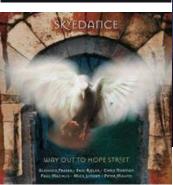


























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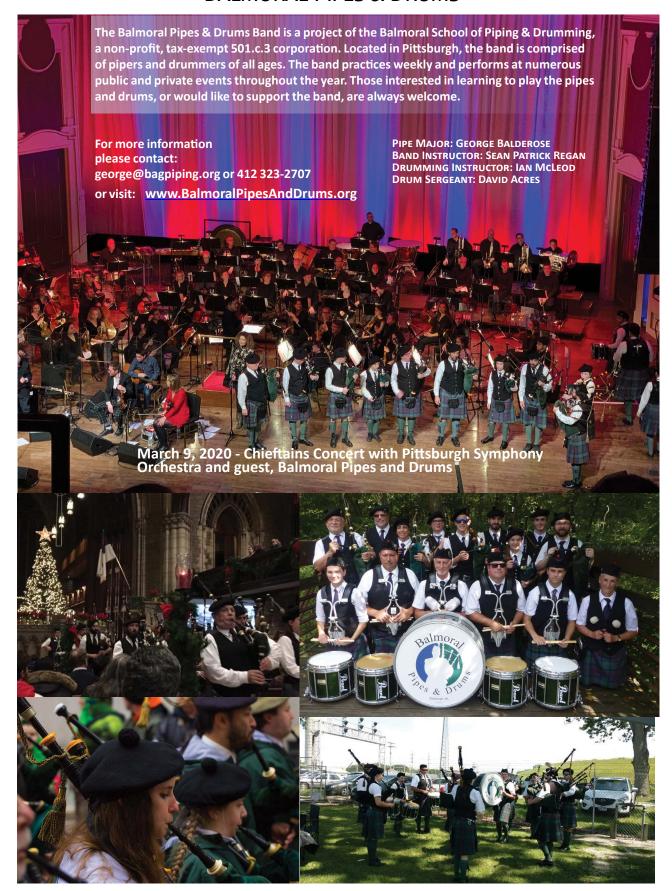
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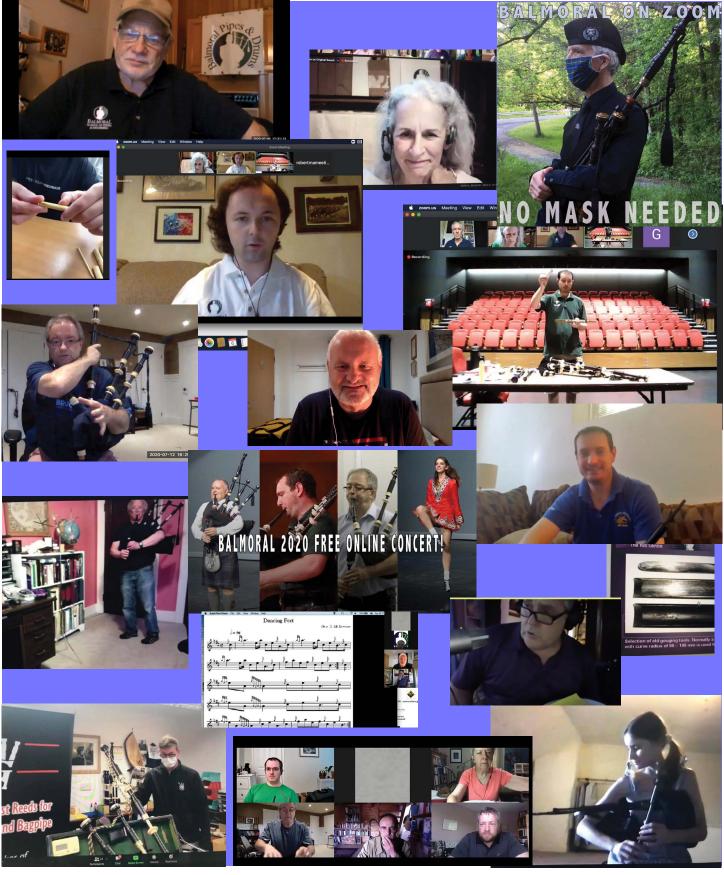


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