



Balmoral Classic 2023

U.S. Junior Solo Piping Championship

November 4-5, 2023



Piobaireachd Workshop
with John Cairns
Sunday Nov. 5, 10:00am-11:45am



f America's 17th annual bagpiping celebration

BALMORAL CLASSIC 2023

Schedule of events

FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 13

8:00pm Concert: The Tannahill Weavers

Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Tickets: \$25 general, \$35 priority seating, \$15 students & seniors 65+

SATURDAY MORNING & AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 4

United States Junior Solo Piping Championships

The Understory, Cathedral of Learning, 4200 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh (Oakland), PA 15213

9:00am Piobaireachd

2:00pm March, Strathspey & Reel

times are approximate

5:00pm Awards Ceremony for the Championships

Scottish Nationality Room, Cathedral of Learning



SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 4

8:00pm Ceilidh - Sharing music, stories, and culture

DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh Green Tree, 500 Mansfield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

10:00am Piobaireachd workshop with John Cairns

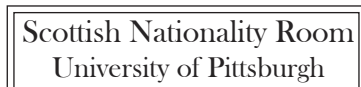
Heinz Room, DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh Green Tree, 500 Mansfield Ave, Pittsburgh 15205

For information on how to participate in the workshop inquire at info@bagpiping.org

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The Classic is sponsored by:
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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.



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Welcome!

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

The Balmoral Classic's core event is the United States Junior Solo Highland Bagpiping Championships, the only US national competition for pipers 21 years of age and younger. This year's free event takes place on Saturday, November 4, in Pittsburgh, at The Understory, Cathedral of Learning. There are ten piping contestants representing Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Texas, Virginia, and Ontario. They have worked intensively for years to earn their position by competing with distinction in 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 all come to Pittsburgh at their own expense to prove their skills and compete for awards and valuable prizes, including a set of MacRae bagpipes donated by the manufacturer, McCallum Bagpipes.

The Saturday bagpiping contests begin in The Understory, Cathedral of Learning at 9:00am with the Piobaireachd (classic bagpipe music) contests. After lunch, the competition continues with the March, Strathspey, and Reel medley contests, ending at about 4:00pm. Patrick Regan will be the emcee for the Saturday piping competition and awards ceremony.

The winners of the US Junior Championship competitions will be announced at the awards ceremony at 5:00pm in the Scottish Nationality Room, Cathedral of Learning. Awards and prizes are listed elsewhere in this Program Guide with thanks to our sponsors.

Beginning at 8:00pm we will host a Ceilidh at the DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh Green Tree hotel, our host hotel for the Classic this year. Meet the judges and competitors, bring an instrument, share stories, enjoy a beverage and munchies, and celebrate our traditions and culture.

On Sunday, November 5, John Cairns, of London, Ontario, will conduct a Piobaireachd workshop from 10:00am-noon in the Heinz Room at the DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh Green Tree.

The Balmoral Classic concert was held earlier, on Friday evening October 13, and featured The Tannahill Weavers from Scotland. More information about the concert can be found later in this program. A special movie night viewing of the concert is in the works for December. Stay tuned for more details and announcements.

Please visit our website and follow our Facebook and Instagram page to be connected to 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. <https://balmoralschoolofpiping.org/contact/>

The Balmoral Classic is made possible in part by grants and tax-exempt individual and organizational contributions, for which we are very grateful. We thank all of our contributors 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, and we hope that you will join them in enjoying and supporting Scottish and Irish 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,
Ceud mìle fàilte! (A Hundred Thousand Welcomes!)

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BALMORAL PIPES & DRUMS

The Balmoral Pipe Band is a project of the Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming. The band, which celebrated its 100th performance in early 2022, is comprised of pipers and drummers of all ages and ability levels.

The ensemble is a teaching organization which strives to continue the proud and noble tradition of executing bagpipe and drum music at the highest level possible. They practice weekly, and perform at numerous public and private events throughout the year. Those with an interest in piping or drumming are always welcomed, regardless of experience or ability level.

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BALMORAL SCHOOL OF PIPING & DRUMMING RAISING THE STANDARD

THE BALMORAL SCHOOL OF PIPING & DRUMMING was established in 1978 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 celebrates and teaches traditional bagpipe music dating as far back as the 15th century, along with more recent compositions in the traditional style. For over 45 years, the school has introduced students and audiences to some of the world’s most outstanding premier and senior pipers through their workshops, summer camps, and concerts hosted in Pittsburgh, at other US locations, and online. 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, Iain Morrison, P/S John Wilson and P/M Iain McLellan, BEM of the 12-times World Champion Strathclyde Police Pipe Band.

The late 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 Gordon Bell.

The Balmoral School’s summer sessions attract pipers and drummers each year, and are held on college and academy campuses.

WINTER WORKSHOP

A weekend online session will be held with Robert Mathieson, Derek Midgley and Andrew Carlisle.



BALMORAL CLASSIC

Founded in 2007, the Balmoral Classic remains the only United States-based event for bagpipers and snare drummers 21 years of age and under. Judges are carefully chosen from among veteran judges in the USA, Canada, Australia, Ireland, and Scotland, and are brought to the Classic to provide the most scrutinizing and knowledgeable audience for its young performers. The competitors are provided with invaluable support via comment sheets, and are invited to participate in workshops covering the highest forms of their shared art.

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)





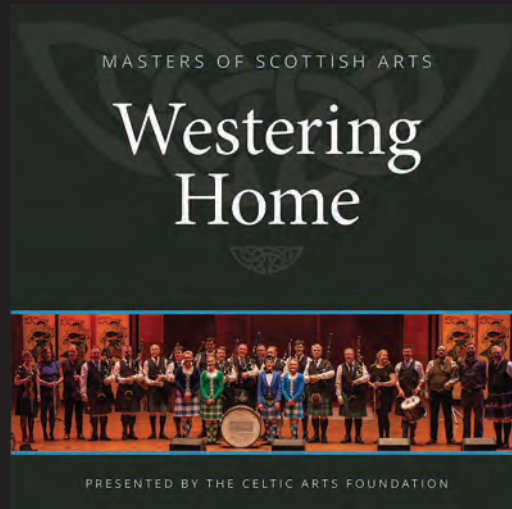
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HISTORY OF BALMORAL CLASSIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

YEAR	OVERALL -PIPING	PIOBAIREACHD	MSR – PIPER	PIPING JUDGES		
2022	Paul Mackay	Abby Long	Leland Reid	Robert Wallace	Amy Garson	Lezlie Webster
2021	Cameron Bonar	Cameron Bonar	Cameron Bonar	Murray Henderson	Brett Tidswell	Michael Rogers
2020	David Stulpner	David Stulpner	David Stulpner	Robert Wallace	Jim McGillivray	Scot Walker
2019	Kayleigh Johnstone	Kayleigh Johnstone	Kayleigh Johnstone	Ian Duncan	Bruce Gandy	Lezlie Webster
2018	Charlie Morris	Charlie Morris	Charlie Morris	Dr. Angus MacDonald	Donald F Lindsay	Matt MacIsaac
2017	Joseph Horwath	Liam Macdonald	Callum Younger	John Bottomley	Amy Garson	Dr. Jack Taylor
2016	Kolya Sier	Mark McClennan	Kolya Sier	Ian K. MacDonald	Robert Wallace	James Bell
2015	Gavin Mackay	Gavin Mackay	Gavin Mackay	Dr. Bill Wotherspoon	Bill Livingstone, Jr.	Duncan Bell
2014	Griffin Hall	Griffin Hall	Andrew Hutton	Brian Donaldson	Ed Neigh	Dr. Jack Taylor
2013	Scott McCann	Christian Haars	Scott McCann	Duncan Bell	Scot Walker	Andrew Wright
2012	Kirk Brunson	Nicholas Theriault	Jack Williamson	James Bell	Donald McBride	James MacColl
2011	Alexander Schiele	Alexander Schiele	Alexander Schiele	Brian Donaldson	Donald Lindsay	Scot Walker
2010	Joseph Stewart	Joseph Stewart	Daniel Pisowloski	Andrew Carlisle	Donald McBride	Willie McCallum
2009	Anthony Masterson	Marshall German	Anthony Masterson	Brian Donaldson	Alasdair Gillies	James MacColl
2008	Ryan Praskovich	Reid Bishop	Ryan Praskovich	Bruce Gandy	Amy Garson	Scot Walker
2007	Larson Stromdahl	Kegan Sheehan	Andrew Tice	Alasdair Gillies	James McIntosh	John Wilson

YEAR	OVERALL-DRUMMER	MSR -DRUMMER	HJ –DRUMMER	DRUMMING JUDGES		
2021	Sebastien Arguelles	Sebastien Arguelles	Sebastien Arguelles	J.Reid Maxwell	Stephen Creighton	Eric MacNeill
2020	Thomas Carruthers	Thomas Carruthers	Thomas Carruthers	Jim Kilpatrick	Steven Shedden	Gordon Bell
2019	Nicholas Moore	Nicholas Moore	Jeremiah Whitney	Gordon Bell	Jon Quigg	
2018	Shane Stapleton	Shane Stapleton	Shane Stapleton	Gordon Bell	Jon Quigg	
2017	Matthew Darmadi	Matthew Darmadi	Isabella Jackson	Gordon Bell	Jon Quigg	
2016	Blair Beaton	Blair Beaton	Blair Beaton	Gordon Bell	Jon Quigg	
2015	Mackenzie Chamberlain	Mackenzie Chamberlain	Mackenzie Chamberlain	Donald Bell	Gordon Bell	
2014	Miles Bennington	Miles Bennington	Nick Parr	Gordon Bell	Jon Quigg	
2012	Amber Stone	Amber Stone	Alastair Burgess	Alex Kuldell	Jon Quigg	
2011	Petey Lowrie	Petey Lowrie	Petey Lowrie	Gordon Bell	Andrew Hoinacki	
2010	Quinn McCormack	Quinn McCormack	Quinn McCormack	Jim Sim		
2009	Petey Lowrie	Petey Lowrie	Petey Lowrie	Gordon Bell		

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US JUNIOR SOLO CHAMPIONSHIPS
JUDGES & COMPETITORS

The Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming is proud to announce our team of world-class piping judges for the 17th Balmoral Classic's US Junior Solo Piping Championships. This year's competitions will take place in-person with an international panel of judges hailing from Canada and the USA.



CANADA – JOHN CAIRNS was the first person from outside of Scotland to win the two Highland Society of London Gold Medals for solo piping at Oban and Inverness. He has won numerous other prizes, including eight Pipers' and Pipe Band Society of Ontario Champion Supreme designations, three North American Champion titles, the Bratach Gorm, the Piobaireachd Society Canadian Gold Medal, Bar to the Gold Medal and Former Winners March, Strathspey & Reel Contest, three Livingstone Invitational Contests, and three Fergus Gold Medals for Light Music.



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. Scot 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. He is a member of the EUSPBA judges' panel, and currently serves as a member of the music board.



CANADA - GLENNA MACKAY-JOHNSTONE is of an accomplished piping family, past and present. A native of Toronto, and currently a resident of Aurora, Ontario, she grew up in a piping household as a daughter of the late, great Ontario piper, Reay Mackay. As a piper, Glenna Mackay-Johnstone played at the highest levels in both solo and band competition. She was a member of the 78th Fraser Highlanders for many years, participating in many World Championships and a host of North American Championship victories under Pipe-Major Bill Livingstone. She is entrenched in piping as a judge with the Pipers & Pipe Band Society of Ontario and was a member of the organization's Music Committee for several years. Both of her children are accomplished pipers, rising fast in both solos and bands. She recently retired from a career as a public school teacher for many years.

On Sunday morning after the competition, Balmoral is offering a free piobaireachd workshop with piping judge John Cairns. The workshop is open to any pipers who apply for 2023's competition and to all previous Balmoral Classic competitors and invited guests. The workshop will be held in the Heinz Room, DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh Green Tree hotel, on Sunday, Nov. 5, beginning at 10:00am.

2023 SOLO PIPING CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITORS

Liam Horne	Bristol, Virginia, USA
Roy Huang	Stouffville, Ontario, Canada
Alexandra Knox	Woodbine, Maryland, USA
Elizabeth Knox	Woodbine, Maryland, USA
Abby Long	Houston, Texas, USA
Thomas McCollum	Deerton, Michigan, USA
Flora Stone	Natick, Massachusetts, USA
Magnus Stone	Natick, Massachusetts, USA
Duncan Winters	Grand Junction, Colorado, USA

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School 2024 summer sessions)

March, Strathspey, & Reel Winner
E.W.Littlefield, Jr. Award and Scholarship
(Room/Board/Tuition for one week at Balmoral
School 2024 summer sessions)

Overall 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Place Winners
Medals and Balmoral Scholarship
(Tuition for one week at a 2024 Balmoral School
summer session)

**Piobaireachd and MSR 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th
Place Winners**
Medals

Overall Piping Winner receives MacRae
Bagpipes, African Blackwood, engraved
alloy ferules and imitation ivory
projection mounts, with bagpipe case
(donated by McCallum Bagpipes)

Piobaireachd Top 5 Winners each receive
two downloadable Piobaireachd lessons
(donated by Bruce Gandy Music)

MSR Top 5 Winners each receive a copy
of the Lowland & Border Pipers' Society
Session Tunes book
(donated by Balmoral School)



**The following prizes have also been
donated in support of the Championships**

Murray Blair Digital Chanter with case
(donated by The Pipers Hut)

Pipers Choice Traditional Smallpipes
in the key of A-440, with case
(donated by Scotts Highland Services)

Handcrafted Cocobolo Practice Chanter
(donated by MacLellan Bagpipes)

Targe Hardshell Pipe Case
(donated by Henderson Imports, Ltd.)

InTune Mic
(Donated by BagpipeLessons.com)

Digital Tone Protector
(Donated by BagpipeLessons.com)

Engraved Hunting Sporrán
(Donated by Patrick Regan)

Gift Certificate for 500 Pipetunes credits
(donated by McGillivray Bagpipes)

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John Cairns, with links for video and
audio files
(donated by Bagpipe Solutions by John
Cairns)

One year subscription to The
Piobaireachd Society
(donated by The Piobaireachd Society)

Music Manuscript Paper book, pen and
pencil, pin, luggage tag, and lanyard
(donated by Brighton Music Center)

Pen case with pen, and "Live. Breathe.
Bagpipes." decal
(donated by Henderson Imports, Ltd)

Choice of CD from Balmoral Archives
(donated by Temple Records)

Balmoral Classic commemorative water
bottle and magnet
(donated by Balmoral School)

CONCERT

OCTOBER 13 AT 8:00PM

GREATER PITTSBURGH MASONIC CENTER

THE TANNAHILL WEAVERS

“The music may be pure old time Celtic, but the drive and enthusiasm are akin to straight ahead rock and roll” - Winnipeg Free Press

Born of a session in Paisley, Scotland, and named for the town’s historic weaving industry and local poet laureate Robert Tannahill, the Tannahill Weavers have made an international name for their special brand of Celtic music, blending the beauty of traditional melodies with the power of modern rhythms. As one of the world’s premier traditional Celtic bands, their diverse repertoire spans the centuries with fire-driven instrumentals, topical songs, original ballads and lullabies, and humorous tales of life in Scotland.

“An especially eloquent mixture of the old and the new.” - New York Times.

In 2021 they were joined by exciting piper and fiddle player Iain MacGillivray, who is also Scotland’s youngest Clan leader. Iain, a fluent Gaelic speaker, has worked on such exciting productions as *Outlander* and *Men in Kilts*, and has performed for a huge list of stars and dignitaries in recent years. As the band celebrate the nomination of their 18th recording, *Òrach* (“Golden” in Gaelic)

as album of the year, and themselves as band of the year, they are firmly established as one of the premier groups on the concert stage. From reflective ballads to footstomping reels and jigs, the variety and range of the material they perform is matched only by their enthusiasm and lively Celtic spirits.

“Formed from a Paisley pub session in 1968, seminal trailblazers the Tannahill Weavers now also rank as national treasures.” - Glasgow Celtic Connections 2018



Roy Gullane : guitar, lead vocals

Roy started his career in music working with Matt McGinn, where he learned much of his stagecraft. At the time he was mainly playing banjo, but as time went on with the Tannahill Weavers he drifted mostly to playing guitar with the band. As a lead singer Roy has always also been a writer of songs, one of his first being *Bilbo*, composed many years before the *Lord of the Rings* films were conceived of. The Tannahills have recorded many of his songs, and he is still writing them - but also has just written a book! His autobiography is available now. You’ll find more information on Roy’s projects via the band website.

Roy has also recorded two non-Tannahill albums, a solo project called *Not Only But Also* and one as part of the duo *Gullane & De Jong* called *Jink and Diddle*.

Phil Smillie : flute, whistles, bodhrán, harmony vocals

Phil’s musical influence comes from the West Coast of Scotland and the Hebrides, in particular. His mother, born on Scalpay in Harris, always had Gaelic songs and ceilidh music on in the house as he grew up. Phil, along

with Roy, Hudson Swan and Dougie MacLean turned The Tannahill Weavers into a full-time professional band in the early 70’s, recording their first album *Are Ye Sleeping Maggie* in 1976. Phil’s tenor harmonies are part of what gives the band its distinctive vocal sound.

There are not too many instruments that Phil has not had a go at, though his main instruments are flute and whistle. He was also one of the first to play the Eb wooden flute along with the Highland Bagpipes. This marriage of instruments has remained

part of the Tannahill sound throughout all of the band’s eighteen recordings. An excellent example of Phil’s flute and whistle playing can be heard on his highly acclaimed solo album *Sound of Taransay*.

Iain MacGillivray : highland bagpipes, fiddle, whistles

Iain is a bagpiper, fiddle and whistle player from Calrossie Farm near Tain in Easter Ross. He comes from a strong family line of piping; both his grandfather, Donald, and father Duncan are former world champions. His father Duncan, ex-Battlefield Band member and part of The Ghillies, was one of the first bagpipers in Scottish folk music.

Iain, who is also Clan leader of Clan MacGillivray, has been piping for many years entertaining audiences and ceilidh halls throughout Scotland and abroad. He appeared in hit series Outlander and Men in Kilts, has played in The Uist Pipe Band and Royal Burgh of Tain Pipe Band, and is Musician in Residence at Glenmorangie Distillery.

Iain is also founder and producer of Celtic EDM group IDMacG, creating a new genre of dance-pop sounds with Scottish music. He has received various accolades around the globe, including awards and nominations for Best Music Video.

Malcolm Bushby : *fiddle, bouzouki, harmony vocals*

Malcolm is a fiddle, bouzouki player and singer based in Glasgow. Originally from Tasmania, he comes from a very musical family with his father an instrument maker and both of his parents having run major festivals in Australia. However his family roots lie in Scotland, and Malcolm was always destined to be a Scottish musician. He studied with Chris Duncan and Anna-Wendy Stevenson, and is now a highly respected teacher himself. Malcolm has performed and collaborated with an extensive list of instrumentalists and singers from around the world, including Tom McConville, Aidan O'Rourke, Tony McManus and Catriona MacDonald to name a few. He has recorded a highly acclaimed solo album, Islands, and is currently involved with recording a new Tannahill Weavers album. You can find out more about Malcolm and book lessons with him at malcolmbushby.com

TANNAHILL WEAVERS RECORDINGS

Òrach (2018)
Live & In Session (2007)
Arnish Light (2003)
Alchemy (2000)
Epona (1998)
Choice Cuts 1987-1996 (1997)
Leaving St Kilda (1996)
Capernaum (1994)
The Mermaid's Song (1992)
Cullen Bay (1990)
Best of the Tannahill Weavers 1979-1989 (1989)
Dancing Feet (1987)
Land of Light (1985)
Passage (1983/84)
Tannahill Weavers IV (1981)
The Tannahill Weavers (1979)
The Old Woman's Dance (1978)
Are Ye Sleeping Maggie (1976)

www.tannahillweavers.com

Patrick Regan

Master of Ceremonies

Balmoral Concert and Championships

For over fifty years, Patrick Regan the Bagpiper has performed, competed and instructed in the ways of the Great Highland Bagpipe. He first set foot on the stage at age three, but it took another eight years to convince the bagpipe to join him. He won his first professional competition at the age of 15 and has continued to entertain audiences and annoy judges to the present day. A native Texan, Patrick is the first graduate of the Bagpipe degree program at Carnegie Mellon University, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Performance (Bagpipe), subsequent to which he went on to earn a Master of Arts in Adult Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a Ph.D. in Music from Durham University in England. When he grows up, he wants to be a bagpiper.

Sean Patrick Regan

Opening Performer for the Concert

Sean Patrick Regan began piping at the age of 8, and started teaching when he was 12. He holds a Master of Music Performance (Bagpipe) from Carnegie Mellon University, a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education (bagpipe) from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, a Graduate Certificate from the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association, and terminal certificates in Bagpipe Theory, Performance, Piobaireachd, and Teaching, from the Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board of the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Sean serves as Interim Artistic Director for the Balmoral School, and band instructor and Pipe Major of the Balmoral Pipes & Drums. In addition to performing as a soloist, Sean performs as a member of "America's Celtic Band," The Rogues.

THE TANNAHILL WEAVERS JOIN AN IMPRESSIVE LIST OF CONCERT HEADLINERS FOR THE BALMORAL CLASSIC WHICH BEGAN IN 2007. THIS IS OUR 17TH YEAR OF CELEBRATION.

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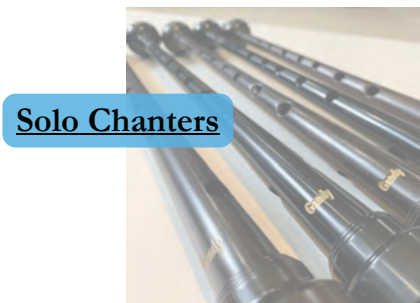
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IN MEMORIAM

SANDY JONES 1938-2023

Sandy Jones, one of the greatest figures in American piping and the only American-born piper so far to receive the Balvenie Medal for Services to Piping, died on March 5, 2023, in his eighty-fifth year.

Born in Idaho in 1938 to parents with Scottish heritage, Jones started piping in 1946 with George Mars of Victoria, British Columbia, and would join the United States Air Force, becoming pipe-major of the USAF Pipe Band for eight years. The band became one of the first excellent American pipe bands and gained international fame; Jones led the group at the cortege for the funeral of President John. F. Kennedy in November 1963.



Photo by Derek Maxwell

The USAF Pipe Band under Jones would boast many American piping and drumming luminaries, including Donald Lindsay, Gerry Quigg, John Bosworth, Jim Neary, and Ernie Rookard. While with the USAF he studied piping with Jack Chisolm of Inverness, Scotland, and, latterly, with the great John MacFadyen of Glasgow, who helped shape his piobaireachd knowledge.

Jones and MacFadyen would start the North American Academy of Piping in Valle Crucis, North Carolina, where, for five weeks every summer beginning in the 1970s and continuing today, thousands of pupils have collectively received instruction in piping and drumming over the years.

After retiring from the United States Air Force, Sandy Jones became piping director at The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, and from 1978 to 2003, he taught hundreds of cadet soldiers, many of whom went on to achieve excellent success in solo competition and competitive piping bands. He also was pipe-major of the Washington, DC-based Grade 2 Denny & Dunipace, a band that for many years was the best in the United States, featuring the likes of Charlie and Paula Glendinning and Jon Quigg in its ranks.

A sought-after teacher and long-time judge and leader with the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association, Sandy Jones was a beloved figure in North American and, indeed, world piping. Our sympathies go to Sandy Jones's family and friends at this sad time.

Excerpted from Pipes|Drums, with photo of Sandy Jones with his Balvenie Medal at the 2017 Glenfiddich Solo Piping Championships



MEET OUR CO-SPONSORS - PITT SCOTTISH NATIONALITY ROOM

Dedicated on January 29, 1938, the Scottish Nationality Room was one of the first four to be dedicated in the Nationality Rooms program. According to a University of Pittsburgh Press publication on the Scottish Classroom in 1940, the original Scottish Room committee comprised representatives from both the Royal Order of Scottish Clans and the Daughters of Scotia. Each lodge in the vicinity of Pittsburgh had a representative on the Scottish Room committee, including Clan MacDonald, Clan McKenzie and Clan Douglas as well as Lady Andrew Lodge, Thistle Lodge and Argyle Lodge. Over the years, the committee has engaged in numerous celebrations of Scottish heritage, sponsored talks on Scottish history and supported Scottish musical performances in the region. Most recently, the committee was instrumental in promoting the twinning of Glasgow and Pittsburgh as Sister Cities. Over the coming years, the cities will collaborate across a number of themes, such as workforce development, the environment and health and well-being. The committee looks forward to celebrating and promoting this new partnership.

For more information on the history of the room and committee, please visit Pitt Nationality Rooms (<https://documenting.pitt.edu/collection/pitt-nationality-rooms>) and search Scottish Room Committee.

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH - established in 1990 to preserve and promote Scottish heritage and traditions in the Greater Pittsburgh Area through educational, philanthropic, and social endeavors. Each year, SAS Pittsburgh bestows numerous scholarships upon individuals of all ages to support their pursuit and promotion of Scottish arts.

Upcoming events: December 2, 2023 Annual Dinner; January 27, 2024 Burns Supper
<https://www.standrewspittsburgh.org/>

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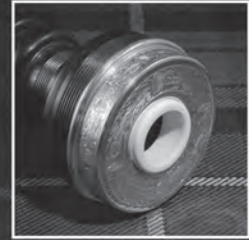
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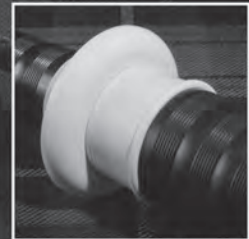
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