



BALMORAL CLASSIC 2024 PRESENTS

SCOTTISH, IRISH AND CAPE BRETON MUSIC

Beòlach



EVENT PROGRAM BOOK



America's 18th annual bagpipe celebration

BALMORAL CLASSIC 2024

Schedule of events

FRIDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 1

7:30pm Opening Reception co-hosted with the Pittsburgh Piping Society with performances by pipers and 2024 Classic judges Dr. Angus MacDonald and Matt MacIsaac.
(Donations Welcome) Courtyard Pittsburgh Univ. Center (CPUC) 100 Lytton Ave, Pittsburgh

SATURDAY MORNING & AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 2

United States Junior Solo Piping & Snare Drumming Championships (times are approximate)
The Understory, Cathedral of Learning, (UC4C) 4200 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh (Oakland), PA 15213

8:30am Piping - Piobaireachd
1:30pm Snare drum - March, Strathspey & Reel, and Hornpipe & Jig
2:30pm Piping - March, Strathspey & Reel
5:30pm Awards Ceremony for the Championships
Scottish Nationality Room, Cathedral of Learning



SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 2

8:00pm Concert: Beòlach see pages 14-15
Carnegie Lecture Hall, (CLLH) 4400 Forbes Ave (Schenley Drive, behind Carnegie Library), Pittsburgh
Tickets: \$30 general admission, \$35 priority seating, \$20 seniors 65+, \$15 students

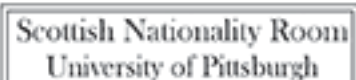
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

10:00am Piobaireachd workshop with Dr. Angus MacDonald
Snare Drum workshop with Jon Quigg & Derek Cooper
For information on how to participate in the workshop inquire at info@bagpiping.org



BALMORAL
SCHOOL OF PIPING
& DRUMMING

OUR SPONSORS



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.



The Classic is sponsored by:
Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming
1414 Pennsylvania Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15233
412.323.2707 | info@bagpiping.org
www.bagpiping.org



Welcome!

Welcome to the Eighteenth 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 and Snare Drumming Championships, the only US National competition for pipers and snare drummers 21 years of age and younger. This year's free event takes place on Saturday, November 2, in Pittsburgh, at The Understory, Cathedral of Learning. There are fifteen piping contestants and four drumming contestants representing California, Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Texas, 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. The champion piper will receive a set of MacRae bagpipes donated by McCallum Bagpipes.

On Friday evening, November 1, Balmoral and the Pittsburgh Piping Society host a reception at the Courtyard Pittsburgh University Center (Courtyard PUC) to meet our judges and competitors, and enjoy local piping performances, plus a mini recital by the judges.

The Saturday bagpiping contests on November 2 begin in The Understory, in the Cathedral of Learning, at 8:30am with the Piobaireachd (classic bagpipe music) event. After lunch and the drumming events, piping resumes at approximately 2:30pm with the March, Strathspey, and Reel (MSR) medley contest, which is projected to conclude in the vicinity of 5pm.

The Saturday Snare Drumming events take place in the same venue, beginning at 1:30 with the MSR contest followed immediately by the Hornpipe & Jig (H&J) event.

Patrick Regan will be our emcee for the Saturday competitions, awards ceremony, and evening concert.

The winners of the US Junior Championship competitions will be announced at the awards ceremony at 5:30pm in the Scottish Nationality Room, Cathedral of Learning. Awards and prizes are listed elsewhere in this Program Guide with thanks to our sponsors.

The Saturday evening concert at the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall features **BEÒLACH**, for Scottish, Irish, & Cape Breton Music and step dancing. Tickets through ShowClix or at the door. More details are in this program.

On Sunday, November 3, from 10:00am-noon, Dr. Angus MacDonald of Genuig, Scotland, will conduct a Piobaireachd workshop, and Jon Quigg and Derek Cooper will conduct a workshop for the snare drummers in the Oakland Rooms at the Courtyard PUC.

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!)

George Balderose, Executive Director
Leslie Clark, Associate Director
Sean Patrick Regan, Interim Artistic Director





The Saint Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh

An organization founded and dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Scottish heritage and traditions through educational, philanthropic and social endeavors, primarily in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

We are proud to be co-sponsoring the gala activities of this weekend. We feel certain all of you are, and will be, greatly enjoying this memorable event. The Pittsburgh area Scottish community, as always, may take great pride in its heritage.



gum bi spòres agaibh

MAY YOU HAVE FUN



**For information concerning the
St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh**

John Hoffman, President
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Why we teach music

- I. Music is a Science
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- V. Music is Physical Education
- VI. Music Develops Insight & Demands Research
- VII. Music is All of these Things, but most of all, Music is Art.

That is why we teach music:
Not because we expect you to major in music
Not because we expect you to sing or play all your life...

So you will be human
So you will recognize beauty
So you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world

So you will have something to cling to
So you will have more love, compassion, more gentleness, more good – in short, more Life

Excerpt borrowed from Pennsylvania Music Educators Association



The St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh

The place to find all things Scottish in Greater Pittsburgh

ceud mìle fàilte - A hundred thousand welcomes



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: November 23, 2024 Annual Dinner;
January 25, 2025 Burns Night; April 4, 2025 Pittsburgh Tartan Day**

<https://www.standrewspittsburgh.org/>



BALMORAL SCHOOL OF PIPING & DRUMMING 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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OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Kati Csoman, Walter Michael, and the Pitt Scottish Nationality Room, for navigating our way to bring the championships to the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning (read about this co-sponsor on page 19)

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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

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Music to support the Classic



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 includes 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 the continued relevance of heritage, and fully supports family values.

SUMMER SESSIONS

Balmoral 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 Bagpipe Performance program in the College of Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University, the World’s first degree in bagpiping. 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 of Houston, Texas to five Juvenile- Grade World Pipe Band 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 from across North America each year, and are held on college and academy campuses.

2025 Sessions will be held at Kutztown University, July 6-11, and PennWest-Edinboro, July 13-18.



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. Veteran judges from around the world are brought to the Classic to provide the most scrutinizing and knowledgeable audience for its young performers. The competitors receive invaluable support via comment sheets, provided following their performances, and are invited to participate in workshops covering the highest forms of their shared art.

BRINGING TRADITION TO WIDER AUDIENCES

The Balmoral Pipe Band is a project of the Balmoral School. 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. The band celebrated its 100th performance in early 2022. Its members are pipers and drummers of all ages and ability levels. 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.

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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The National Piping Centre Incorporating the College of Piping

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Cary & Ken Bohl and David & Marthe Murray: In Memory of Ralph and Patricia Murray
Barbara Drodz: In Memory of Jim Drodz
Barbara Kochick: In Celebration of the Life of Dr. Owen

Joseph Kilbane

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Raymond Popchak: In Memory of Sharon Popchak

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Many thanks to additional sponsors and donors giving after our press deadline.

As a nonprofit organization, the Balmoral School depends on the generosity of donors and volunteers.

You can make a difference. To find out how, visit bagpiping.org or call 412-323-2707



CCAC is proud to support the Balmoral Classic 2024.

CCAC offers more than 130 in-demand degree, certificate, diploma and transfer programs, in addition to Dual Enrollment classes that allow high school students to earn college credits. The college offers some of the lowest tuition rates in the region, enabling nearly 80% of CCAC students to graduate completely debt-free.

412.237.CCAC | information@ccac.edu | ccac.link/contact

THE GATHERING - RECEPTION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 - 7:30 TO 10:30 PM

THE COVE, COURTYARD PITTSBURGH UNIVERSITY CENTER,
100 LYTTON AVE, PITTSBURGH, PA

**Join us for a thoroughly Celtic evening reception and judges recital
co-sponsored by the Pittsburgh Piping Society**

The Balmoral Classic weekend kicks off with a night of piping and an opportunity to greet Balmoral Classic competitors, judges, Balmoral School board, staff, volunteers, and local pipers and piping enthusiasts and members of the Pittsburgh Piping Society. Judges Dr. Angus MacDonald and Matt MacIsaac are the featured guests at end of the evening.

This is an informal social event, kilts are welcome, but not required.

Meet at The Cove in the Courtyard Pittsburgh University Center for camaraderie, cash bar, light hors d'ouvres, and music.

Donations to support the Balmoral Classic encouraged.



About Pittsburgh Piping Society

According to the late historian Rowland Berthoff, the Pittsburgh Bagpipe Society was formed in 1898. The Pittsburgh Piping Society reignites the long-snuffed torch of the original society. Though the 19th century iteration was noted for its teaching of Scottish immigrant children, the modern day manifestation of the society aims to be more social than pedagogic.

In short, it's modeled after the Eagle Pipers Society, hoping to unite a long talented but somewhat fractured local piping community. Much like other similar societies, regular meetings with an informal atmosphere give pipers another stage outside of the competition platform whereupon they may simply turn up and have a tune. A Piobaireachd will be featured each meeting, giving the non-pipers and enthusiasts in attendance an opportunity to encounter our "Big Music."

A typical PPS evening consists of pipers of all abilities who play for a supportive audience – each performing for around five minutes. To close the night, we feature a piper who plays a longer selection for the assembled group, including a piobaireachd. Monthly events vary.

The PPS is a non-profit organization and is served by a board of directors:

Amy Howard - President, Treasurer
Andrew Carlisle - Vice-President
Christine Nolin - Operations Director
Sean McCarthy - Secretary
Casey Buchanan-Smith - Director
Maria Hofbauer - Director
Palmer Shonk - Director
Robert Felsburg - Director



To find out more: <https://pittsburghpingsociety.org/>

HISTORY OF BALMORAL CLASSIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

| YEAR | OVERALL -PIPING | PIOBAIREACHD | MSR – PIPER | PIPING JUDGES | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2023 | Liam Horne | Liam Horne | Duncan Winters | John Cairns | Scot Walker | Glenna Mackay-Johnstone |
| 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 | | |

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE BALMORAL SCHOOL OF PIPING & DRUMMING PITTSBURGH AREA SESSION

JOHN F. MARTHENS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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BY THE PITTSBURGH FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL PIPE BAND

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BY THE BALMORAL SCHOOL

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT GEORGE BALDEROSE

BALMORAL SCHOOL, PH. (412) 323-2707 OR GEORGE@BAGPIPING.ORG

US JUNIOR SOLO CHAMPIONSHIPS JUDGES & COMPETITORS

The Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming is proud to introduce our team of world-class piping and snare drumming judges for the 18th Balmoral Classic's US Junior Solo Piping and Snare Drumming Championships. This year's competitions will take place in person with an international panel of judges hailing from Scotland, Canada and the United States of America.



SCOTLAND – DR. ANGUS MACDONALD is one of three piping brothers from Glenuig on the west coast of Scotland. Angus has won most of the major piobaireachd competitions, including the Gold Medals at Oban, Inverness and in Canada, the Inverness clasp and Senior Piobaireachd at Oban; and the Silver Chanter. In light music he has, among other prizes, won the March, Strathspey and Reel events at Oban and Inverness. He is a Trustee and Piping advisor for the Clan Donald Lands Trust, Isle of Skye. His music can be heard on 2 CDs 'A Sireadh Spors' (Temple records) and 'Maidean Dubh an Donais' (Macmeanmna Records).



USA - PAULA GLENDINNING has served as a judge of the Eastern US Pipe Band Association for solo piping and pipe band events since 2003. She has an Education degree from the University of Maryland and earned a Teacher's Certificate and Senior Certificate from the Institute of Piping in Scotland; she has taught bagpipers for over 50 years. A lifelong learner with a special interest in Piobaireachd, she has studied with Donald Lindsay, Bob Brown, Bob Nicol, Jack Taylor, Pipe Major Angus MacDonald, and Angus J. MacLellan. Paula was a member of the City of Washington Pipe Band from 1970 to 2009, beginning with the band when it was called Denny & Dunipace, under the leadership of P/M Sandy Jones. She competed with the band in Grade 2 and Grade 1 in the US, Canada, and Scotland. Paula has been a member of the organizing committee for the Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Competition since 1997, and volunteers there to encourage amateur pipers.



CANADA - MATT MACISAAC, from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, is an active solo competitor as well as a piping judge. At age 18, he won the Argyllshire Gathering Silver Medal for piobaireachd. He released his own recording in 2005 simply titled *The Piping Album*, to critical acclaim. He won the P/M Alasdair Gillies Memorial Recital Challenge in 2022, the Gold Medal Ceol Beag at the 2023 MHAFF Winter Storm, and the Gordon Duncan Memorial Challenge in 2024. In addition to being a member of the Spirit of Scotland Pipe Band under P/M Roddy MacLeod MBE, he is the Pipe Major of the 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron Pipe Band, a successful Grade 2 pipe band in Ontario where he serves as a Sergeant with the Royal Canadian Air Force.



USA - JON QUIGG began his drumming career at the age of 13 and became a professional solo competitor in 1976. In 1989 he assumed the Drum Sergeant position of the City of Washington Pipe Band, helping them garner numerous Grade 1 contest wins including the 1999 World Pipe Band Championships. He has taken part in recording projects and drumming clinics around the globe. One of the most prolific drumming instructors in North America, his accolades also include the CoW corps' successive wins in the drum salute contest at Winter Storm in Kansas City and an appearance at the White House.



USA – DEREK COOPER is the drumming instructor and lead drummer of the Grade 2 Ulster Scottish Pipe Band. He is also a member of the Grade 1 Inveraray & District Pipe Band from Scotland. Previously, as a member of the Grade 1 Simon Fraser University Pipe Band, Derek won the Grade 1 World Pipe Band Championships as well as the best drum corps prize, twice. Derek's solo drumming accomplishments include winning the North American Gold Medal Snare Drumming Championship at Winter Storm in Kansas City 4 times and being the only American ever to make it to the finals at the World Solo Drumming Championships. Inveraray & District was crowned World Champions in 2017, 2019, and 2024; in 2024 they were also RSPBA Grade 1 Champion of Champions for overall band and drumming.

On Sunday morning after the competition, Balmoral is offering a free piobaireachd workshop with piping judge Dr. Angus MacDonald, and a free snare drumming workshop with Jon Quigg and Derek Cooper. The workshop is open to the pipers and drummers of the 2024 competition, to all previous Balmoral Classic competitors, and to invited guests. To express interest in attending the workshops, please email leslie@bagpiping.org.

2024 COMPETITION

SOLO BAGPIPING CHAMPIONSHIP

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sebastian Benedetto | Cape Neddick, Maine, USA |
| Reece Calovini | Parma, Ohio, USA |
| Connor Eckert | Claremont, California, USA |
| Ray Flanagan | Grand Rapids, Michigan, 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 |
| Alex Pavlovic | Bellaire, Texas, USA |
| Flora Stone | Natick, Massachusetts, USA |
| Magnus Stone | Natick, Massachusetts, USA |
| Duncan Winters | Grand Junction, Colorado, USA |
| Andrew Zhao | Sugarland, Texas, USA |
| Mihir Zambre | Pearland, Texas, USA |

SOLO SNARE DRUMMING CHAMPIONSHIP

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Devin Brode | Columbiana, Ohio, USA |
| Nicholas Bowden | Houston, Texas, USA |
| Quinn Faith | Willoughby Hills, Ohio, USA |
| Elisha Jimenez | New York, New York, USA |

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AWARDS AND PRIZES

Piping

Overall Piping Winner

Ralph & Patricia Murray Memorial Award
and Scholarship
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Balmoral School 2025 summer sessions)

Piobaireachd Winner

Balmoral Award and Scholarship
(Room/Board/Tuition for one week at a
2025 Balmoral School summer session)

March, Strathspey, & Reel Winner

E.W. Littlefield, Jr. Award and Scholarship
(Room/Board/Tuition for one week at a
2025 Balmoral School summer session)

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

Overall 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Place Winners

Medals and Balmoral Scholarship
(Tuition for one week at a
2025 Balmoral School summer session)

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

Medals

Piobaireachd Top 5 Winners each receive

two downloadable Piobaireachd lessons
(donated by Bruce Gandy Music)

MSR Top 5 Winners each receive a copy
of *Playing Bagpipes for Community Dances*
(donated by Balmoral School)

Pipers each receive a copy of

The Glendinning Collection
(donated by Charlie & Paula Glendinning/
Moonstar Music)

Each competitor will receive:

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

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

Balmoral Classic commemorative
magnet, Balmoral School stylus pen
(donated by Balmoral School)

Drumming

Overall Drumming Winner

David Peet Memorial Award
Henry Matthews Memorial Scholarship
(Room/Board/Tuition for two weeks at
Balmoral School 2025 summer sessions)

March, Strathspey, & Reel Winner

St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh Award
(Room/Board/Tuition for one week at a
2025 Balmoral School summer session)

Hornpipe/Jig Winner

Pittsburgh Firefighters Memorial Award
(Room/Board/Tuition for one week at a
2025 Balmoral School summer session)

Overall Drumming Winner receives

Antique Dress Sporrán and Engraved
Sgian Dubh
(donated by the Family of Larry Irwin)

Overall 2nd, 3rd, 4th Place Winners

Medals and Balmoral Scholarship
(Tuition for one week at a
2025 Balmoral School summer session)

**MSR and H/J 2nd, 3rd, 4th Place
Drumming Winners**

Medals



2024 Award Medal

**The following prizes have also been
donated in support of the
Piping 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 Blackwood Practice Chanter
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Gift Certificate for 500 Pipetunes credits
(donated by McGillivray Bagpipes)

Gift Certificate for Dojo University
Premium Piping Membership (3 months)
(donated by Dojo University)

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

Zoom lesson with Blair Brown

Virtual lesson with Derek Cooper

Taking No Shortcuts by J. Reid Maxwell

Premier 12" Round Practice Pad,
Accessory Stand, & Premier Snare Sticks
(donated by Henderson Imports, Ltd.)

Gift Certificate for Dojo University
Drumming Membership (3 months)
(donated by Dojo University)

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CONCERT

NOVEMBER 2 AT 8:00PM

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BEÒLACH

“There are trad-style tunes, beautiful mood pieces, ceilidh-ready dance pieces, all performed with superior assurance, tight band playing and loads of positive vibes.” —Celt Brit Folk Music

More than 20 years ago six dynamic solo performers came together to jam at a late-night session during the Celtic Colours International Music Festival... this session was the spark that lit Beòlach (a Gaelic word meaning lively youth).

During the next decade, Beòlach continued to grow artistically through their innovative and exciting arrangements of traditional Cape Breton, Scottish and Irish tunes for fiddle, bagpipes, piano and guitar. The energy they present on stage demonstrates their knowledge of and passion for the traditional music of Ireland, Scotland and Cape Breton. The natural, easy wit and banter they exchange on stage reflects lifelong friendships, a shared sense of fun and years of experience as professional musicians. The band has delighted audiences throughout the world with their original compositions and unique arrangements of traditional tunes and their ability to light the stage on fire with their energy and witty stories. Their versatility as instructors has provided an opportunity for learners to gain knowledge of traditional music and dance as well as insight into the relationship between these traditions that makes this style of music unique.

Beòlach has recorded three albums: The first two, **Beòlach** (2001) and **Variations** (2004), each gained critical acclaim and earned nominations for East Coast Music Awards. In 2005 the group was nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award as Best Instrumental Artist. Upon reforming after a hiatus, during which members pursued their solo careers, Beòlach's latest release, **All Hands** (2020), won two 2021 Canadian Folk Music Awards: Instrumental Group of the Year and Traditional Album of the Year, and received nominations for four East Coast Music Awards and a Juno Award. It has also appeared on Alex Monaghan's Top 10 Albums (Folkworld) for 2020.

Throughout their history as Beòlach, the original members which include **Wendy MacIsaac** (fiddle, piano, stepdance), **Mac Morin** (piano, stepdance, accordion) and **Màiri Rankin** (fiddle, stepdance) have maintained solo careers as musicians and collaborated with some of the most renowned artists on the traditional music scene. In their solo careers, they have been nominated for various East Coast Music Awards, Nova Scotia Music Awards, and several Canadian Folk Music Awards. They have appeared on Grammy and Juno winning albums and worked with artists of all genres. The demands of their successful solo careers as well as the realities of life and family put Beòlach on temporary hiatus. However, after this brief pause, Beòlach has again sparked up from hot embers with their latest recording, **All Hands**. The core members Wendy, Mac and Màiri have welcomed **Matt MacIsaac**



(bagpipes, whistles, guitar), re-forming the group as a quartet. Matt brings an extensive repertoire of bagpipe music, experience as a professional touring musician. He has won top honours at world piping competitions and cites influences such as his three uncles and the MacDonald brothers of Glenuig, Scotland.

With new material already in the works for future projects, expect to see more from this creative force from Canada's musical East Coast.



WENDY MACISAAC is a renowned fiddle player and culture bearer from Creignish, Cape Breton who has been playing music for close to 40 years. She is recognized as one of the old-school style of players who has kept the traditional sound going, and has a deep respect for it. Wendy is also a sought-after piano accompanist and step dancer. In addition to performing as a solo artist, she has toured extensively with Mary Jane Lamond and in her band Beòlach, who

had an incredible year in 2021 earning several awards and nominations including a nomination for a Juno award. Wendy has recorded on over a dozen albums including four of her own, three with Beòlach, and one with Mary Jane, and has also produced two albums.

MAC MORIN is a dancer and piano player from Troy, Cape Breton. Starting out as a talented dancer, Mac became interested in piano as a teenager. He has gone on to tour around the world with Natalie MacMaster and Beòlach while continuing to travel widely to teach Cape Breton step dancing, showcasing those talents as Artist in Residence at the Festival in 2014. Mac has appeared on numerous artists' recordings including Beòlach, Natalie MacMaster, Yo Yo Ma, The Rankins, and Buddy MacMaster. He has a solo album and Beòlach's third recording was released while they were Artists in Residence (2019). Mac has hardly missed a year of Celtic Colours and he always has plenty to do to keep him busy during the Festival. This year the versatile musician performed with Kimberley Fraser and Aaron Lewis; Ian MacDougall; Matt MacIsaac; and Kenneth MacKenzie, Patrick Gillis, and Jenny MacKenzie as well as with Beòlach.

MAIRI RANKIN Born in Mabou, Mairi Rankin is a fiddler and step dancer who has been influenced by some of the best Cape Breton traditional musicians and instructors on the island. She has developed her own unique style by being immersed in this rich musical culture, pulling from her native Cape Breton and her strong Scottish roots from North Uist. Mairi has toured nationally and internationally as a performer and educator in both fiddle and step dance. She has performed as a solo artist, a side musician, in small combos and as a member of both the Cape Breton super group Beòlach and the highly acclaimed Scottish / Irish / Canadian band The Outside Track. Mairi has recorded one solo album, three with Beòlach, seven with The Outside Track, and one as a duo with cellist Eric Wright. Mairi teamed up with Amelia and Dirk Powell for the Perfect Pairings concert at Celtic Colours this year.

MATT MACISAAC - Born into a piping family in St. Peters, Cape Breton, Matt started playing whistle and pipes when he was 10 years old. He won the Argyllshire Gathering Silver Medal in Oban, Scotland eight years later and at 19 started recording, playing and touring the U.S. with Celtic-rock/fusion group Cuillin. He joined

Natalie MacMaster's band in 2001, and over the course of 15 years played pipes, whistles, banjo, percussion and guitar on tour and appeared on several of her albums. His own album, a stripped-bare solo recording of the pipes, was released in 2005. Matt then joined the Canadian Forces as a musician, traveling extensively to the U.S., Europe, and Asia with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He is currently the Pipe Major of the 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron Pipe Band, a grade 2 competitive band out of Borden, Ontario.

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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.

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IN MEMORIAM

KEN ELLER “THE CAPTAIN” 1947-2024

Born in St. Catharines and raised in Power Glen, Ken attended Queen’s University and then received his Master’s Degree at the University of Guelph. He worked as a professor of mathematics at Niagara College for over 30 years until his retirement at age 55. Ken’s second career blossomed after his retirement as he pursued his passion for the bagpipes. Ken learned to play the bagpipes when he was only 8 and eventually became a legend in the world of piping and pipe bands. Over the years, he taught thousands of students, young and old, locally and as far away as South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, and Uruguay. He joined the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association’s judges panel and for two decades, was a regular adjudicator at Highland Games worldwide, including the prestigious World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. Ken played for several years in two world-class pipe bands: The Clan MacFarlane, which flourished under his direction as Pipe Major, and the 78th Frasers. Between the two bands, he won 15 North American championships. Needless to say he was highly respected and had many, many friends in all corners of the world.



In addition to his piping career, Ken worked with Jack Dunbar manufacturing bagpipes, was a member of the Masonic Lodge, and collaborated with Murray Blair on the Blair chanter. He also competed in triathlons, including two Ironman races, and enjoyed fly fishing. Ken and Diane could often be found cutting and splitting firewood to heat their home. Quite a full life!

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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 newpartnership.

Upcoming events:

November 17, 2024, 12-4pm - 33rd Nationality and Intercultural Exchange Programs Holiday Open House

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.

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A year in review



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Save the Dates: Balmoral School 2025 Summer Piping & Drumming
Kutztown, PA July 6-11 ~ Edinboro, PA July 13-18



Pocono Workshop November 22-24, 2024 at Sheraton Valley Forge Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. Piping and drumming weekend filled with fun and world class instruction. Registrations accepted all the way up to the weekend of the workshop. Instructors: Glenn Brown, Andrew Douglas, Alistair Henderson, Stuart Liddell, Derek Midgley, Derek Cooper, Stephen Creighton, Reid Maxwell, Stephen McWhirter, Danielle Cooper, Andrew Elliott, Fergus Bryce <https://poconoworkshop.com/>



Winter Storm – Kansas City, January 16-19, 2025
Pipes and Drums event presented by MHAF. Every January since 2002, Winter Storm has been “...the centre of the piping and drumming world for 72 hours” – Pipes Drums magazine, 2014

Schedule: Amateur Contests on January 16, Professional Contests on January 17, Workshops on January 18 and 19, and the Evening Concert and Winter Steam on January 18. <https://mhaf.org/>

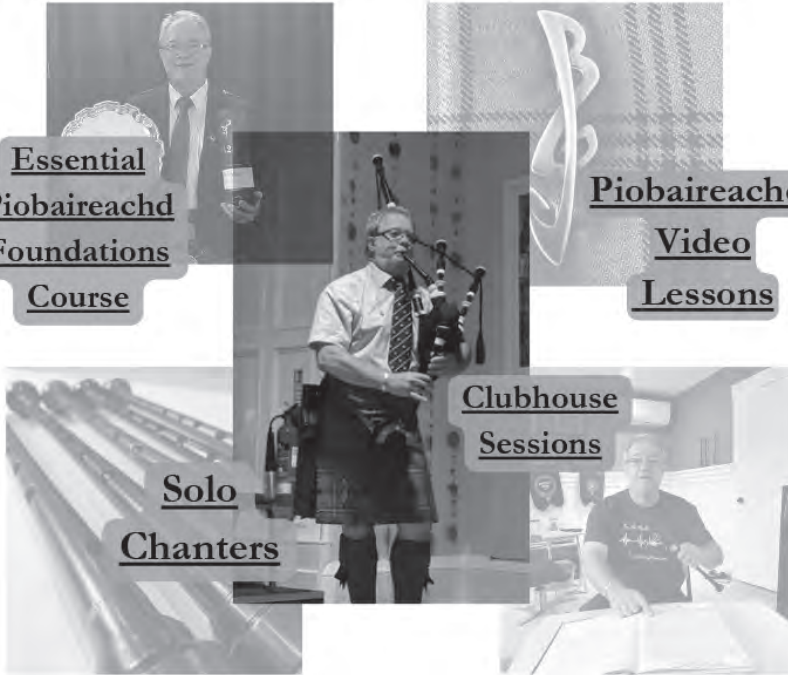
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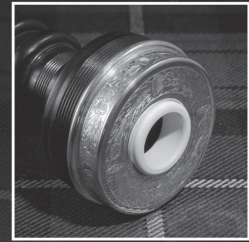
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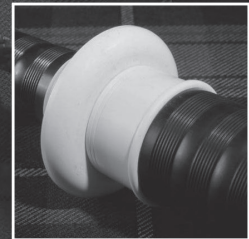
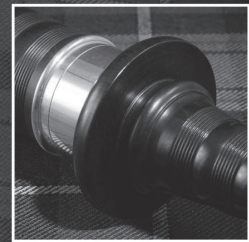
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