

Piob Rocks!

LEARNING, LISTENING, PLAYING

Learning. Listening. Playing. That's what the Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania is all about when it comes to Piobaireachd.

By providing and promoting opportunities of learning, listening, and playing of piobaireachd, the Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania hopes to increase the number of piobaireachd-playing pipers, to expand the appreciation of piobaireachd, and to raise the quality of piobaireachd playing in central Pennsylvania.

The Society has been quite busy since we first started in November of 2005. Through 3 workshops, Society members have learned 6 new tunes:

- "Mackintosh's Banner"
- "MacKintosh's Lament"
- "The Munro's Salute"
- "The Battle of Auldearn No. 1"
- "Hector MacLean's Warning"
- "Chisholm's Salute"

We have received instruction from David Bailiff, Scot Walker, and June Hanley. We have several more workshops planned in the coming months where we will continue our learning from the likes of Ian Whitelaw, James McIntosh, MBE, and James Barrie.

In February, the Society attended the Metro Cup in Newark, New Jersey, where

members heard several former gold and silver medal winners compete. Another Road Trip is planned to attend the U.S. Piping Foundation Championships in Newark, Delaware, to hear some excellent pipers try to qualify for the Glenfiddich Championships.

At Society meetings, nine different members have played 14 different piobaireachds with the list growing at every meeting. The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania will be running an EUSPBA-sanctioned solo piping competition on June 10th.

If you have never played piobaireachd before, if you are just getting started in piobaireachd, or if you would just like to learn another tune, we encourage you to attend our 2nd Annual "Introduction to Piobaireachd" workshop on November 2nd. This is a workshop where we teach a piobaireachd over several hours so that we can meet the pace of beginning piobaireachd players. We have purposefully scheduled this workshop at the end of the band season.

Our membership has grown to over 25 strong with pipers ranging from the Professional competitive grade to the non-competitor. We are a Society that supports the continuation of piobaireachd learning and playing in central Pennsylvania.

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We support Piobaireachd in Central Pennsylvania!

- "Introduction to Piobaireachd" workshops for pipers new to piobaireachd.
- Provide a forum for piobaireachd players to perform Ceol Mor "Great Music" of the Highland Bagpipe.
- Provide workshops for the Study of piobaireachd

WHAT ARE SET TUNES?

Each year The Piobaireachd Society creates a list of Set Tunes. What are these Set Tunes, and why are they important?

The Highland Society of London Gold Medals have long been considered the top prizes in solo competition. We'll save a history of these competitions for another article, however, the competitions can trace their roots back to the early 1800's. The Highland Society of London Gold Medals are the top prize offered at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban and at the Northern Meeting, formerly at Inverness, and now currently being held at Aviemore. A piper can only win the gold medal at each of these competitions once. After winning the gold medal, the piper is eligible to compete in the Senior Piobaireachd events (The Senior Piobaireachd at Oban or The Clasp at the Northern Meeting).

In the 1970's, the field of competitors for the Gold Medal became too large to handle so the Silver Medal competitions were created as a stepping stone to the Gold Medal.

The Piobaireachd Society has been charged with creating a list of Set Tunes for these competitions. They change the tunes from year to year so that different tunes will be guaranteed play time. The list of Set Tunes also defines the expected level of difficulty for each of the three contests.

We are in the process of working out some logistics with James McIntosh for a Set Tunes Workshop sometime in the fall. Plan to join us to learn the 2007 Set Tune List with one of the world's best.

The 2006 Set Tunes

Senior Competition Set Tunes

(Competitors must Submit 4 of the Following Tunes)

1. Port Urklar
2. Lament for the Harp Tree
3. Daughter's Lament
4. MacLean's March
5. Lament for the Laird of Annapool
6. My Dearest On Earth, Give Me Your Kiss

Gold Medal Competition Set Tunes

(Competitors must submit 4 of the Following Tunes)

1. Mackintosh of Borlum's Salute
2. Fair Honey
3. Isabel MacKay
4. Nameless (Book 12, Page 378)
5. Lord MacDonald's Lament
6. The Old Men of the Shells
7. Duntroon's March
8. The Lament for the Only Son

Silver Medal Competition Tune List

(Competitors must submit 4 of the Following Tunes)

1. Chisholm's Salute
2. The Duke of Atholl's Salute
3. MacCrimmon will never Return
4. The Battle of Strome
5. Grain in Hides and Corn in Sacks
6. Weighing from Land

NEWS GROUP

In order to maintain a working E-mail Newsgroup, we have created a new Yahoo! Newsgroup specifically for The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania. If you are interested in keeping up to date with the latest information on the Society, please subscribe to the newsgroup. There is no charge to receive the e-mail. Only the Society administrator will have access to send you e-mail through the group so there is no un-solicited, broadcast messages.

There are two ways to subscribe to the newsgroup. First, if you are already a Yahoo! Member, add "pennpiob" to your Group list. Log into Yahoo! using your user name & password, click on "Groups". Find "pennpiob" and join. You can also join Yahoo! for free.

The second way to join the newsgroup is to send a blank e-mail to pennpiob-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. This will automatically add your e-mail to the newsgroup.

You can unsubscribe at anytime by sending a blank e-mail to pennpiob-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

We will be using the Newsgroup to relay information about upcoming events and news. Be the first to know by signing up now.

ROBERT GILCHRIST CHALLENGE

Thompson McConnell had the opportunity to be the steward for the 2006 Robert Gilchrist Challenge at this year's Delco MidAtlantic Workshop held in February. This is a competition based on the MacGregor Memorial held at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban, Scotland. This competition is a piobaireachd contest open to pipers under the age of 22. Each competitor must submit four piobaireachds. All competitors will play one piobaireachd in the morning. The top six will then compete a second time in the afternoon. The piper with highest aggregate placing wins the competition. The 1st place prize for the Gilchrist Challenge is airfare to compete at the MacGregor Memorial held in August.

This event began in 1999 to encourage young pipers to become more competitive in the World Piping arena. Many of the past winners have made the prize list at the MacGregor Memorial competition. Past winners have included Erin McCarthy (1999), Andrew Douglas (2000 & 2001), Matt Panteleoni (2002), Amber Blair (2003), Andrew Lewis (2004), and Eric Ouellette (2005).

This year, 11 pipers competed for the prize. Many of the competitors in this year's event are Grade I and Grade II level pipers. The event began at 9 a.m. There was some trouble throughout the morning trying to maintain a decent temperature in the room. Ed Neigh of Ontario, Canada, was the Adjudicator for the morning session.

The tunes and order of play were:

Ben McClamrock (Maryland) – “Beloved Scotland”

Duncan Moore (Maryland) – “The Battle of Auldearn #1”

John Hasley (Pennsylvania) – “Lament for MacSwan of Roaig”

Bobby Durning (New Jersey) – “The Battle of the Pass of Crieff”

Parry MacDonald (Pennsylvania) – “The Earl of Seaforth's Salute”

Nick Hudson (Maryland) – “The Old Men of the Shells”

Andrew Walker (Pennsylvania) – “Glengarry's March”

Jenni Ewing (Georgia) – “Tulach Ard”

Keegan Sheehan (New York) – “The Big Spree”

Calum Spicer (Maryland) – “Too Long in this Condition”

Larson Stromdahl (Maryland) – “Grain in Hides and Corn in Sacks”

After the morning session was over, we took an hour and a half break, which gave us enough time to determine the top six and have Bob Worrall choose the tunes for the Second go-round. Bob Worrall, also of Ontario, Canada, was the judge for the afternoon session. The competitors went in the same order as the morning session. No results were announced until the evening.

The Tunes and order of play for the afternoon were:

Ben McClamrock – “Lament for Donald Duaghal Mackay”

John Hasley – “The Big Spree”

Andrew Walker – “March for a Beginner”

Jenni Ewing – “The Duke of Atholl's Salute”

Keegan Sheehan – “The Battle of Auldearn #1”

Larson Stromdahl – “The Old Men of the Shells”

Since the winner is determined by an aggregate score of the morning and afternoon competitions, there is always a chance of a tie for overall winner. This was one of those years for a tie. If playing two piobaireachds in one day isn't enough, the top two competitors were required to play three. Keegan Sheehan and Andrew Walker flipped a coin to see who was going to go first for the tie-breaking third piobaireachd being played during the Saturday night ceilidh before an audience of 200+. Keegan won the coin toss. Andrew Walker played “Lament for Donald of Laggan” while Keegan played “In Praise of Morag” while both Ed Neigh and Bob Worrall listened.

In the end, the results came down to the following:

1st Place – Keegan Sheehan

2nd Place – Andrew Walker

3rd Place – John Hasley

4th Place (Tie) – Ben McClamrock & Larson Stromdahl

6th Place – Jenni Ewing

THE METRO CUP

On February 18, 2006, the Metro Branch of the EUSPBA held its annual Metro Cup. Started in 1987 by Eric and Maureen Stein, the Metro Cup has become one of the premier events in the eastern United States. The Metro Cup prides itself on being able to attract some of the best pipers in the world. This year was no different.

The Metro Cup was originally a Professional Medley competition. It has since grown to include a Professional Piobaireachd competition, and an amateur Piobaireachd & March, Strathspey, and Reel competition. All events are by invitation only.

The Society called a Road Trip and several members responded to the call: Josh Dye, Troy Hafer, June Hanley, Thompson McConnell, Tom Thomson, Thomas Thomson, and Charles Tricou made the trek to Newark, New Jersey, to hear some great piping.

The amateur piobaireachd competition began at 9 a.m. The Judge was Donald MacPhee, last year's winner of the Gold Medal at the Northern Meeting. There were 11 competitors:

Rogers Branson (Southern Branch) played "Grain in Hides, Corn in Sacks." Michael Egan (Ireland) played "Sir James MacDonald of the Isles Lament." Alex Gandy (Nova Scotia) played "MacCrimmon's Sweetheart." Robert Laverock (Southwest Branch) played "The King's Taxes." Jon Maffett (Ohio) played "Catherine's Lament." Jesse Ofgang (Metro Branch) played "The Little Spree." Cameron Scott (California) played "The Old Men of the Shells (No. 1)." Keegan Sheehan (Northeast Branch) played "Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay." Andrew Walker (MidAtlantic Branch) played "Lament for Donald of Laggan." Kevin Weigand (Florida) played "The Marquis of Argyll's Lament." Nathan Ziegler (Ohio Valley Branch) played "The Battle of Auldearn #1."

Following the Piobaireachd competition, the amateur pipers competed in an MSR competition. Alastair Dunn judged the MSR competition. Alastair is originally from Northern Ireland where he plays with the Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band. Alastair is also a Silver Medal winner at Inverness.

The results of the amateur competition were:

Piobaireachd

1st—Alex Gandy
2nd—Cameron Scott
3rd—Jesse Ofgang

MSR

1st—Cameron Scott
2nd—Alex Gandy
3rd—Keegan Sheehan

Overall Winner: Alex Gandy

Alex will be invited back next year to compete in the Professional competition.

The Professional Piobaireachd competition was held in the afternoon. The Judges were Bill Livingstone, James Stack, and Donald Lindsay.

Dan Cole was last year's amateur winner. Dan played "Lament for the Viscount of Dundee."

Alastair Dunn (Scotland) played "Lament for Mary MacLeod."

Bruce Gandy (Nova Scotia) played "Lament for the Children."

Alasdair Gillies (Pennsylvania) played "Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay."

Andrew Hayes (Ontario) played "Old Men of the Shells."

Margaret Houlihan (Scotland) played "Battle of Waternish."

Donald MacPhee (Scotland) played "The King's Taxes."

Brian Meagher (Metro Branch) played "The Battle of Auldearn #1."

John Patrick (Scotland) played "The MacDougall's Gathering."

Mike Rogers (Maryland) played "My Dearest on Earth Give Me Your Kiss."

Peter Skae (Metro Branch) played "MacCrimmon's Sweetheart."

Alen Tully (Ireland) played "His Father's Lament for Donald MacKenzie."

Scot Walker (Pennsylvania) played "The Vaunting."

Ian Whitelaw (California) played "Isabel MacKay."

In the evening, the above competitors played in a medley competition. The competition ended around 11:00. Winners were announced around 11:45 p.m.

Piobaireachd

1st—Andrew Hayes
2nd—Bruce Gandy
3rd—Alastair Dunn
4th—Margaret Houlihan
5th—Donald MacPhee

Medley

1st—Alen Tully
2nd—John Patrick
3rd—Margaret Houlihan
4th—Bruce Gandy
5th—Andrew Hayes

Andrew Hayes was named the overall winner.

Don't miss our next road trip when the Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania makes the trip to Newark, Delaware, on June 17th to attend the U.S. Piping Foundation Championships. Visit www.uspipingfoundation.org for more details.

2006 SPRING WORKSHOP WITH SCOT WALKER

Scot Walker was our guest instructor for the March workshop held in Lititz, PA, on March 4, 2006. Scot Walker serves on the Music Faculty of Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA, as instructor of Bagpipe Music. He is an EUSPBA Adjudicator and award-winning solo piper. Scot was rated #1 Overall Solo Piping Competitor for 7 out of 8 years by the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association. He has won firsts at nearly all the major US Solo Championships. In Scotland he has won first prizes in the professional competitions at the games in Dornoch, Strathpeffer, Lonach, and Cowal, among others. Scot is also the Pipe Major of the Lehigh Valley Pipe Band.

Scot started off the workshop with a discussion on various topics, including pipe setup, tune selection, etc. From there, Scot took us through a few tunes. The following people were in attendance of the workshop: Ruthann Crawford Fisher (Pequea, PA), Karen Helm (Lancaster, PA), Thompson McConnell (Lititz, PA), Wade Reeser (State College, PA), Adam Schaller (Hershey, PA), and Seth Weinstein (Voorhees, NJ).

We got off to a great start with “The Battle of Auldearn” (Setting No. 1). The Battle of Auldearn in 1645 which was fought at Auldearn, near Nairn, was won by Montrose against superior numbers fighting the Covenanters’ cause. It was a typically well planned and executed action by Montrose with huge losses among the Covenanters who were commanded by Sir John Hurry. Alasdair MacDonald was heavily involved on the Montrose’s side while the Campbells of Lawers were with the Covenanters.

Our second tune was another great tune, “Hector MacLean’s Warning.” According to MacKay’s Legends, Hector MacLean was, like his father, a noted marauder. He was suspected of having designs on the young Laird, Lachlan Mor, and this led to a long imprisonment in Duart Castle, ending with his execution, being beheaded in Coll, without a trial in 1579. It is not clear what links the tune has with Hector. Perhaps it is a warning to others not to be like him. The tune is in Angus MacKay’s book and in slightly different form in Angus MacArthur’s and Donald MacDonald’s manuscripts.

Scot also took us through a tune from the 2006 Silver Medal Tune List, “Chisholm’s Salute.” He told us to “Cut up” and “Roll down” through this tune. He showed us the similar interpretation between “Chisholm’s Salute” and “The Glen is Mine”. “Chisholm’s Salute” is supposed to have been composed in 1836 to mark his election as Member of Parliament for the County of Inverness, according to the Rev. Robert MacGregor, Kilmuir, Skye, who wrote as follows in 1838 – “the bearer (Kenneth Stewart, from the Isle of Skye) can play several new piobarachs and also the Shisalach for the Chisholm composed on the occasion of his being elected...in 1838.

Following the workshop, we were treated to a few tunes on the pipes. Also, James Deiner joined us for the afternoon. Thompson McConnell got things started by playing “The Desperate Battle”. Next, Karen Helm played “The Battle of Auldearn.” Scot Walker warmed up by playing the grounds of “The Desperate Battle”, “The Battle of Auldearn” and “Chisholm’s Salute”. He then broke into “Hector MacLean’s Warning” playing the entire tune for us on the pipes.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

Some of the instructors that the Society has worked with (or will be working with) are heavily involved in teaching. Some of the instructors also teach at various summer schools. If you are planning on attending a summer school, we encourage you to check out some of these schools.

James Barrie

Western Academy of Pipe Music, Bellingham, WA. July 20-24, 2006. <http://members.shaw.ca/wapm/>

James McIntosh, MBE

Jimmy McIntosh School of Piping & Drumming, Greensburg, PA. June 18-23, 2006.
http://balmoralhighlanders.org/school_of_piping_&_drumming.htm

Scot Walker

Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming, East Stroudsburg, PA. July 16-21 & 23-28, 2006. www.bagpiping.org

Ian Whitelaw

A Week in Paradise Piping School, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. July 10-15, 2006. www.aceltictraveler.com

PRE-SEASON CRITIQUE WITH JUNE HANLEY

June Hanley was our guest instructor for the Judge's Critique held in Lancaster, PA, on April 1, 2006. June has been piping since the age of 15, when she started in the Charlotte Scottish Pipe Band, where her earliest influences were Harvey Ritch and Sandy Jones. She has played with the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders, Manchester Pipe Band and served as pipe sergeant of the Oran Mor Pipe Band. This past season, after moving to Pennsylvania, she returned to the City of Washington Pipe Band, where she had played in the mid-eighties. She studied piobaireachd for many years with Jim McIntosh and, more recently, with Donald Lindsay.

June is active in the EUSPBA, having served as president and executive secretary, and currently serves as recording secretary. She is a well-known teacher and judge in the EUSPBA circuit and has judged several years on the Ontario circuit, including Maxville and Montreal. She lives with her husband, two daughters and various and sundry animals in a 280-year-old stone farmhouse in Warminster, PA, and she is a senior science and technology planner in an architectural firm.

The following people were in attendance of the workshop: Doug Campbell (York, PA), Karen Helm (Lancaster, PA), David Laughlin (York, PA), Thompson McConnell (Lititz, PA), John Morrison (Red Lion, PA), Wade Reeser (State College, PA), Tom Thomson (Lebanon, PA), and Thomas Thomson (Lebanon, PA).

June spent the first part of the morning with a presentation of "Tips & Tricks for the Competing Piper". It's very important to do your homework ahead of time. She provided tips on building your stamina, knowing your instrument, knowing your music, and knowing the competition requirements (especially if competing in another region). She stressed the importance of the presentation, including your posture, your speech, the look and sound of the bagpipe, and your overall demeanor. These are all things that need to be worked on prior to showing up for the competition.

June then went over what you should be doing on the day of the competition and concentrating on your playing. She made comments on tempos and keeping them steady, the introduction of the tune, phrasing throughout the tune, but especially the signature phrases, knowing the transitions between parts and transitions between tunes, if required. And, of course, June went over the importance of good technique. We also discussed the many do's and don'ts of solo competition. Wade was glad to help June expand her list of "Don'ts."

June also reviewed both the Piobaireachd Evaluation Form and the Individual Piping Evaluation Form used at EUSPBA-sanctioned competitions. Basically, the score sheets are divided into three sections: Tone / Technique / Musicality. The tips provided during the presentation are helpful to competitive, as well as, non-competitive pipers. It was very worthwhile.

Since many of the Society's members are looking to start their competition season in the very near future, we decided to run this workshop as a Pre-Season critique session. We had several competitive pipers who were anxious to get a Judge's opinion on some of their competition tunes before the season started. June Hanley provided some very constructive feedback throughout the morning and afternoon. Not only did we get feedback on our own performance, but we also got to hear feedback on other's performances. We heard from 5 different pipers.

David Laughlin played "Lament for Alasdair Dearg MacDonnel of Glengarry".

Wade Reeser also played "Lament for Alasdair Dearg MacDonnel of Glengarry". Wade also played his 2/4 March, "P/M Willie Gray's Farewell to the Glasgow Police". He then played the 6/8 March "John D. Burgess".

Thomas Thomson was up next playing the ground to "Glengarry's Lament". He then played the 6/8 March, "Angus MacKinnon".

Karen Helm played a tune that she learned at the March Workshop with Scot Walker, "Hector MacLean's Warning". She then played her competition 2/4 March, "Men of Argyll". She then played a very nice "MacDougall's Gathering".

Thompson McConnell finished the list of performers. He played "Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay" from Binneas is Borerraig. He then played one of his competition 2/4 Marches, "John MacFadyen of Melfort", and then finished with "Dora MacLeod" & "Upper Denton" for his strathspey & reel.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 10, 2006—The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania Solo Piping Competition

The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania is hosting a EUSPBA-sanctioned amateur solo piping competition. Entry forms are available from the Society website. Competitors and volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Judges will be David Bailiff, Chris Hamilton, and two other judges to be announced. The event will be held at Hempfield High School in Landisville, PA.

The Events include:

Grade I: Piobaireachd, MSR (March, Strathspey & Reel), 6/8 March, Hornpipe & Jig

Grade II: Piobaireachd, MSR (March, Strathspey & Reel), 6/8 March, Hornpipe & Jig

Grade III: Piobaireachd, 2/4 March, Strathspey & Reel, 6/8 March, Jig

Grade IV (Senior): Piobaireachd (Ground Only OR Full Piobaireachd), 2/4 March, 6/8 March, Slow March/Air

Grade IV (Junior): Piobaireachd (Ground Only OR Full Piobaireachd), 2/4 March, 6/8 March, Slow March/Air

Grade V (Practice Chanter): March

June 17, 2006—The United States Piping Foundation Championships

Road Trip - The United States Piping Foundation (USPF) Championships will be held at the Amy DuPont Music Building at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware. The USPF is one of the qualifiers for the Glenfiddich Championships held every October at Blair Castle in Scotland where 10 of the World's best pipers compete. Check out www.uspipingfoundation.org for more details.

The professional piping competition is a qualifier for the Glenfiddich Championships in Scotland. Previous winners include Michael Cusak (11x), Amy Garson, James McGillivray, William Livingstone, Alasdair Gillies (2x), William McCallum, Bruce Gandy, and Seamus Coyne.

The amateur Grade I competition will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The Professional Piobaireachd will begin at 1:00 p.m.

The Professional Medley (Metro Cup) will begin at 7:00 p.m.

June 2006

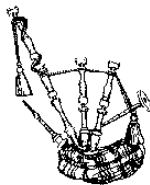
Ian Whitelaw will be in town for the U.S. Piping Foundation Championships in Newark, NJ. We are in the process of lining up a piobaireachd workshop with him while he is here. Ian Whitelaw recently won the U.S. Gold Medal at the Mid-West Highland Arts Festival (www.mhaf.org). He has won many other prizes. He is also an accomplished band player having played with the World Champion Simon Fraser University Pipe Band and other notable bands.

FALL 2006

We are working on lining up a 2007 Set Tune Workshop with Jimmy McIntosh in October or November. Learn the tunes required for the Silver & Gold Medal Lists for the Argyllshire Gathering & Northern Meeting. See the related article on "Set Tunes."

November 4, 2006

Are you a piper who has heard about piobaireachd, but never made the plunge? Join us for our 2nd Annual "Introduction to Piobaireachd" workshop. This workshop is designed for pipers who have little to no experience with piobaireachd.



**THE PIBAIREACHD SOCIETY OF
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**

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PIBAIREACHD FOR FUN

Most of us are familiar with many of the famous piobaireachd competitions (Highland Society of London Gold Medals at the Argyllshire Gathering and Northern Meeting, the Bratach Gorm, the Glenfiddich Championships, etc.) We are also aware that piobaireachd is offered at the local games in solo competition. And many of us have probably heard theories that piobaireachd only exists today because of the premier competitions set up in the 1800's and early 1900's. Piobaireachd is rarely heard publicly outside of the competition arena.

While many of us do play piobaireachd in competition, the members of the Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania are playing piobaireachd for other reasons with the most important reason being this: "Piobaireachd is fun."

The Society has members coming together to learn the "Great Music" of the Highland bagpipe. The goals of our membership are as varied as our members. Some have a goal to be able to play through a full piobaireachd some time in their lives.. Some want to excel in competition. Some are drawn by the history of the tunes, while some want to play the ancient music of their

ancestors that have been handed down over centuries. Some come here to expand their repertoire. Some come just to listen to the Highland bagpipe being played in all its glory. Whatever the reason, you will likely find it here.

We've shared war stories from the competition boards. We've shared some of our favorite tunes. We talk about the history surrounding each tune, and any special memories surrounding them. Members have commented on the thrill of playing a piobaireachd for an enthusiastic audience without the pressures of competition.

Our instructors have done a great deal to help us enjoy both playing and listening to piobaireachd. As a Society, we will continue to line up events to keep the learning and playing of piobaireachd fun.

So, whether you play piobaireachd for competition or just for yourself, we hope that you find the pleasure in it. There is an outstanding amount of music to be had from the ancient music of Ceol Mor, the music we now call piobaireachd.