

Piob Rocks!

THE PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

After having a light year in 2007, the Society is getting back into the swing of things again. We are planning monthly events from November 2007 through the Spring of 2008, and even looking at events to be held through the some of the summer months.

The Introduction to Piobaireachd class continues to be a great success with more new students learning about Ceol Mor. It's great to see some piobaireachd veterans continue to attend this class as well.

The Society is continuing its tradition of bringing in accomplished piobaireachd players to help bring this music to the central Pennsylvania region. Our Holiday Workshop will be held on December 1, 2008. David Bailiff will be teaching us some new tunes. David Bailiff lives in Oxford, PA. He was a long-time student of Robert Gilchrist of Wilmington, Delaware. He is a professional grade piper and EUSPBA Adjudicator.

We also have John Bottomley lined up for our Winter Workshop which will be held January 19, 2008. John Bottomley is also a Professional grade piper and EUSPBA Adjudicator from Bethlehem, PA. Visit his website at www.johnbottomleybagpipes.com.

There are many upcoming events for the piobaireachd enthusiast. We encourage our members to support these events as well. February is a month full of events. The EUSPBA MidAtlantic Branch hosts the Delco MidAtlantic Workshop in Baltimore the weekend of February 2&3, 2008. In addition to a weekend of workshops, the MidAtlantic branch hosts the Robert Gilchrist Challenge. This is an Under 21 Piobaireachd challenge which is held on the Saturday of the workshop. Each competitor submits four piobaireachd and plays one in the morning competition. The top six competitors compete again in the afternoon. The winner of the competition receives airfare to compete in the MacGregor Memorial competition at the Argyllshire Gathering in Scotland.

Also, in February, the Metro Branch hosts the Metro Cup competition. This event draws some of the best players in the world. This year's competition will be held February 16, 2008, in Newark, New Jersey. This year's list of competitors include: Bruce Gandy, Alasdair Gillies, Gordon Walker, Roddy Mac Leod, Willie McCallum, Jack Lee, Duncan Bell, Alastair Dunn, Margaret Houlihan, John Patrick, Alen Tully and more.

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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

SET TUNES—2008

In previous newsletters, we presented the 2006 & 2007 Set Tunes. In June 2007, The Piobaireachd Society has issued the 2008 Set Tune list. A copy is available from the website for download, but a list of the tunes is also available here.

The Highland Society of London Gold Medals have long been considered the top prizes in solo competition. 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.

This year, the Senior Competition Set Tune list is comprised of modern tunes. The Gold & Silver Medal Tune list is made up of some very popular tunes.

The 2008 Set Tunes

Senior Competition Set Tunes

(Competitors must Submit 4 of the Following Tunes)

1. A Lament for Angus Campbell
2. Salute to the Isle of Iona
3. Salute to James Campbell
4. Roderick MacDonald's Salute
5. The Phantom Piper of Corrieyaireack
6. Lament for Pipe Major Robert Reid
7. Echoing Roots of Brittany
8. Lament for Alan my Son

Gold Medal Competition Set Tunes

(Competitors must submit 4 of the Following Tunes—2 from each group)

Group 1

1. The Blind Piper's Obstinacy
2. Sobieski's Salute
3. The Stewart's White Banner
4. Clan MacNab's Salute

Group 2

1. The King's Taxes
2. My King has landed in Moidart
3. The End of the Great Bridge
4. The Park Piobaireachd No. 2

Silver Medal Competition Tune List

(Competitors must submit 4 of the Following Tunes—2 from each group)

Group 1

1. Hector MacLean's Warning
2. Rout of the MacPhees
3. Lament for the Castle of Dunyveg
4. I am proud to play a pipe

Group 2

1. The Little Spree
2. The Massacre of Glencoe
3. Corrienessan's Salute
4. Kinlochmoidart's Lament No. 1

THE PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

SOLO PIPING COMPETITION

We have been running a solo piping competition in the central PA area since 1998. However, this is only the second year that the competition was held under The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania. This was the largest competition that we have fielded in terms of competitors, events, and judges.



After a schedule conflict last year, we were able to schedule our event in conjunction with the Pipes & Drums Festival once again. This is an event sponsored by the Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania. It is an event which highlights some of the local pipe bands. This year featured the Zembo Highlanders of Harrisburg, PA, and the Guilford & Glencoe District Juvenile Pipe Band of Towson, Maryland.

The event is held at the historic Fort Hunter Mansion & Park just north of Harrisburg along the Susquehanna River.

One of the draws to the competition here in central PA is the wide-range of sanctioned events offered. We offer the full gamut of events. In addition to the standard Piobaireachd & March, Strathspey & Reel events, we also offer 6/8 March and Hornpipe/Jig events, as well as, Slow March for Grade IV. The events are sanctioned by the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association.

As mentioned earlier, this year we had a record 73 competitors signed up for the events. We had five piping judges, and for the first time, we had a snare drumming judge. This year was the first year for EUSPBA-sanctioned solo amateur snare drumming events. In addition, we added four unsanctioned events. We hosted a Drum Salute contest for any drum corps that wanted to present a drum salute. In addition, we had Piping Quartet competition.

As we are a piobaireachd society, we offered two unsanctioned piobaireachd events to encourage the performance of rarely heard tunes. We held a Short Tune competition and a Modern Tune competition. The short tune competition consisted of a list of tunes that have been

composed with no taorluath or crunluath. The competitor had to pick a tune from a list compiled by the society. For the modern tune competition, the competitor had to submit and play a tune composed since 1920.

Unlike the cold, windy weather we had in 2006, this year's competition was a beautiful day to play the pipes. The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania would like to thank the many volunteers who helped make the competition happen: Thompson & Betsy McConnell, Tom & Jeanine McConnell, John & Sylvia Smrz, Tom & Margaret Thomson, Roxanne Dean, and the Scottish Society of Central PA.

The Judges for the competition included David Bailiff, Duncan Bell, Paula Glendinning, Chris Hamilton, and John Wassman. Our drumming events were judged by Jon Quigg.

Next year's competition will be held June 14, 2008, at the Fort Hunter Mansion and Park.

RESULTS

Grade I Piper of the Day

Dan Lyden (Maryland)

Grade II Piper of the Day

Andrew Tice (New Jersey)

Grade III Piper of the Day

Geordie Hall (Pennsylvania)

Grade IV (Senior) Piper of the Day

David Mucklow (Virginia)

Grade IV (Junior) Piper of the Day

Andrew McGowan (Maryland)

Grade IV (Junior) Drummer of the Day

Patrick Chase (Maryland)

Piping Quartet

Balmoral Highlanders (Pittsburgh, PA)

Drum Corps Salute

Guilford & Glencoe District Juvenile P.B. (Towson, MD)

Short Tune Competition

Andrew Tice—"The Old Woman's Lullaby"

Modern Tune Competition

Kevin O'Brien—"The Phantom Piper of Corrieyairick"

FULL RESULTS

Grade I Piping				
Piobaireachd	March, Strathspey & Reel	Hornpipe & Jig	6/8 March	
1st—Dan Lyden	1st—Dan Lyden	1st—Dan Lyden	1st—Dan Lyden	
2nd—Robert Durning	2nd—Robert Durning	2nd—John Bradley	2nd—John Bradley	
3rd—John Bradley	3rd—John Bradley	3rd—Robert Durning	3rd—Robert Durning	

Grade II Piping				
Piobaireachd	March, Strathspey & Reel	Hornpipe & Jig	6/8 March	
1st—Liz Cherry	1st—Andrew Tice	1st—Andrew Tice	1st—Andrew Tice	
2nd—Andrew Tice	2nd—Albert DeFusco	2nd—Liz Cherry	2nd—Liz Cherry	
3rd—Albert DeFusco	3rd—Liz Cherry	3rd—Parry MacDonald	3rd—Adam Green	
4th—Kevin O'Brien	4th—Adam Green	4th—Albert DeFusco	4th—Albert DeFusco	

Grade III Piping				
Piobaireachd	2/4 March	Strathspey & Reel	Jig	6/8 March
1st—Scott Carr	1st—Geordie Hall	1st—Geordie Hall	1st—Alex Titus	1st—Geordie Hall
2nd—Geordie Hall	2nd—Alex Titus	2nd—Alex Titus	2nd—Nathanael Green	2nd—Scott Carr
3rd—Barbara Wentz	3rd—Barbara Wentz	3rd—John Patrick Hanna	3rd—Joshua Dye	3rd—Alex Titus
4th—Valorie Vaughn	4th—Karen Helm	4th—Joshua Dye	4th—Scott Carr	4th—Joshua Dye

Grade IV Senior Piping				
Piobaireachd (Full)	Piobaireachd (Urlar)	2/4 March	6/8 March	Slow Air
1st—Timothy Tokazewski	1st—Tom Thomson	1st—William Bochanowicz	1st—Jim Basil	1st—Daniel Cheuvront
2nd—Jim Basil	2nd—William Bochanowicz	2nd—Jim Basil	2nd—David Madock	2nd—David Madock
3rd—Daniel Chuevront	3rd—Michael Myers	3rd—David Madock	3rd—Tom Thomson	3rd—David Laughlin
4th—William Plail	4th—Shawn Fagan	4th—Paulette Johns	4th—Daniel Cheuvront	4th—Timothy Tokazewski

Grade IV Junior Piping				
Piobaireachd (Full)	Piobaireachd (Urlar)	2/4 March	6/8 March	Slow Air
1st—Charles Atkinson	1st—Andrew McGowan	1st—Jeffrey Smith	1st—Scott Conner	1st—James McGlone
2nd—Scott Conner	2nd—Jeffrey Smith	2nd—Andrew McGowan	2nd—Andrew McGowan	2nd—Jeffrey Smith
3rd—	3rd—Andrew White	3rd—Andrew Chalfoun	3rd—Andrew Chalfoun	3rd—Thomas Thomson
	4th—Michael McGlone	4th—Andrew White	4th—Thomas Thomson	4th—Scott Conner

FULL RESULTS (CONTINUED)

Grade IV Junior Snare Drumming	
2/4 March	Quick March Medley
1st—Sophia McConnell 2nd— Patrick Chase 3rd—Heidi Wentz	1st—Patrick Chase

Piping Quartet Competition	
3-5 Minute Medley	
1st—Balmoral Highlanders 2nd—Guilford & Glencoe District Juvenile Pipe Band	

Drum Salute Competition	
1st—Guilford & Glencoe District Juvenile Pipe Band	

Short Tune Piobaireachd Competition	Modern Tune Piobaireachd Competition
Piobaireachd	Piobaireachd
1st—Andrew Tice “Old Woman’s Lullaby” 2nd—Karen Helm “Old Woman’s Lullaby” 3rd—Joshua Dye “The Pretty Dirk” 4th—Kevin O’Brien “The Left Hand”	1st—Kevin O’Brien “The Phantom Piper of Corrieyairack” 2nd—Joshua Dye “Salute to Andrew Carnegie”

“AN INTRODUCTION TO PIOBAIREACHD”

The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania held its 3rd Annual “Introduction to Piobaireachd” workshop on November 3, 2007, in Lititz, Pennsylvania. This workshop is designed as a beginner’s introduction to piobaireachd. The workshop includes an introduction to the history of piobaireachd & piobaireachd competition. We briefly covered the classification and structure of piobaireachd.



The workshop was led by Thompson McConnell. Those in attendance included Andrew Chalfoun (Maryland), James Diener (Pennsylvania), Karen Helm (Pennsylvania), Dave Kolmer (Virginia), Sherry Kreamer (Pennsylvania), Marla McKenna (Virginia), Marty McKeon (Pennsylvania), and John Morrison (Pennsylvania).

We covered the “Lament for the Old Sword.” This lament, as indicated by the title, elegizes a sword which had valiantly served its owners in many

campaigns but was sadly no longer of use in battle. It must be remembered that there was great reverence for weapons in



Gaelic tradition and therefore this is a worthy subject.

One legend holds that this was the sword with which Carrabberi Ruadh killed Oscar [brother of Ossian dall, the last of the Fiann] and which he subsequently used in all his battles eventually bringing it to Kintyre. His descendents were both the Lords of Kintyre and Kings of the Isles, and the sword is said to have been in the hands of one or other of these families for several centuries. According to tradition, this lament was composed by the last owner to express its plaintive cry now that it no longer served in battle.

At each workshop, The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania opens up the floor for anyone interested in playing a piobaireachd for the group. Four pipers performed.

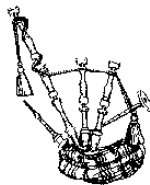
Andrew Chalfoun played “Struan Robertson’s Salute.”



Marty McKeon played “Colin MacRae of Invereenat’s Lament.”

Karen Helm played “Clan Campbell’s Gathering” and the Urlar to “Beloved Scotland.”

Thompson McConnell played the Urlar of “The Massacre of Glencoe” and “The Cave of Gold.”



**THE PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY OF
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**

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*Piobaireachd players do it with
variations on the ground.*

We're on the Web!
www.geocities.com/pennpiob

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1, 2007—Holiday Workshop

David Bailiff will be leading us through several tunes during our 2007 Holiday Workshop. David Bailiff is a EUSPBA Adjudicator and Professional grade Piper. The workshop will be held in Lititz, PA, starting at 10 a.m. Following the workshop at 3 p.m., we will open the floor to anyone who would like to share a tune with the group. All are welcome to attend the gathering at 3 p.m. to play or listen.

January 19, 2008—Winter Workshop

John Bottomley will be leading us through several tunes during our 2008 Winter Workshop. John Bottomley is a EUSPBA Adjudicator and Professional grade Piper. The workshop will be held in Lititz, PA, starting at 10 a.m. Following the workshop at 3 p.m., we will open the floor to anyone who would like to share a tune with the group. All are welcome to attend the gathering at 3 p.m. to play or listen.

June 14, 2008—Solo Piping & Drumming Competition

We will be holding our annual EUSPBA-sanctioned amateur piping & drumming competition at the Fort Hunter Mansion & Park in Harrisburg, PA. Join us for a great day of piping as we join the Scottish Society of Central PA's Pipes & Drums Festival.