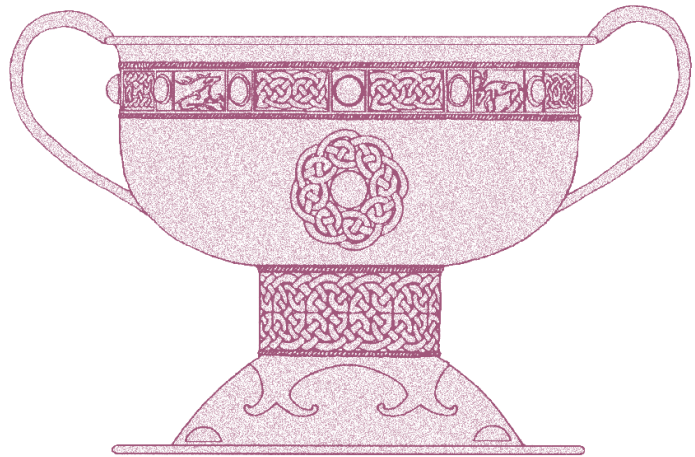


**The 27th  
Nicol-Brown  
Amateur  
Invitational  
Piping  
Competition**



OCTOBER 10, 2009  
ST. ANDREW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ALBANY, NEW YORK  
USA

## What a weekend!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009

### ■ Solo Piping Concert and Reception

7:00 to 9:00 pm at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

The 2009 Nicol-Brown competitors and judges will be introduced, and tune selections will be announced. Murray Henderson, Amy Garson, and Andrew Douglas will perform a wide range of music in concert.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2009

### ■ The Contest!

10:00 am to 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

The top Amateur pipers in North America have been invited to play in three events: 6/8 Marches, Piobaireachd, and March, Strathspey and Reel, in a contest dedicated to the memory of Bob Brown and Bob Nicol.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2009

### ■ Master Class and Piobaireachd Seminar

10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Invermark Piping Studio

91 Puckertoot Road, Petersburg, New York 12138

Nicol-Brown competitors will have an open lesson with Murray Henderson, who will explain highlights of the contest and give valuable instructions for any pipers wanting to improve their musicianship. After a lunch break, Murray Henderson and Donald Lindsay will lead a Piobaireachd seminar suitable for judges and advanced pipers.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, THANKS TO THE EUSPBA AND OTHER GENEROUS SPONSORS. (DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!) TO ATTEND THE SUNDAY WORKSHOP, PLEASE CALL MAUREEN CONNOR: 518-374-6034 OR 518-986-6034.

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## New Hampshire Highland Games Ruffin Hobbs Memorial Prize

The Grade 1 Piper of the Day at the New Hampshire Highland Games receives the Ruffin M. Hobbs Memorial Prize and earns a place in the prestigious Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Piping Competition.

The prize is sponsored by friends of Ruffin Hobbs and the New Hampshire Highland Games in honor of *Ruffin Hobbs*, a highly accomplished piper and nationally recognized sculptor from North Carolina with a passion for piobaireachd and Scottish music in general. Hobbs competed in the grade 1 ranks and at various times played in several bands in the South.

The New Hampshire Highland Games supports the Nicol-Brown Competition through a significant contribution toward airfare to London for the 2010 competition, one of the top piping competitions in the United Kingdom.

New Hampshire Highland Games

P.O. Box 4197

Concord, NH 03302-4197

[www.nhscot.org](http://www.nhscot.org)

Always begins the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of September

The Nicol-Brown committee welcomes the judges for 2009:

# Murray Henderson, Amy Garson, and Andrew Douglas

**M**URRAY HENDERSON IS A NEW ZEALANDER who started chanter lessons under his father's tutelage at the age of five. He was then very fortunate to have regular lessons from Donald Bain, who through Murray's teenage years gave him a world-class grounding in all disciplines of pipe music, but in particular whetted his appetite for what has become a life-long study of piobaireachd. When Bob Brown toured New Zealand, Murray was very fortunate to receive tuition from the master. Having also being taught by Bob Nicol, and pupils of both of these great men (Jim McIntosh & Jimmy MacGregor), his heritage is very much steeped in the "Balmoral" style.



In 1973, at the age of twenty, Murray set sail (literally!!) for Scotland. His first major achievement came in 1974 when he won the Braemar Gold Medal. Others that followed included the Gold Medals at Oban and Inverness, six Clasps at Inverness (the first at 23 years of age and the sixth 30 years later), The Open at Oban, The Dunvegan Medal and two Clasps, five Silver Chanters, the Bratach Gorm five times, the Gillies Cup three times, The Marches, Strathspeys & Reels at Oban and Inverness, the Former Winners' MSR at London five times, the Glenfiddich Championship four times (including firsts in both sections in 1989). Murray has taught world-wide, including the Balmoral Schools for five years (late 70s-early 80s), and in Scotland his pupils range from beginners to winners of the Oban Gold Medal and Inverness Clasp.

Murray and his wife, Patricia, formed Henderson Reedmakers in 1985, and in 2004 they established Strathmore Bagpipes. Their pipes and chanters have won some of the world's top prizes. Music is always to the fore in the Henderson household. Patricia has twice placed in the Inverness Gold Medal, eldest daughter Fiona has just qualified for her second appearance at the Glenfiddich Fiddle Championship, and Faye has twice placed in the Silver Medal at Oban.



**A**MY GARSON IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST award-winning female solo bagpipe competitors. Amy was among the first female pipers invited to play at Oban, Scotland in 1976. (Prior to 1976, women were not allowed to play.) In 1981, she became the first female piper to win the Silver Medal at the Northern Meeting in Inverness, Scotland. Between 1982

and 1986, she continued to excel, picking up third, fourth and fifth place finishes in the Gold Medal contests at Oban and Inverness. In 1988, she was the overall champion at the Colonial Highland Gathering in Fair Hill, Maryland and received the coveted invitation to play in the prestigious Grant's Championship. In addition, Amy has won the Piobaireachd Society Gold Medal at the Cambridge Highland Games in Ontario. With a family and a career in law, Amy still manages to remain an active member of the EUSPBA and PPBSO judges' panels.

**A**NDREW DOUGLAS BEGAN HIS PIPING CAREER in the Mohawk Valley Fraser Pipe Band at the age of eight. Showing a natural talent for the pipes, he progressed rapidly through the ranks of the amateur solo competitors in the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association, winning the prestigious Nicol-Brown competition at age 14, and achieving professional standing by the age of 16. From eighth grade onward,



Andrew boarded at St. Andrews College in Aurora, Ontario, on a piping scholarship and served as the pipe major of the school's award-winning pipe band for the last two years of his attendance. While at St. Andrews, he drew the attention of the four-time World Champion Simon Fraser University Pipe Band, of Vancouver, Canada, and was invited to join the band. Following graduation from St. Andrews, Andrew enrolled at SFU. He graduated in 2007, with a music composition degree. Andrew competed at the World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland with the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band for six years and accompanied them on performance tours to Ireland, Scotland, the Canadian Maritimes, and the eastern and southern US.

Andrew has had many competitive successes in Scotland, winning the MacGregor Memorial Piobaireachd competition, the B Grade professional MSR, and placing third in the Silver Medal Piobaireachd Competition at the Argyllshire Gathering two years in succession. Andrew has produced two CDs featuring Celtic themes that highlight his own compositions. Most recently, Andrew has moved back to Upstate New York as Pipe Major of the Oran Mor Pipe Band, perhaps the United States' premier competing pipe band. Last year, they were fourth at the World Championships in Grade 2. This year, they competed in the Grade 1 arena at the World's — a feat that has only been accomplished by a handful of American pipe bands.

## Judges for the Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

1982	Ed Neigh	1996	Scott MacAulay and Donald F. Lindsay
1983	James McGillivray	1997	Donald F. Lindsay
1984	Murray Henderson	1998	Jack Lee
1985	Donald F. Lindsay	1999	Michael Cusack
1986	William Livingstone	2000	Alasdair Gillies
1987	Amy Garson, Ed Krintz and Chip Reardon	2001	Michael Rogers
1988	Donald F. Lindsay	2002	Jack Taylor
1989	Seumas MacNeill	2003	Bruce Gandy and Michael Rogers
1990	James McGillivray	2004	Stuart Liddell and Donald F. Lindsay
1991	Colin MacLellan	2005	Donald MacPhee
1993	George Bell and Donald F. Lindsay	2006	John Wilson and Alasdair Gillies
1994	Colin MacLellan and Donald F. Lindsay	2007	John Wilson and Nancy Tunnicliffe
1995	Bob Worrall	2008	Nancy Tunnicliffe, Bobby Minnear and R. Iain MacDonald

# The Competitors

## **URSA BECKFORD** (Clifton, Maine)

Ursa started playing the pipes at the age of seven. His lifelong teacher is Donald Lindsay. In the fall of 2007 he was upgraded to Amateur 1 and joined the Oran Mor Pipe Band, also newly Grade 1. This year, Ursa has won the 2009 Gilchrist Challenge, the Scott-Vollrath Piobaireachd Trophy at the Sandy Jones Invitational and the Grade 1 Piobaireachd at the Queen Mary Games in Los Angeles, among other prizes. This past August he took his second trip to Scotland, competing in the World Pipe Band Championships with Oran Mor and also playing in various solo contests, including the MacGregor Memorial Piobaireachd Competition in Oban. Another highlight was his week at Invermark on Skye, studying with Donald Lindsay and Patrick Molard of Brittany.

## **LIZ CHERRY** (Greensburg, Pennsylvania)

Liz began her piping career at age 14 under the instruction of Derek Davidson, followed by Peter Kent, formerly of the City of Washington Pipe Band. She pipe majored the Graham Highlanders of St. Johnsbury Academy in 2004 until she moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 2007 and began taking lessons from James McIntosh, MBE, also her current instructor. She currently plays with the Balmoral Highlanders (III) out of Pittsburgh and instructs the Balmoral Highlanders (V) band. Liz has had a successful bagpipe career thus far, placing well in the EUSPBA standings over the years and taking home prizes from Canada and Scotland. She won the US Piping Foundation Championship Amateur Piobaireachd competition in 2008, and placed 2nd overall. In 2009, Liz placed 3rd in the Open Piobaireachd event at the Domoch Highland Games and 2nd in the C-Grade Piobaireachd at the Perth Highland Games, both in Scotland. She also qualified for the

2010 Metro Cup and Sandy Jones Invitational at the Ohio Scottish Games in 2009. Liz is currently holding first place overall and in Piobaireachd in the Ohio Valley Branch of the EUSPBA.

## **PATRICK DOWNING** (Harwich, Massachusetts)

Patrick has been playing the bagpipes since the age of ten and began his solo piping career in 2004. He was initially taught by his father, Sean, and has received instruction from Lezlie Webster, Chuck Murdoch, Jack Lee, and Alan Bevan. Patrick was the winner of the 2008 USPF amateur MSR event. The following year, he was the overall amateur winner of the 2009 USPF. Patrick played with the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band for the 2008 and 2009 seasons where they won their 5th and 6th world championship titles, respectively. Currently, Patrick is a sophomore at Western Washington University, pursuing a degree in Political Science, with the aim of entering law.

## **BOBBY DURNING** (Milltown, New Jersey)

Bobby starting playing pipes at the age of 9. After having a few different instructors, he began taking lessons from his current teacher, P/M George M Bell of Parlin, New Jersey, at the age of 11. Bobby is 17 years old, and currently plays with the City of Washington Pipe Band.

## **RICHARD GILLIES** (Portland, Oregon)

Richard began his piping in South Africa in January 2000, at the age of eight. He received his instruction from Chris Macaulay, and later from P/M Jimmy Elston of the Krugersdorp Pipe Band, a band which Richard joined shortly after. After emigrating to the USA in 2003, he joined the Sir James McDonald Pipe Band in Portland, Oregon, receiving tuition from Patrick Case, and then Jeff Brewer. He is currently taking lessons from Jori Chisholm and Bruce Gandy. Richard is a regular competitor in the BC Pipers' Association solo competition circuit. He began competing in Grade 5 solo competition in 2004, and won the BCPA Grand Aggregate from Grade 5 to Grade 1 in consecutive years, then again won the BCPA Grade 1 Grand Aggregate for 2009, making this six in a row. This year is Richard's second time to be invited to the Nicol-Brown.

## **THOMAS HARRINGTON** (Glenholme, Nova Scotia)

Thomas is 17 years old. He began chanter lessons at the age of 9 under the tutelage of George Macintosh, and later joined Old Scotia Pipes and Drums of Great Village. In 2008, he became a member of the 78th Highlanders Halifax Citadel Grade 1 Pipe Band and began lessons with Bruce Gandy. Thomas has won the Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association Champion Supreme in Grades 3, 2 and 1 and the Antigonish Highland Society/ACPBA Silver Medal Piobaireachd Challenge in 2008 and 2009. A highlight this summer was performing with the 78th Pipe Band on stage with Paul McCartney. Thomas is currently playing a set of 1962 Peter Henderson bagpipes. Thomas would like to thank Bruce Gandy, the ACPBA, the 78th Highlanders Halifax Citadel Grade 1 Pipe Band, Great Village Legion Branch#72 and family and friends for their support.

## **CHRIS LEE** (Hong Kong)

Chris lives with his family in Sham Shui Po, a district of Hong Kong, where the pipe tune "The Road to Sham Shui Po" is from. He began taking pipe lessons in 2003, at the age of 13, from his friend Roy Lau and joined the Hong Kong Amateur Pipe Band for a year in 2004, under the direction of Pipe Major Stewart Fung. Chris is a member of the Hong Kong 21st Island Scout Pipe Band & Civil Aid Service Band. In 2006, Chris began taking internet lessons from Bruce Gandy, and in 2008 and 2009, he spent half the year at the Halifax Citadel School of Piping.

Chris won the Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association Grade 2 Overall Champion Supreme for Piping and Piobaireachd in 2008 and was runner up for the ACPBA Grade 1 Overall Champion Supreme in 2009. In the summer of 2009, Chris fulfilled his dream of playing with the 78th Highlanders Halifax Citadel Pipe Band under the direction of Pipe Major Roderrick MacLean. Chris would like to thank Bruce Gandy, the Halifax Citadel



## United States Piping Foundation Amateur and Professional Championships

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Come and hear the world's best  
Amateur and Professional pipers LIVE, on stage!



ALL Amateur Grade 1 pipers  
are welcome to enter the Amateur contest.  
They must submit four Piobaireachd,  
four 2/4 Marches, four Strathspeys and four Reels.

For details, see:  
[www.uspipingfoundation.org](http://www.uspipingfoundation.org)

School of Piping for the scholarships, the ACPBA, and his family for their great support. He is very honored to receive the invitation to the Nicol-Brown. It has been one of his goals for a long time.

**ANTHONY MASTERSON (Houston, Texas)**

Anthony began piping in Anchorage, Alaska at age 8 with Crow Creek Pipes and Drums where, in addition to the three-hour band practices on Saturdays, he had private instruction from members of CCPD: he started piobaireachd thanks to Mark Ryan, and saw P/M Joe Albrecht mainly for light music instruction. He attended the Mastery of Scottish Arts Winter School for the first time at age 11 and there met Jack Lee, whom he visited twice for lessons at his home. After his father transferred to Houston, Texas in 2007, Anthony became a member of the St. Thomas Episcopal Pipe Band and began to study piping with Mr. Michael Cusack.

Anthony has won the MSR at Cowal (15 and under), placed 4th in the piobaireachd at the George Sherriff Memorial competition, placed 2nd overall at the US Piping Foundation amateur contest, won the Metro Cup amateur contest, and played in Piping Live!'s Pipe Idol contest in Glasgow. Anthony swims on the school swim team, and football is his favorite sport. He is in the STE string ensemble for cello, and enjoys private lessons with a member of the Houston Symphony. Anthony plans to go to college and, though he is uncertain how they will fit into the mix, he definitely intends for bagpipes to be a big part of his life, always.

**DANIEL PISOWLOSKI (Canterbury, Connecticut)**

Dan is a 16-year-old high school sophomore, and is an honors student at Norwich Free Academy. He started on the practice chanter at the age of nine in 2002, when he began playing with the Mystic Highland Pipe Band, an entertaining street band, from Mystic, Connecticut. In 2005, he joined the ranks of the Rhode Island Highlanders, a Grade 3 competition band, and he began solo competing. With instruction from John Sullivan, Dan worked through the grades and entered Grade 1 in 2009, winning the Grade

3 overall prize at Maxville in 2007 and the Grade 2 in 2008 along the way. Dan also won the EUSPBA Season Championship in Grade 2 in 2008. Since 2006, Dan has played with the Grade 2 Manchester Pipe Band. Dan has begun to foster interest in bagpiping at his high school, where he is in the process of forming a pipe band. An avid composer, Dan has over one hundred tunes to his credit, ranging from all forms of light music to piobaireachd to some tunes that have no classification in pipe music. Dan won honors for a strathspey titled "Waldo Kahler" in the Controversy of Composers tune contest sponsored by *the VOICE*. In addition to piping, Dan is also a competitive drum major at the professional level and, for the last two seasons, has tried his hand at snare drumming. As of September 30, 2009, Dan is ranked 1st in Professional Drum Major, 1st in Grade 4 Jr. Snare Drumming and 2nd in Grade 1 piping with the EUSPBA.

**AVENS RIDGEWAY (Union, Maine)**

Avens, 19, studies with Nancy Tunnicliffe and Jimmy McIntosh. She started piping when she was 9 with a local pipe band, Rocky Bay. She then studied with Brian Yates for several years. Avens won the Piobaireachd at the US Piping Foundation this year as well as at Maxville, Ontario, where she also took prizes in light music. She is a first-year student at Russell Sage College and plans to major in Secondary Education.

**ELIZABETH SHERIDAN (Oakville, Ontario)**

Elizabeth began piping six years ago under the instruction of Gail Brown. She has also studied Piobaireachd with Glenn Brown and is currently taught by John Cairns. She has been a member of the Peel Regional Police Pipe Band for three years. This is Elizabeth's second year in Grade 1 solos as well as her second year winning both Grade 1 Ontario Champion Supreme titles. This past season, Elizabeth won Piper of the Day at eight Highland Games, including Maxville. Elizabeth is a second year student at Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo, taking a double degree program in Business and Mathematics.



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# 6/8 Marches

*(The competitors have chosen two tunes to play in this order.)*

## Liz Cherry

Ballochyle  
Jean Mauchline

## Chris Lee

The MacNeils of Ugadale  
Angus MacKinnon

## Bobby Durning

Frank Thompson  
Duncan McGillivray, Chief Steward

## Avens Ridgeway

Mrs. Lily Christie  
Mrs. MacDougall

## Patrick Downing

Mrs. Lily Christie  
Duncan McGillivray, Chief Steward

## Thomas Harrington

Miss Ishabel T. MacDonald  
Jean Mauchline

## Elizabeth Sheridan

Mrs. Lily Christie  
Kirkhill

## Anthony Masterson

The Sweet Maid of Mull  
Ballochyle

## Ursa Beckford

Kenneth J. MacLeod  
The Trees of North Uist

## Daniel Pisowloski

The Heights of Cassino  
Braemar Gathering

## Richard Gillies

Cameron MacFadyen  
The Heights of Cassino

### IMPORTANT PHOTO OP

Please meet in the sanctuary immediately following the final 6/8 March performance for the official 2009 group photo of the competitors and judges. Weather permitting, outdoor photos will also be taken at this time.

**Please wear your new Nicol-Brown lapel pin!**

# Piobaireachd

*(The judges have selected one tune for each competitor.)*

## Patrick Downing

Lament for Mary MacLeod  
The Desperate Battle  
The Massacre of Glencoe

## Thomas Harrington

The Mackays' Banner  
MacKintosh's Lament  
Tulloch Ard

## Elizabeth Sheridan

MacNeil of Barra's March  
Lament for the Viscount of Dundee  
The Park Piobaireachd #2

## Anthony Masterson

The King's Taxes  
The Mackays' Banner  
The Park Piobaireachd #2

## Ursa Beckford

Tulach Ard  
Lament for Captain MacDougall  
The Mackays' Banner

## Daniel Pisowloski

The Battle of Auldearn #1  
Lachlan MacNeill Campbell of Kintarbert's Fancy  
The MacDougalls' Gathering

## Richard Gillies

Tulloch Ard  
The Groat  
The MacLeods' Salute

## Liz Cherry

Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay  
The Park Piobaireachd #2  
MacCrimmon's Sweetheart

## Chris Lee

The King's Taxes  
A Flame of Wrath for Squinting Patrick  
Lachlan MacNeill Campbell of Kintarbert's Fancy

## Bobby Durning

The Desperate Battle  
Lady Margaret MacDonald's Salute  
Lament for the Viscount of Dundee

## Avens Ridgeway

A Flame of Wrath  
The Park Piobaireachd #2  
Beloved Scotland

# March, Strathspey and Reel

(The judges have selected one set of tunes for each competitor.)

## Anthony Masterson

2/4 Marches: Pipe Major William MacLean  
The Lonach Gathering  
Strathspeys: The Doune of Invernochty  
Delvinside  
Reels: Cecily Ross  
The Blackberry Bush

## Ursa Beckford

2/4 Marches: Arthur Bignold of Lochrosque  
The Lochaber Gathering  
Strathspeys: The Piper's Bonnet  
The Shepherd's Crook  
Reels: John Morrison of Assynt House  
Thomson's Dirk

## Daniel Pisowloski

2/4 Marches: Abercairney Highlanders  
The Knightswood Ceilidh  
Strathspeys: Bogan Lochan  
Thoughts of Burns  
Reels: Stornoway Castle  
The Little Cascade

## Richard Gillies

2/4 Marches: The Young MacGregor  
Hugh Kennedy  
Strathspeys: Arniston Castle  
The Piper's Bonnet  
Reels: Alick C. McGregor  
The Brown Haired Maid

## Liz Cherry

2/4 Marches: Major Manson at Clachantrushal  
Inverloch Castle  
Strathspeys: Kirstie MacCallman's Favorite  
Susan MacLeod  
Reels: Miss Proud  
Broadford Bay

## Chris Lee

2/4 Marches: The Abercairney Highlanders  
Dugald MacColl's Farewell to France  
Strathspeys: Highland Harry  
Maggie Cameron  
Reels: Bessie MacIntyre  
The Smith of Chilliechassie

## Bobby Durning

2/4 Marches: The Knightswood Ceilidh  
Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band  
Strathspeys: Cabar Feidh  
Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch  
Reels: Broadford Bay  
Major Manson

## Avens Ridgeway

2/4 Marches: Bonnie Ann  
The Knightswood Ceilidh  
Strathspeys: Susan MacLeod  
Delvinside  
Reels: Broadford Bay  
Traditional

## Patrick Downing

2/4 Marches: MacLean of Pennycross  
Brig. Gen. Ronald Cheape of Tironan  
Strathspeys: The Shepherd's Crook  
Arniston Castle  
Reels: The Sheepwife  
Dolina MacKay

## Thomas Harrington

2/4 Marches: Kantara to El Arish  
John MacColl's March to Kilbowie Cottage  
Strathspeys: Maggie Cameron  
Kirstie MacCallman's Favorite  
Reels: The Blackberry Bush  
The Rejected Suitor

## Elizabeth Sheridan

2/4 Marches: The Knightswood Ceilidh  
Angus Campbell's Farewell to Stirling  
Strathspeys: John Roy Stewart  
MacBeth's Strathspey  
Reels: Broadford Bay  
Major Manson

### CELEBRATION DINNER

We *may* have a limited number of extra spaces available for dinner at 8:30 pm on Saturday after the contest with the judges, competitors, family members, Nicol-Brown alumni, and committee members in a private room at the Holiday Inn at 205 Wolf Road, Albany 12205. If you'd like to join us for dinner, please see Heather Scott to see if space is available, and to arrange for payment.



The Executive Committee of the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association extends a very warm welcome to Murray Henderson, and best wishes to the Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Piping Competition competitors, judges, volunteers, organizers and spectators.

This is truly one of the premier amateur piping events in the world and it is an honor to be a sponsor.

**EUSPBA Executive Committee**

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Ken Adler, Officer-at-Large



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**2009 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**  
**Saturday, November 14, 2009 — Meeting at 9 a.m.**

Holiday Inn Wolf Road (Formerly the "Turf")  
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**Presentation of awards for EUSPBA overall 2008 champions.  
Ceilidh featuring DJ Matt Kelly, members of Oran Mor Pipe Band,  
and other surprises!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CAROLE HACKETT AT [zecsec@euspba.org](mailto:zecsec@euspba.org)



# Be a Patron of the Arts!

The Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest has provided an elite, formal, indoor event for Amateur pipers since 1982, thanks to the generous donors and volunteers who have given their time and financial support over the years.

If you'd like to volunteer to help with next year's contest, please speak with one of the committee members. If you'd like to send a donation of any size, please mail a check payable to the Nicol-Brown Chalice to:

Barb McCarthy  
198 County Route 17  
Fort Ann, NY 12827

You may also send your donation through Paypal at [www.nicol-brown.org](http://www.nicol-brown.org).  
**The Nicol-Brown Chalice, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.**



April 2, 1982: Nancy Tunnicliffe

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## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Fairlie M. Sharp's donation is given in memory of her parents, Bob and Annie Brown.  
Peter Kent's donation is given in memory of Henry G. Hood.  
Doreen Forney's donation is given in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald.

# History

In recognition of the continuing development of piping standards in North America, Donald F. Lindsay and students from Williams College in Massachusetts established the First Annual Williams College Amateur Invitational Piobaireachd, where the Nicol-Brown Chalice was first presented on April 2, 1982. This special event was dedicated to Robert Brown and Robert Nicol ("The Bobs of Balmoral") who shared a deep and abiding enthusiasm for Piobaireachd. It was out of their affiliation with John MacDonald of Inverness that their life-long commitment to the teaching and perpetuation of Ceol Mor grew. As musicians and as world citizens, their lives remain an inspiration to pipers everywhere. It is upon the shoulders of these great teachers and Piobaireachd authorities that today's pipers and instructors stand.

Modeled after Scotland's Oban and Inverness competitions, the "Olympics

of Piping," the Nicol-Brown Invitational provides enthusiastic top amateur pipers with a prestigious competition which sets a standard by which to judge their piping, and a goal to direct their hours of practice. Piobaireachd, or classical pipe music, does not always get a fair hearing due to the length, difficulty and intricacy of the tunes, but this invitational contest has become a respected place to play and listen to Piobaireachd in the United States. In order to encourage Piobaireachd of the highest standards, the top amateur Piobaireachd players from across the North American continent have been invited to compete. All competitors selected for the Nicol-Brown must be ranked at the top amateur level for both Piobaireachd and Light Music by their home associations, and must have significant results in the current season.

The Nicol-Brown has pioneered the way for elite invitational events for amateur pipers. Many former competitors and their family members return each year to volunteer their time to continue the traditions of the Nicol-Brown — a testimony to the influence that the contest has had on the lives of so many pipers.



*Peter Henderson*

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---

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# Trophies and Prizes

In 1982, Brian Yates, an American piper and silversmith, was commissioned to craft the Nicol-Brown Chalice, with the winning Piobaireachd competitor's name to be inscribed on the base each year. Brian has described the Chalice project as a "cathedral" which would take years to complete. Stephen Walker of Walker Metalsmiths has volunteered many hours of his artistic skills to bring the cathedral closer to completion.

In 1987, the Nicol-Brown committee added a March, Strathspey and Reel contest, and commissioned Mr. Fred Graham, Scottish Celtic Armourer and Silversmith of the "Royal Mile" in Edinburgh, to make a targe in honor of P/M William Ross. The MSR winner's name is inscribed on the targe each year, along with the tunes played in the winning performance.

In 1990, a 6/8 March contest was added in honor of Donald MacLeod, with a silver buckle designed by Brian Yates to be awarded each year. Stephen Walker has designed a new edition of the buckle to be awarded for the third time this year. He has done considerable research on a technique to create "chip-carving" which is how he believes many of the early medieval masterpieces of Celtic metalwork were fashioned. The method seems to have been lost about a thousand years ago, and Stephen is working on a revival.

## Nicol-Brown Chalice for Piobaireachd

1982	Nancy Crutcher: "Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay"
1983	Ian Beatty: "Black Donald's March"
1984	Robert Minnear: "Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay"
1985	Kenneth Garson: "The Vaunting"
1986	June Potter: "The Park Piobaireachd" #2
1987	Joyce McIntosh: "The Old Men of the Shells"
1988	Daniel Whatley: "The Park Piobaireachd" #2
1989	Katy Rashid: "The MacDougalls' Gathering"
1990	Daniel Kenny: "The Desperate Battle"
1991	Skip Cleavinger: "The Earl of Seaforth's Salute"
1992	The contest was not held.
1993	Paula Glendinning: "The Desperate Battle"
1994	Andrew Hoag: "Beloved Scotland"
1995	Paula Glendinning: "The Desperate Battle"
1996	Ryan MacDonald: "Grain in Hides, Corn in Sacks"
1997	John MacPhee: "The Battle of the Pass of Crieff"
1998	Brian May: "The Prince's Salute"
1999	Maureen Connor: "The Marquis of Argyll's Salute"
2000	Erin McCarthy: "The Rout of Glenfruin"
2001	Erin McCarthy: "The Rout of Glenfruin"
2002	Jeremy Freeman: "The Old Men of the Shells"
2003	Lyric Todkill: "Lament for the Only Son"
2004	Eric Ouellette: "Scarce of Fishing"
2005	Colin Lee: "The Desperate Battle"
2006	Cameron Scott: "The Old Men of the Shells"
2007	Alastair Lee: "Melbank's Salute"
2008	Johnny Bassett: "The MacGregors' Salute"

The overall Nicol-Brown champion for 2009 will win a custom-made kilt, and round-trip airfare from a major North American airport to London to compete in the Scottish Piping Society of London competitions in November 2010. This will allow our winner a year to prepare to compete in the prestigious Piobaireachd and Light Music contests in London, along with the outstanding opportunity to listen to the Bratach Gorm and other events which draw the top players from around the world. Bob Brown and Bob Nicol were both featured prominently in the prize lists in London, and we are proud to connect our contest to that history. Bob Brown won the Open Piobaireachd (now called the Gillies Cup) 12 times and the Bratach Gorm (for Former Winners of the Gold Medal or Gillies Cup) three times. His last win in London was in November of 1971, just a few months before he died.

**Inspired by the Ardagh Chalice, c. 800-899 AD, the Nicol-Brown Chalice was designed and created by Brian Yates as a symbol of the pursuit of excellence in Celtic art and music. Stephen Walker of Walker Metalsmiths has added his artistry to the chalice, and has plans for further embellishments.**



## William Ross Challenge Targe for March, Strathspey & Reel

1987	Alasdair Wright	1999	Glenn Brown
1988	Daniel Whatley	2000	Glenn Brown
1989	Ken McKeveny	2001	Lionel Tupman
1990	Robert Boyd	2002	Lionel Tupman
1991	Alan Bevan	2003	Lyric Todkill
1993	Paula Glendinning	2004	Andrew Lewis
1994	Jason Briscoe	2005	Alex Gandy
1995	Michael Rogers	2006	Micah Babinski
1996	Michael Rogers	2007	Alastair Lee
1997	Steven Tripp	2008	John Lee
1998	Andrew Douglas		



## Donald MacLeod Memorial Silver Buckle for 6/8 Marches

1990	P. Andrew L. Hayes	2000	Andrew J. Hayes
1991	Alan Bevan	2001	Lionel Tupman
1993	Jamie Troy	2002	Lionel Tupman
1994	Ryan MacDonald	2003	Lyric Todkill
1995	Paula Glendinning	2004	Robert Beaton
1996	Ryan MacDonald	2005	Colin Lee
1997	Joss Fisher	2006	Kegan Sheehan
1998	Andrew Douglas	2007	Gordon Conn
1999	Glenn Brown	2008	Johnny Bassett



Left to right: Bob Brown, John MacDonald, and Bob Nicol.

## ROBERT URQUHART BROWN

Bob Brown was born in 1906 in Banchory, Scotland, of a family which had long shown a keen interest in all the music of Scotland. He received his first instruction on the bagpipes from William Fraser, a pupil of G.S. McLennan, who although suffering from a physical handicap acquired during the First World War, was still considered a fine player. Next, the young Brown went to Jonathan Ewen, an Inverness Medalist, who began for him his life-long study of Ceol Mor. Ewen was a pupil of Sandy Cameron, so it was not surprising that his young pupil began to win a number of competitions in his local area.



This brought him to the attention of G.S. Allan, who took him under his wing and accompanied him to the Argyllshire Gathering in 1925, where Brown won the junior piobaireachd. The following year he was unplaced but highly commended in the Gold Medal event.

Although he was a keen competitor and loved the excitement of the boards, Bob Brown did not always find it easy to get time off from his work—which is surprising in view of the fact that his employers have always been enthusiasts for piping. It was in fact 1931 before he was able to return to Oban, and this time he won the Gold Medal. By then, however, he was the holder of the Inverness Medal, which he won in 1928. This was also the year when, according to Bob, there occurred the most important event in his piping life—he began to take lessons from John MacDonald. “I owe my knowledge,” said Bob Brown once, “to John MacDonald who made me the piobaireachd enthusiast that I am.” Certainly, it is partly through his long and close association with John MacDonald that he came to be looked on as a great authority, but this was also due to his own clear and reasoned expositions on this subject, and his unflinching ability to produce great music whenever he played.

His fame and standing increased as time went on. In the last decade of his life, pipers began beating a path to the door of his cottage at Balmoral and he began taking his knowledge to different parts of the world. For several years he was the instructor at the Invermark summer schools in New York state; he visited South Africa and New Zealand; and it was while he was in Australia in 1972 that the first signs came of the ailment which was to prove so quickly fatal. He was barely able to get home to his beloved Scotland before he passed away.

## ROBERT BELL NICOL

Bob Nicol was born in 1905 in Durris, Aberdeenshire, and was first taught by a piper MacKellar, a pupil of MacDougall Gillies, who was later killed in the 1914-18 war. He was then taught by one of the Ewen brothers. Another of the brothers, Jonathan Ewen, at that time was teaching the young Bob Brown who was later to become Bob Nicol’s life-long friend. Bob Nicol had a successful junior career and his first piping appointment was as piper to Lord Cowdray at Dunecht. It was from here that he moved to Balmoral as King George V’s piper in 1924. In 1926, when only 20 years old he had a shooting accident that resulted in the loss of his right eye. A shot from a fellow gamekeeper ricocheted off a frozen tree and hit him in the eye.



Later in 1926, King George V was anxious to have Bob given the best tuition and he consulted the factor at Balmoral, Sir Douglas Ramsay, and Sheriff Grant, Rothiemurchus, who were both pupils of John MacDonald. As a result, Bob Nicol was sent to Inverness to study with John MacDonald for a month that same year. It was a nerve-wracking time, as Bob related, “When John MacDonald came into the room he gave me a good dressing-down for a start. He said, ‘You’re no use to me.’ In fact he was quite nasty to me for the whole month.” But on the completion of his course a very good report was sent to Balmoral. The following year he was accompanied by Bob Brown, and the visits continued every year until 1939.

During this period, Bob Nicol became one of the outstanding players, winning all the top honours including the Gold Medal at Inverness and Oban in 1930 and the Clasp in 1932. His medal tune at Inverness was “Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon,” a tune he was later to play at the graveside of both John MacDonald and Bob Brown. Throughout the 1939-45 war he served as pipe major in the 2nd Gordons and ran a piobaireachd class for the 15th Scottish Division. He also taught at schools in America and Brittany. He was a very good and firm teacher, a likeable man with a sharp wit and sense of humour. Dedicated to keeping the traditional piobaireachd alive, he was undoubtedly one of the greats and one of the most knowledgeable men of our time. Bob Nicol died in 1978.

(These bios include excerpts from Vol. 24, #10 and Vol. 30, #9 of the *Piping Times*.)

## PIPE MAJOR WILLIAM ROSS

Pipe Major William Ross (1879-1965) learned his early piping from his father, mother, and his uncle, Aeneas Ross, who guided his early steps in Piobaireachd. By his own great musical ability, Pipe Major Ross rose to the top of his profession. Music flowed from William Ross’s pipe and fingers with no apparent effort: “the mighty frame seemed hardly to need to blow”. It was the simplicity of the true expert—like the golf swing of a master—making it look easy until we try to do it ourselves. Unlike so many pipers, success never spoiled him, and if ever one needed a tonic, an hour in the company of the illustrious Pipe Major would assure a cure for the ailment. He was peerless in conversation, a Prince of Storytellers. He loved human beings and was loved by them in return. In his life and work, Willie Ross

was a delightful example of the perfect gentleman. By his courtesy, his modesty, and his professional ability, he left an indelible, honoured name that will live down through the ages and cheer the hearts of those who listen to the recordings of his lovely music.

He joined the Scots Guards in 1896 and from that date until his retirement in 1957 he served piping and pipers. In 1920 he was appointed Principal of the new Army School of Piping at Edinburgh Castle. After his retirement from the Army, it was in 1921 that he became the Piobaireachd Society's tutor, and through his appointment, pipers both military and civilian were able to benefit from his tuition. His pupils are scattered throughout the world and always provided the cream of the piping world with many champions amongst them. The world of pipers has not only been made up of players, teachers, and composers; there have been those who worked to make the music of the pipe available to the piper, and those who worked to ensure that the great heritage was passed on. William Ross's collection of pipe music remains the mainstay and guide of many pipers.

(Excerpted from *Piping Times*, June 1966; *A Highlander Looks Back* by Angus MacPherson; *Scots Guards Book 1*; and *Piper's Handbook* by J. A. MacLellan.)

## DONALD MACLEOD

Donald MacLeod was born in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis on August 14, 1916. His first piping lessons were from his father, and at the age of six he came into contact with Pipe Major Willie Ross, who travelled to the Hebrides on behalf of the Piobaireachd Society. At age 11, Donald had his first lessons with John MacDonald of Inverness, and that relationship lasted for 25 years.



MacLeod joined the Seaforth Highlanders in 1937, and in 1939 went to France with the 2nd Battalion. He was taken prisoner at St. Valery, but escaped, and made his way back across Europe to re-join his regiment. MacLeod was made pipe major in 1941, and in 1944 returned to the front, where he piped his regiment across the Rhine during the last campaign of the war. Following the war, MacLeod spent a number of years at Fort George, where he tutored young pipers in the British Army.

Few competitors have won as many prizes as Donald MacLeod. He won the Gold Medal at Inverness in 1947, and added eight Clasps between 1948 and 64. He won the Open Piobaireachd at Oban three times, and six Silver Stars for the Former Winners' MSR at Inverness. In 1959, Donald MacLeod competed only at Oban and Inverness. Of the seven events he entered, MacLeod won six first prizes, and was unplaced in the 7th event!

Donald MacLeod owned the bagpipe firm of Grainger & Campbell after leaving the army, and during those years he travelled around the world to teach and perform. He also was among the first to use recorded lessons for teaching piobaireachd, and he sent tapes to pipers around the world. Those original tapes are now being released in a comprehensive CD series available to all pipers.

MacLeod was a prolific composer with six books of light music, plus a collection of piobaireachd. Many of the tunes collected, composed and arranged for his 7th and 8th books of light music were published by the Gordon Highlanders after his death in 1982. His tunes are standard fare of both bands and soloists, and they are heard wherever the Highland bagpipe is played.

Donald MacLeod left many recordings of himself through years of BBC radio programs and solo records. After he had retired from competition he was heard on two excellent recordings, "The Piper in the Nave" and "The Piper's Ceilidh."

Donald MacLeod was awarded the M.B.E. for his services to piping.

—by Iain MacDonald, Regina, Saskatchewan

# Nicol-Brown Alumni



1984



1991



1993



1996



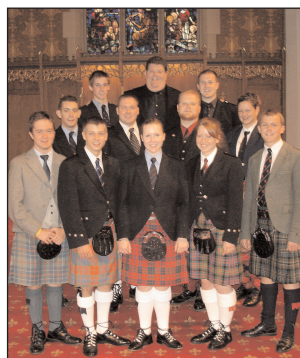
1996



2000



2002



2005



2007

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## Results of the 26th Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

OCTOBER 11, 2008 ■ ALBANY, NEW YORK

Judges: Nancy Tunnicliffe, Bobby Minnear, and Iain MacDonald

### 2008 OVERALL NICOL-BROWN CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Johnny Bassett (19) Airfare to London to compete in November 2009, donated by the New Hampshire Highland Games, a kilt donated by Sandy St. James, and a Peter Henderson pipe chanter donated by R.G. Hardie & Co.
2. Bobby Durning (16) Peter Henderson blackwood pipe chanter donated by R.G. Hardie & Co.
3. John Lee (10) \$250 piping scholarship donated by Tartantown.
4. Jon Maffett (9) \$200 piping scholarship donated by Peter Kent in memory of Ruffin Hobbs.
5. Richard Gillies (8) \$200 piping scholarship donated by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald.

(Points for overall champion)

### ROBERT NICOL-ROBERT BROWN CHALICE FOR PIOBAIREACHD

- (9) 1. Johnny Bassett ("The MacGregors' Salute") Bound Piobaireachd Society Collection donated by Tone Czar Bagpipes.
- (7) 2. Bobby Durning ("Lament for the Viscount of Dundee") Binneas is Borerraig and "Dastirum" CD, donated by Celtic Outfitters.
- (6) 3. Elizabeth Sheridan ("MacNeill of Barra's March") Binneas is Borerraig donated by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M A. Macdonald.
- (5) 4. Richard Gillies ("The Groat") "Masters of Piobaireachd" CDs, Volume 1-4.
- (4) 5. Thomas Harrington ("Hector MacLean's Warning") "Masters of Piobaireachd" CDs, Vol. 1-2, and Patrick Molard CD.

### WILLIAM ROSS CHALLENGE TARGE FOR MARCH, STRATHSPEY AND REEL

- (8) 1. John Lee ("The Braes of Brecklet," "Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch," "Thomson's Dirk") Leather sporran donated by R.G. Hardie & Co.
- (6) 2. Bobby Durning Bound William Ross Collection donated by Tartantown.
- (5) 3. Jon Maffett The Gordon Highlanders Pipe Music Collection, Volumes 1 & 2.
- (4) 4. Johnny Bassett 4 CDs donated by Rampant Lion Celtic Traders.
- (3) 5. Richard Gillies 4 CDs donated by Rampant Lion Celtic Traders.

### DONALD MACLEOD MEMORIAL 6/8 MARCHES

- (6) 1. Johnny Bassett ("Cameron MacFadyen," "Fairview Cottage") Donald MacLeod Memorial Silver Buckle created by Stephen Walker.
- (4) 2. Jon Maffett signed copy of *Bagpipes: A National Collection of a National Instrument* donated by Dr. Hugh Cheape.
- (3) 3. Bobby Durning signed copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald and 2 CDs from Rampant Lion Celtic Traders.
- (2) 4. John Lee signed copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald and 2 CDs from Rampant Lion Celtic Traders.
- (1) 5. Andrew Tice signed copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.

### DRESS AND DEPARTMENT (judged by Eric MacNeill)

1. Johnny Bassett Kilt alteration donated by Peigi Mulligan.

The Nicol-Brown committee would like to thank the organizers of the New Hampshire Highland Games for their continued support of Amateur piping through a major annual contribution to our prize list. The trip to compete in London is an outstanding opportunity for the Nicol-Brown Champion each year.

An invitation to the Nicol-Brown will be held next year for the winner of the Ruffin M. Hobbs Memorial Prize, which will be awarded to the Amateur Grade One Piper of the Day at the New Hampshire Highland Games.

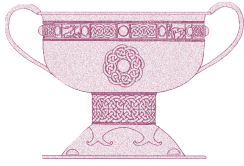
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# Results of the 27th Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

OCTOBER 10, 2009 ■ ALBANY, NEW YORK  
Judges: Murray Henderson, Amy Garson, and Andrew Douglas

## EVENTS AND WINNERS

## PRIZES

### 2009 OVERALL NICOL-BROWN CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Anthony Masterson (17) Airfare to London donated by the New Hampshire Highland Games, and a custom-made kilt donated by Sandy St. James.
2. Elizabeth Sheridan (13) \$250 scholarship donated by Tartantown.
3. Ursa Beckford (11) \$200 scholarship donated by Fairlie M. Sharp in memory of her parents, Bob and Annie Brown.
4. Avens Ridgeway (8) \$200 scholarship donated by Peter Kent in memory of Henry G. Hood.

### ROBERT NICOL-ROBERT BROWN CHALICE FOR PIOBAIREACHD

(Points for overall champion)

(Each piper in the Piobaireachd prize list will receive a one-year membership in the Piobaireachd Society, to encourage his/her continuing education and pursuit of excellence in Ceol Mor.)

- (9) 1. Anthony Masterson Bound Piobaireachd Society Collection donated by Doreen Forney in memory of Pipe Major Angus Macdonald.
- (7) 2. Elizabeth Sheridan Strathmore blackwood pipe chanter donated by The Piper's Hut.
- (6) 3. Liz Cherry Angus MacKay's and Donald MacDonald's books on CD-ROM donated by Ceol Sean CDs at [www.ceolsean.com](http://www.ceolsean.com), and a copy of *Sight Readable Ceol Mor* with 2 CDs donated by Dugald MacNeill.
- (5) 4. Avens Ridgeway A copy of *Sight Readable Ceol Mor* with 2 CDs donated by Dugald MacNeill, and General Thomason's *Ceol Mor* on CD-ROM donated by Ceol Sean CDs.
- (4) 5. Ursa Beckford A copy of *Sight Readable Ceol Mor* with 2 CDs donated by Dugald MacNeill.

### WILLIAM ROSS CHALLENGE TARGE FOR MARCH, STRATHSPEY AND REEL

- (8) 1. Anthony Masterson Dress sporran donated by R. G. Hardie & Co.
- (6) 2. Elizabeth Sheridan Pipe case donated by Scott's Highland Services, Ltd.
- (5) 3. Ursa Beckford *William Ross's Collection*, Volumes 1-5.
- (4) 4. Bobby Durning *The Gordon Highlanders Collection*, Volume 2 donated by Henderson Imports.
- (3) 5. Avens Ridgeway "Bagpipe Classics" CD donated by John Bottomley.

### DONALD MACLEOD MEMORIAL 6/8 MARCHES

- (6) 1. Richard Gillies The Donald MacLeod Memorial Silver Buckle created by Stephen Walker, and a copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.
- (4) 2. Bobby Durning A \$50 gift certificate donated by Celtic Outfitters LLC, and a copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.
- (3) 3. Patrick Downing A \$25 gift certificate donated by Celtic Outfitters LLC, and a copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.
- (2) 4. Ursa Beckford *The Edcath Collection* on CD-ROM donated by Ceol Sean CDs, and a copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.
- (1) 5. Thomas Harrington A copy of *Along the Road* donated by Iain MacDonald.

### DRESS AND DEPARTMENT (judged by Eric MacNeill)

1. Daniel Pisowloski \$50 gift certificate donated by Henderson Imports.



