

T H E   T H I R T Y - T H I R D

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# NICOL-BROWN

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A M A T E U R   I N V I T A T I O N A L

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P I P I N G   C O M P E T I T I O N

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**O C T O B E R 1 0 , 2 0 1 5**

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ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ALBANY, NEW YORK  
[www.nicol-brown.org](http://www.nicol-brown.org)

# The 2015 Nicol-Brown weekend

**FRIDAY, October 9, 2015**

## Benefit Concert by Callum Beaumont

7:00 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

*The 2015 competitors will be introduced, and tune selections for the contest on Saturday will be announced.*

**SATURDAY, October 10, 2015**

## The Contest!

9:30 am to 7:00 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

6/8 Marches

Piobaireachd

March, Strathspey and Reel

Award Ceremony

## Celebration Dinner

Radisson Albany, 205 Wolf Road

Our private room opens at 7:30 pm. Dinner served at 8:00 pm.

\$25.00 by reservation

*If you'd like to join us for dinner, please see Barb McCarthy to ask if space is available, and to arrange for payment.*

**SUNDAY, October 11, 2015**

## Master Class with Callum Beaumont

10:00 am to 12:00 pm at Celtic Hall

430 New Karner Road, Albany 12205

*Nicol-Brown competitors will be given the privilege of receiving instruction from Callum Beaumont, and pipers at all levels are encouraged to observe the Master Class. Topics will include musical expression, technique, and progressing toward the professional level. Contact Maureen Connor: 518-374-6034.*



Piobaireachd Seminar with Donald F. Lindsay

Albany, New York

November 27-29, 2015

Piobaireachd Society Set Tunes for 2016

Grade III through Professional Levels

For more information or to register:

[donald.f.lindsay@gmail.com](mailto:donald.f.lindsay@gmail.com)

Substantial discounts for registrations received before October 14

## Judges for the Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

1982	Ed Neigh	2001	Michael Rogers
1983	James McGillivray	2002	Jack Taylor
1984	Murray Henderson	2003	Bruce Gandy and Michael Rogers
1985	Donald F. Lindsay	2004	Stuart Liddell and Donald F. Lindsay
1986	William Livingstone	2005	Donald MacPhee
1987	Amy Garson, Ed Krintz, and Chip Reardon	2006	John Wilson and Alasdair Gillies
1988	Donald F. Lindsay	2007	John Wilson and Nancy Tunnicliffe
1989	Seumas MacNeill	2008	Nancy Tunnicliffe, Bobby Minnear, and R. Iain MacDonald
1990	James McGillivray	2009	Murray Henderson, Amy Garson, and Andrew Douglas
1991	Colin MacLellan	2010	Angus MacColl
1993	George Bell and Donald F. Lindsay	2011	Jack Taylor and Bruce Gandy
1994	Colin MacLellan and Donald F. Lindsay	2012	Willie McCallum, Nancy Tunnicliffe, and Paula Glendinning
1995	Bob Worrall	2013	Patrick Molard, Andrew Hayes, and June Hanley
1996	Scott MacAulay and Donald F. Lindsay	2014	Andrew Hayes and Michael Rogers
1997	Donald F. Lindsay	2015	Callum Beaumont
1998	Jack Lee		
1999	Michael Cusack		
2000	Alasdair Gillies		

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# The Nicol-Brown committee welcomes the judge for 2015: Callum Beaumont

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**C**ALLUM BEAUMONT lives in Linlithgow, West Lothian, Scotland, and is currently an instructor at Dollar Academy. His tutors have included Bert Smith, Tom Speirs and currently, Willie McCallum.

Callum's solo piping achievements include:

- ♦ The Northern Meeting, Inverness — The Clasp (2012, 2015); The Highland Society of London Gold Medal (2013)
- ♦ Argyllshire Gathering, Oban — Highland Society of London Gold Medal (2011); Silver Medal (2006); MacGregor Memorial (2003); Open Jigs (2011)
- ♦ London — Former Winners' MSR (2014); Champion Piper (2014); A grade MSR (2009)
- ♦ The Donald MacLeod Memorial, Stornoway — Piobaireachd (2013); Overall Winner (2013)
- ♦ Skye — Silver Chanter (2013); Dunvegan Medal (2014); Col Jock MacDonald Clasp (2014); Dr. Allan MacDonald Cup for Overall Winner (2014)
- ♦ The Metro Cup, Newark, New Jersey — Medley (2014); Overall Winner (2014)
- ♦ Masters, National Piping Centre — Piobaireachd (2013)
- ♦ Braemar — Gold Medal (2014); Overall Winner (2014)
- ♦ Cowal Highland Gathering — Open Piobaireachd (2005)
- ♦ RU Brown, Australia — Clasp (2013, 2014); Gold Medal (2012); Open MSR (2012, 2013)
- ♦ Springbank Invitational, Campbeltown — Hornpipe and Jig (2013)

Callum has played with the Lothian and Borders Police Pipe Band, Shotts and Dykehead, Simon Fraser University, and Inveraray and District Pipe Band. His pipe band prizes include winning the World Pipe Band Championships three times, twice with Simon Fraser University and once with Shotts and Dykehead.

## Be a Patron of the Arts!

The Nicol-Brown 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, mail a check payable to the Nicol-Brown Chalice to:

**Barb McCarthy | 5 Ascot Circle, Apt. 9 | Saratoga Springs, NY 12866**

You may 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.

# The Competitors

## **MAEGHAN BIELSKI (Middleboro, Massachusetts)**

Maeghan started bagpipe lessons when she was eight. At Christmas 2008, she asked for a chanter and began lessons, initially from her parents. Maeghan played with her first band at the age of 10. In 2012, she began playing with the Grade 3 Worcester Kiltie Pipe Band, where she played for the next 2 years. Currently, Maeghan is finishing up her first season with the Grade 1 Stuart Highlanders Pipe Band. She has competed at the World Pipe Band Championships for the last three years. Maeghan has competed successfully in solo competitions, finishing in the number one position in Grades 2, 3, and 4Jr in EUSPBA, and in the top three out of 81 pipers in Grade 1 in 2014 and 2015. Maeghan also placed in the top two at the North American Championships. This past year, Maeghan was the recipient of the Robert Tunnicliffe Heritage Foundation Award. She has studied under John Sullivan, Nancy Tunnicliffe, and David Methven, and is presently studying with Donald Lindsay and Willie McCallum.

Maeghan is in her senior year at Middleboro High School. Her future goal is to become the first female pipe major of a Grade 1 band and win the World Pipe Band Championships.

## **TYLER BRIDGE (Guelph, Ontario)**

Tyler started his pipe band career in the early 2000s as a drummer playing with the Guelph Pipe Band in Grade 4 and Grade 3. Having played pipes without any official instruction since age five, he began proper piping tuition at age thirteen with Michael Baker in Fergus Ontario. Two years later, he started playing pipes with the Guelph Pipe Band.

In 2008, Tyler joined the 48th Highlanders of Canada as a drummer and in 2011 made the move to join their pipe section. In 2012, he went to Scotland with the 48th to perform at the Edinburgh Tattoo as part of the Canadian Armed Forces Pipes and Drums. In September of 2013, Tyler took over as Pipe Major of the Guelph Pipe Band and has lead the band to win the Champion Supreme title in Grade 4 on the Ontario pipe band circuit this past summer. Also in September of 2013, he began seeing Ed Neigh for weekly Light Music and Piobaireachd tuition. With Ed's expert instruction, Tyler began his solo piping career at the Grade One level. For the second year in a row, he has placed first in both Piobaireachd and Light Music categories on the Ontario solo circuit. Since Ed's passing in August 2015, Tyler has received a great deal of support and instruction from Calum MacDonald of Wellesley, Ontario.

Tyler is a graduate of the University of Guelph's music program where his area of concentration was jazz guitar performance. He currently works full time for JamSchool, a performance-based music school in Guelph, where he teaches bagpipes and directs a number of ensembles including several rock bands and a guitar orchestra.

## **ALLYSON CROWLEY-DUNCAN (Latham, New York)**

Allyson is 19 years old, and began playing the bagpipes in 2010. Since then, she has attended the World Pipe Band Championships twice with the Scotia-Glenville Pipe Band, placing 1st in the Novice Juvenile division in 2012, and placing 6th in Grade 3A this past summer. She has taught beginners for the Scotia-Glenville Pipe Band and acted as a playing instructor for their Grade 4 band. Ally has been a junior instructor at the Invermark College of Piping and Drumming since 2013. As a competitive soloist, Ally has won a number of prizes in both the United States and Scotland,

including a 6th place in the Amateur Clasp in Glasgow in 2014.

Ally is currently studying Music Education at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania, where she assists in teaching the pipe band on their campus. As well as bagpiping through her college, Ally acts in and composes music scores for short films and animations at the university. She plays often in the community for active duty military personnel and veterans, and is continuing this service by playing for ROTC events at college. Aside from playing bagpipes, Ally has been a member of many prestigious music ensembles playing the alto saxophone, clarinet, piano, and singing, but chooses to pursue a future in bagpiping.

## **JAMES DYSON (Dartmouth, Nova Scotia)**

James is an 18-year-old engineering student of Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He became interested in learning how to play pipes at the age of 12 after completing a school project on Scottish culture. James now plays with the 78th Highlanders (Halifax Citadel) Grade 1 band. James started with the 78th Highlanders Grade 5 band and played with them for two years. He played with the Grade 3 band in 2012 and played the 2013 season with the Grade 1 band. In 2014 the Grade 1 band came first at the North American Championships in Maxville and this season came 12th in the Grade 1 final at the World Pipe Band Championships.

James has been a competing soloist since 2010. He has been awarded the Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association's Grade 5, Grade 3, Grade 2, and Grade 1 Light Music Champion Supreme, as well as Piobaireachd Champion Supreme for Grades 3, 2, and 1. In 2012, he won the Intermediate Amateur Piobaireachd at Maxville.

James's other Piobaireachd prizes include ACPBA's Silver Medal for Piobaireachd twice, and the Nicol-Brown Chalice for Piobaireachd (2014). Some of James's other achievements are: placing second twice in Grade 1 Light Music at Winter Storm in Kansas City; three prizes at Maxville (2nd in the 6/8s, 1st in the March and 1st in the Strathspey/Reel); being a finalist in Pipe Idol at Piping Live in Scotland.

James would like to thank his family for their encouragement and support. He would also like to thank Alex Gandy for being an excellent teacher and motivator.

## **ANDREW HUTTON (Brantford, Ontario)**

Andrew began piping at the age of 8 and his first instructor was Gord Black. Andrew was taught by Ed Neigh for the last eight years, since the age of 12. Currently Andrew is receiving lessons from Bruce Gandy. Andrew is a member of the Paris Port Dover Grade 2 Band. He began playing in the band in Grade 5 in 2008 when the band won Champion Supreme for Ontario and also placed 2nd at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow. Andrew has moved up with the band and currently they are in Grade 2 after winning Champion Supreme for Grade 3 last year. The Paris Port Dover Pipe Band has provided Andrew with many opportunities, including playing at the Virginia Tattoo five times, The Basel Tattoo twice, World War II memorial sites in Normandy, France and the Crete International Music Festival. In 2010, he was chosen as one of the pipers in the band to play onstage with Paul McCartney in Toronto.

Andrew has attended the Ontario School of Piping and Drumming for eight years and the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming for two years. He has been competing as a solo player since the age of 12 in Ontario and EUSPBA contests. In November 2014, Andrew placed 2nd in the MSR at the George Sherriff Memorial Competition and 1st in the MSR at the Balmoral Classic. This past season, Andrew was Amateur Piper of the Day at the



Kingston Scottish Festival and the Cobourg Highland Games, and he placed 2nd in both Light Music and Piobaireachd for 2015 in the PPBSO. He has competed in the Toronto Knockout Competitions for the last six years, winning Division A this year.

Andrew is a sophomore at Houghton College in Western New York majoring in biochemistry with a minor in music where he also has the honour of being the School piper. Andrew is leaning toward the field of health care. Andrew is eternally grateful for the encouragement and expert teaching he received from Ed Neigh, his friend and mentor.

### **KEVIN McLEAN (Maple Ridge, British Columbia)**

Kevin is a 24-year-old student in his final semester at Simon Fraser University as a Communications Major with a Minor in History. He began piping in the Fall of 2003 as part of the Robert Malcolm Memorial (RMM) Pipe Band organization. He progressed through the chanter classes and Grade Five band before becoming the Pipe Major of RMM 4 in 2006. Kevin took lessons from Rorri McBlane from 2004-2006 and then began tuition from Alan Bevan from 2007-present. In 2007, he joined RMM 3 and competed in the Juvenile class at the World Championships where the band placed 2nd overall. He remained in RMM 3 through 2010 when he was eventually promoted to the SFU Pipe Band. Kevin has played in the finals at the World Championships with SFU each year since 2011. During his time with SFU, Kevin has also played concerts at the Lincoln Center in New York, S.E.C.C. in Glasgow, the Vogue in Vancouver, the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, and numerous other memorable performances.

In 2015, Kevin won the Grade 1 Aggregate at the BCPA Mini Gatherings, the Annual Gathering, Victoria Highland Games, Bellingham Highland Games, Kamloops Highland Games, Portland Highland Games, and the Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games. He was the overall Grade 1 Grand Aggregate winner for the 2015 British Columbia Pipers' Association season, finishing with the most points of any competitor in the BCPA.

### **CHRISTIAN RHOADS (St. Louis, Missouri)**

Christian is a 16-year-old home-schooled student who has been enamored with bagpipes since he was very young. In 2010, at age 11, his repeated requests for lessons were rewarded and he began his piping instruction under the tutelage of John Haack with the St. Louis Caledonian Pipe Band. After playing with the band for two years, he ventured into solo competitions and met with great success.

Christian began taking lessons with Matt Pantaleoni in 2013 and was rewarded by Matt's skill and experience. He has also received instruction from Chris Apps and Colin MacLellan. Christian took multiple first place awards in various MWPBA competitions in 2013 & 2014, placing second overall in Champion Supreme points. In 2015, Christian achieved his goal of obtaining Champion Supreme in Grade 1 Light Music and Piobaireachd. He has been awarded Piper of the Day at the 2014 Kentucky Highland Games and the 2015 Alma Highland Games. Christian attended the Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming in the summer of 2014, working with distinguished instructors, Willie McCallum and Brian Donaldson. While there, Christian had the honor of being selected to perform at the instructors' recital at Christ's Church Cathedral in Salina, Kansas. Christian is investigating universities that offer scholarship opportunities that can help further his education and piping career.

### **BLAISE THERIAULT (Halifax, Nova Scotia)**

Blaise grew up and has lived in Halifax, Nova Scotia his entire life. He started playing the bagpipes with the Dartmouth & District Pipe Band when he was eight years old. Since then, Blaise has been

playing with the band as well as teaching, and more recently began instructing Dartmouth's Grade 5 band. Currently, he receives piping instruction from John MacLean and Alex Gandy. He is also a member of a Celtic/Folk band named The Worry Birds. Outside of music, Blaise is a recent graduate from the Bachelor of Public Relations program at Mount Saint Vincent University.

### **LAUREANO THOMAS-SANCHEZ (Cleveland, Ohio)**

Laureano, a senior at Parma Community High School, began bagpipe instruction in 2010, at the age of 11. His first instructor, Wayne Holscott, was a crossing guard at his middle school and after a conversation about shared Scottish heritage, he offered lessons. In early 2011 he began lessons with Michael Crawley and joined the 87th Cleveland Pipe Band (Grade 4). In September 2011, Laureano began lessons with Barry Conway and joined the Great Lakes Pipe Band (Grade 2) who he currently plays with.

Over the past five years, Laureano has competed in solo events under the EUSPBA, MWPBA, WUSPBA, and PPBSO, placing in at least the top 3 in several events in each association every year, including the North American Championships. In 2012, Laureano competed in Grade 3 at the Pleasanton Scottish Games in California where he won Grade 3 Piper of the Day and the Under-16 Champion. He was Piper of the Day in 2012 (Grade 3), 2013 (Grade 2), and 2014 (Grade 1) at the Ligonier Highland Games, where he also won the 2014 MacCrimmon Quaich for Grade 1 Piobaireachd and the Clan Donald Educational and Charitable Trust Scholarship for Grade 2 Piobaireachd in 2013.

This February, Laureano competed at the Sandy Jones Invitational in South Carolina where he placed 1st in MSR. This summer, he was Piper of the Day at the Ohio Scottish Games and the New Hampshire Highland Games, where he also received the Clan MacLeod MacCrimmon Quaich for Piobaireachd. In April, he won the MWPBA annual Terry McHugh Amateur Solo Piping Championship.

Laureano has attended the Ohio Scottish Arts School from 2011-2015 where he received instruction under Bob Worrall, Reay MacKay, and Craig Munro. At OSAS, he has received the Jack Robertson Scholarship awarded to someone who is passionate about playing pipes (2012), Allan MacDonald Memorial Scholarship for the most promising young piper (2014), and the Robert Callander Memorial Award for the piper who demonstrates perseverance, dedication, and development (2015). Laureano's time at OSAS has been very influential to his bagpipe career and he hopes to one day be part of the teaching staff.

### **JACK TOOHEY (Newberg, Oregon)**

Jack is 18 years old and a sophomore in college pursuing a major in business. He began to play the bagpipes at the age of twelve under the instruction of his father, John Toohey. He joined the Portland Metro Youth Pipe Band, playing with the band for four years. Then, at age 16, he became the pipe major and led the band to two successful seasons of competition in the Pacific Northwest. As a solo competitor, he has won the Grand Aggregate for the British Columbia Pipers' Association in Grades 3 and 2, and won multiple competitions in Grade 1. In addition to his father, he takes Piobaireachd instruction from Colin MacKenzie. Jack enjoys teaching other students of the bagpipes as well.

Jack would like to thank everyone for their encouragement and support. In addition, thanks to the Portland Police Pipe Band and grandparents Peter and Dona for their financial gifts.

# 6/8 Marches

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

1. **LAUREANO THOMAS-SANCHEZ**  
P/M Charles Timmers  
George Sherriff
2. **JAMES DYSON**  
The MacNeils of Ugadale  
All The Blue Bonnets are Over the Border
3. **CHRISTIAN RHOADS**  
Jean Mauchline  
Captain C. R. Lumsden
4. **ALLYSON CROWLEY-DUNCAN**  
Angus McKinnon  
The British Legion
5. **MAEGHAN BIELSKI**  
Captain Lumsden  
Miss Ishabel T. MacDonald
6. **ANDREW HUTTON**  
Miss Ishabel T. MacDonald  
The Price of a Bottle of Beer
7. **JACK TOOHEY**  
Kirk Hill  
The Braemar Gathering
8. **KEVIN McLEAN**  
Cameron MacFadyen  
Jean Mauchline
9. **BLAISE THERIAULT**  
The MacNeils of Ugadale  
The Heights of Cassino
10. **TYLER BRIDGE**  
The Bonawe Highlanders  
Dundee City Police Pipe Band

## IMPORTANT PHOTO OP

Please meet in the sanctuary immediately following the final 6/8 March performance for the official 2015 group photo of the competitors and judges. Weather permitting, outdoor photos will also be taken at this time.

*Please wear your Nicol-Brown lapel pin!*

# Piobaireachd

(The judge has selected one tune for each competitor.)

1. **MAEGHAN BIELSKI**  
Lament for the Departure of King James  
Lament for the Viscount of Dundee  
The MacFarlanes' Gathering
2. **ANDREW HUTTON**  
The Massacre of Glencoe  
Too Long in this Condition  
Old Men of the Shells
3. **JACK TOOHEY**  
Melbank's Salute  
Sir James MacDonald of the Isles' Lament  
The MacFarlanes' Gathering
4. **KEVIN McLEAN**  
The Fingerlock  
The Red Speckled Bull  
The Groat
5. **BLAISE THERIAULT**  
The Piper's Warning to His Master  
The End of the Great Bridge  
Lament for Donald of Laggan
6. **TYLER BRIDGE**  
Black Donald's March  
The Big Spree  
Lament for Mary MacLeod (with High A's)
7. **LAUREANO THOMAS-SANCHEZ**  
The Battle of Auldearn (No. 1)  
Corrienessan's Salute  
The Marquis of Argyll's Salute
8. **JAMES DYSON**  
Old Men of the Shells  
Scarce Of Fishing  
Ronald MacDonald Of Morar's Lament
9. **CHRISTIAN RHOADS**  
Corrienessan's Salute  
MacLeod's Controversy  
The MacFarlanes' Gathering
10. **ALLYSON CROWLEY-DUNCAN**  
Too Long in This Condition  
The Desperate Battle of the Birds  
The Marquis of Argyll's Salute

# March, Strathspey, and Reel

(The judge has selected one set of tunes for each competitor.)

## 1. KEVIN McLEAN

2/4 Marches: Miss Elspeth Campbell  
John MacDonald of Glencoe  
Strathspeys: Tulloch Castle  
The Ewe wi' the Crookit Horn (Capt. J. MacLellan setting)  
Reels: The Smith of Chilliechassie  
The Sheepwife

## 2. BLAISE THERIAULT

2/4 Marches: Donald MacLean's Farewell to Oban  
Angus Campbell's Farewell to Stirling  
Strathspeys: Pipe Major Hector MacLean  
The Doune of Invernochty  
Reels: Kalabakan  
Traditional (by Donald MacLeod)

## 3. TYLER BRIDGE

2/4 Marches: Mrs. Duncan MacFadyen  
Donald MacLellan of Rothesay  
Strathspeys: Highland Harry  
Maggie Cameron  
Reels: Thomson's Dirk  
The Smith of Chilliechassie (6-parted John MacLellan setting)

## 4. LAUREANO THOMAS-SANCHEZ

2/4 Marches: Alan Dodd's Farewell to Scotland  
John MacColl's March to Kilbowie Cottage  
Strathspeys: Inveraray Castle  
Cabar Feidh  
Reels: Sandy Cameron  
Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran

## 5. JAMES DYSON

2/4 Marches: Leaving Lunga  
Mrs. MacDonald of Dunach  
Strathspeys: Loch Loskin  
Inveraray Castle  
Reels: The Sound of Sleat  
John Morrison of Assynt House

## 6. CHRISTIAN RHOADS

2/4 Marches: The 74th's Farewell to Edinburgh  
Colin Thompson  
Strathspeys: Highland Harry  
John Roy Stewart  
Reels: Alick C. MacGregor  
Lieutenant Colonel D.J.S. Murray

## 7. ALLYSON CROWLEY-DUNCAN

2/4 Marches: Mrs. John MacColl  
Bonnie Ann  
Strathspeys: The Piper's Bonnet  
Stac Polly  
Reels: Broadford Bay  
Miss Proud

## 8. MAEGHAN BIELSKI

2/4 Marches: The Royal Scottish Pipers' Society  
Parker's Welcome to Perthshire  
Strathspeys: John Roy Stewart  
The Islay Ball  
Reels: The Brown Haired Maid  
Alick C. MacGregor

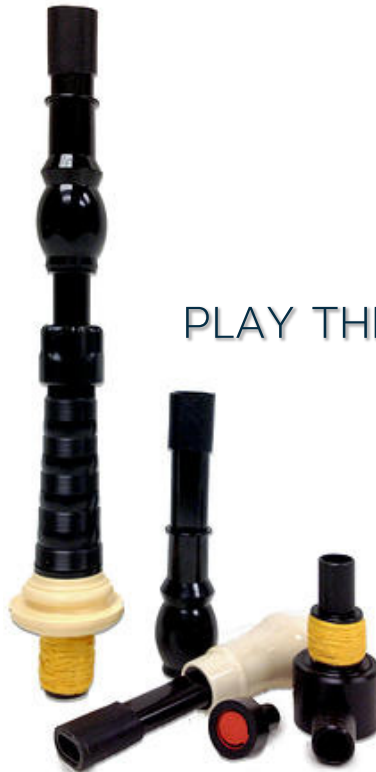
## 9. ANDREW HUTTON

2/4 Marches: Major Manson of Clachantrushal  
John MacDonald's Welcome to South Uist  
Strathspeys: Catlodge  
Lady Loudon  
Reels: The Brown Haired Maid ("Ca' The Ewes")  
Broadford Bay

## 10. JACK TOOHEY

2/4 Marches: Arthur Bignold of Lochrosque  
Major Manson's Farewell to Clachantrushal  
Strathspeys: Susan MacLeod  
Lady Loudon  
Reels: Colonel MacLeod  
Bessie MacIntyre

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The Executive Committee of the  
**Eastern United States Pipe Band Association**  
extends a very warm welcome to

## **Callum Beaumont**

and best wishes to all of the competitors, volunteers,  
organizers and spectators at the Nicol-Brown Amateur  
Invitational Piping Competition.



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

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Wayne Holscott, *Officer-at-Large*

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## **Please join us for the 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

**November 13-15, 2015**

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Friday Evening:	Annual Reports/Old Business Meeting
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Saturday Night:	Professional Drumming Contest & Ceilidh
Sunday:	Judges' Seminar

### **For more information, please contact:**

Executive Secretary Sheldon Hamblin at [zecsec@euspba.org](mailto:zecsec@euspba.org)



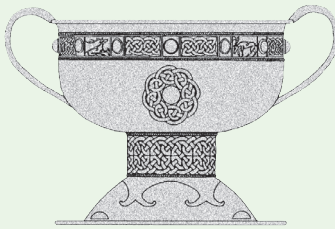
# History

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.



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Donald F. Lindsay, Founder  
Ursa Beckford  
Daniel Cole  
Maureen Connor  
Paula Glendinning  
Barbara McCarthy  
JoAnn Scott  
Heather Scott-Wisheart  
Mary Robinson White  
Kevin Wisheart

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David Rennie  
Scotia-Glenville Pipe Band  
JoAnn Scott  
Heather Scott-Wisheart & Kevin Wisheart  
Nancy Tunnicliffe  
Trudi VanOmmeren, Steward  
Mary Robinson White  
Rick Woolard

Each competitor this year will receive an Airstream Blowpipe donated by Scott's Highland Services, Ltd. of London, Ontario, as well as a Nicol-Brown lapel pin, a Nicol-Brown towel, and a framed group photo. The lapel pins this year are a new edition, designed by Charlie Glendinning and sponsored by Steve Porter.

## DEDICATIONS

Doreen Forney's donation was given in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald.

Robert Mitchell's donation was given in memory of P/M Ed Neigh.

Steve Porter's donation was given in gratitude and appreciation for what Invermark has meant to him and to countless other pipers and drummers over the years. Keep making wonderful music and magical experiences!

Rick Woolard's donation was given in memory of Ronald Morrison of South Uist.

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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. In 2007, Stephen Walker designed a new edition of the buckle, to be awarded for the ninth 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.

The overall Nicol-Brown champion for 2015 will win round-trip airfare from a major North American airport to London to compete in the Scottish Piping Society of London competitions in November 2016. The timing of the trip 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 passed away in the spring of 1972.



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 it is a masterpiece.

## 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"
2009	Anthony Masterson: "The Mackays' Banner"
2010	Robert Durning: "Lament for the Viscount of Dundee"
2011	Joseph Stewart: "The Red Speckled Bull"
2012	Alexander Schiele: "The King's Taxes"
2013	Andrew Mackay: "The Massacre of Glencoe"
2014	James Dyson: "MacCrimmon's Sweetheart"

## William Ross Challenge Targe for MSR

1987	Alasdair Wright	2001	Lionel Tupman
1988	Daniel Whatley	2002	Lionel Tupman
1989	Ken McKeveny	2003	Lyric Todkill
1990	Robert Boyd	2004	Andrew Lewis
1991	Alan Bevan	2005	Alex Gandy
1993	Paula Glendinning	2006	Micah Babinski
1994	Jason Briscoe	2007	Alastair Lee
1995	Michael Rogers	2008	John Lee
1996	Michael Rogers	2009	Anthony Masterson
1997	Steven Tripp	2010	Glenn Walpole
1998	Andrew Douglas	2011	Ursa Beckford
1999	Glenn Brown	2012	Alexander Schiele
2000	Glenn Brown	2013	Liam Hilder
		2014	Liam Hilder



## Donald MacLeod Memorial 6/8 Marches

1990	P. Andrew L. Hayes	2003	Lyric Todkill
1991	Alan Bevan	2004	Robert Beaton
1993	Jamie Troy	2005	Colin Lee
1994	Ryan MacDonald	2006	Kegan Sheehan
1995	Paula Glendinning	2007	Gordon Conn
1996	Ryan MacDonald	2008	Johnny Bassett
1997	Joss Fisher	2009	Richard Gillies
1998	Andrew Douglas	2010	Chris Lee
1999	Glenn Brown	2011	Joseph Stewart
2000	Andrew J. Hayes	2012	Joseph Stewart
2001	Lionel Tupman	2013	Jack Williamson
2002	Lionel Tupman	2014	Tyler Bridge

## 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 Durriss, 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-racking 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 *The Piper's Handbook* by Pipe Major John 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

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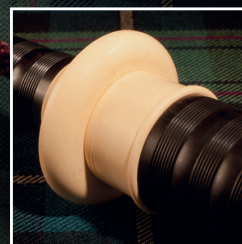
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## Results of the 32nd Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

October 11, 2014 ~~ Albany, New York

Judges: P. Andrew L. Hayes and Michael Rogers

### 2014 OVERALL NICOL-BROWN CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Liam Hilder (15 points) Airfare to London sponsored by the New Hampshire Highland Games and by Steve Porter; and an McC<sup>2</sup> blackwood pipe chanter with a custom-engraved sole donated by McCallum Bagpipes.
2. James Dyson (13 pts) Peter Henderson Blackwood Pipe Chanter donated by Henderson's Ltd.
3. Kevin McLean (12 pts) \$200 piping scholarship donated by Bonnie Rideout.
4. Tyler Harris (9 pts) \$150 piping scholarship donated by Joseph Stewart and family.

### ROBERT NICOL-ROBERT BROWN CHALICE FOR PIOBAIREACHD

1. James Dyson (9) "MacCrimmon's Sweetheart" Prize: A bound Piobaireachd Society Collection donated by Jon Maffett from The Piper's Hut.
2. Kevin McLean (7) "The Red Speckled Bull"
3. Sean Regan (6) "Lament for Patrick Og"
4. Liam Hilder (5) "Hector MacLean's Warning"
5. Tyler Harris (4) "Too Long in this Condition"

### WILLIAM ROSS CHALLENGE TARGE FOR MSR

1. Liam Hilder (8) "Abercairney Highlanders," "Delvinside," "The Sheepwife" Prize: A bound William Ross Collection donated by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald, First Battalion Scots Guards.
2. Jack Williamson (6) "Brig. Gen. R. Cheape of Tiroran," "John Roy Stewart," "Ca' the Ewes"
3. Tyler Harris (5) "The Taking of Beaumont Hamel," "The Islay Ball," "Bessie McIntyre"
4. Kevin McLean (4) "J. MacDonald of Glencoe," "Ewe wi' the Crookit Horn," "Loch Carron"
5. Andrew Hahn (3) "Clan MacColl," "The Piper's Bonnet," "John Morrison of Assynt House"

### DONALD MACLEOD MEMORIAL 6/8 MARCHES

1. Tyler Bridge (6) "The Bonawe Highlanders" & "Dundee City Police Pipe Band" Prize: The Donald MacLeod Silver Buckle donated by Stephen Walker.
2. James Dyson (4) "Dornoch Highland Gath." & "All the Blue Bonnets are Over the Border"
3. Kaitlin Kimove (3) "MacLeod of Mull" and "John Gordon of Drummuie"
4. Liam Hilder (2) "Fairview Cottage" and "The Trees of North Uist"
5. Kevin McLean (1) "The Braemar Gathering" and "Mrs. Lily Christie"

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

1. Maeghan Bielski A \$50 gift card for Henderson's Ltd. donated by Joseph Stewart & family.



Amateur and Professional Championships

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Amateur competitions are open to all Grade 1 pipers. Amateurs will submit four tunes of each type of their own choosing.

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**The Nicol-Brown committee would like to thank the organizers of the New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival for their continued support of Amateur piping through a major contribution to our prize list.**

The trip to compete in London is an outstanding opportunity for the Nicol-Brown Champion each year. This prize is made possible by the generosity of the New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival.

An invitation to the Nicol-Brown is held each year for the Amateur Grade One Piper of the Day at the New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival, provided that piper has also played in the Grade One Piobaireachd event that day.



Results of the 33rd Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest  
October 10, 2015 ~::~ Albany, New York  
Judge: Callum Beaumont

2015 OVERALL NICOL-BROWN CHAMPIONSHIP

1. KEVIN McLEAN (18 points) Airfare to London in November 2016 sponsored by the New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival and by Steve Porter; and an McC<sup>2</sup> blackwood pipe chanter with custom-engraved sole, donated by McCallum Bagpipes.
2. TYLER BRIDGE (17 points) A Peter Henderson Blackwood Pipe Chanter donated by Henderson's Ltd.
3. CHRISTIAN RHOADS (11 points) A \$200 piping scholarship sponsored by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald, 1st Battalion Scots Guards.
4. MAEGHAN BIELSKI (10 points) A \$150 piping scholarship sponsored by Ben Bhraggie House, Ltd.

(Points for  
overall  
champion)

ROBERT NICOL-ROBERT BROWN CHALICE FOR PIOBAIREACHD

- (9) 1. KEVIN McLEAN "The Red Speckled Bull" Prize: A bound Piobaireachd Society Collection donated by Jon Maffett from The Piper's Hut.
- (7) 2. TYLER BRIDGE "The Big Spree" Prize: *Binneas is Boreraig* and Donald MacDonald's *Collection of Piobaireachd*, sponsored by Bonnie Rideout.
- (6) 3. LAUREANO THOMAS-SANCHEZ "The Battle of Auldearn" #1 Prize: A \$75 gift certificate for The Piper's Hut sponsored by Joseph Stewart and family.
- (5) 4. CHRISTIAN RHOADS "MacLeod's Controversy" Prize: *Piobaireachd Fingerwork* by Jim McGillivray, and A. G. Kenneth's *Collection, Book 5*, donated by Duncan's Highland Supply.
- (4) 5. MAEGHAN BIELSKI "Lament for the Departure of King James" Prize: *Sight Readable Ceol Mor* by Dugald MacNeill, and The Piobaireachd Society's *Collection of Ceol Mór Composed during the 20th Century*, donated by Duncan's Highland Supply.

WILLIAM ROSS CHALLENGE TARGE FOR MARCH, STRATHSPEY, AND REEL

- (8) 1. JAMES DYSON "Leaving Lunga," "Loch Loskin," and "The Sound of Sleat"  
Prize: A McCallum long blackwood practice chanter with custom-engraved sole, bowl, and presentation ferrule, donated by The Piper's Dojo.
- (6) 2. MAEGHAN BIELSKI A McCallum long plastic practice chanter with engraved ferrule sponsored by Barb, Erin, and Dan McCarthy.
- (5) 3. KEVIN McLEAN *Scots Guards, Vol. 2* and *The Bagpipe Music of John McLellan 1875-1949* sponsored by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald.
- (4) 4. TYLER BRIDGE *Scots Guards Standard Settings of Pipe Music, Vol. 1* sponsored by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald.
- (3) 5. CHRISTIAN RHOADS *The Bagpipe Music of John MacColl 1860-1943*, sponsored by JoAnn Scott.

DONALD MACLEOD MEMORIAL 6/8 MARCHES

- (6) 1. TYLER BRIDGE "The Bonawe Highlanders" and "Dundee City Police Pipe Band"  
Prize: The Donald MacLeod Memorial Silver Buckle created and donated by Stephen Walker of Walker Metalsmiths.
- (4) 2. KEVIN McLEAN A \$75 gift certificate for Henderson Imports sponsored by Joseph Stewart and family.
- (3) 3. CHRISTIAN RHOADS A \$60 gift certificate to The Piper's Dojo sponsored by Betsy and Bruce Douglas.
- (2) 4. LAUREANO THOMAS-SANCHEZ *The Gordon Highlanders Pipe Music Collection, Vol. 1* sponsored by Betsy and Bruce Douglas.
- (1) 5. JAMES DYSON *The Seaforth Highlanders Collection* sponsored by Nancy Tunncliffe.

DRESS AND DEPARTMENT (judged by Donald F. Lindsay)

1. MAEGHAN BIELSKI The men's or women's piping vest of your choice from Henderson's Ltd. sponsored by the Spicer family.

Save the Date! ■ October 8, 2016

The Nicol-Brown Contest is on the Saturday of Columbus Day Weekend/Canadian Thanksgiving Weekend.



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