

THE THIRTY-FOURTH
NICOL-BROWN
AMATEUR INVITATIONAL
PIPING COMPETITION

OCTOBER 8, 2016

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The 2016 Nicol-Brown weekend

FRIDAY, October 7, 2016

Willie McCallum & Nick Hudson Concert

7:00 pm at First Reformed Church of Scotia

The 2016 competitors will be introduced, and tune selections for the contest on Saturday will be announced.

SATURDAY, October 8, 2016

The Contest

9:30 am to 7:00 pm at First Reformed Church of Scotia

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 9, 2016

Master Class with Willie McCallum & Nick Hudson

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 the judges, and pipers at all levels are encouraged to observe the Master Class.

Topics will include musical expression, technique, and progressing toward the professional level. Questions? Call Maureen Connor: 518-374-6034.



Seminars and Master Classes with Donald F. Lindsay

Albany, New York

October 21-23, 2016

February 10-12, 2017

Professionals and upper level amateurs

For more information or to register:

donald.f.lindsay@gmail.com

Judges for the Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

1982	Ed Neigh	2002	Jack Taylor
1983	James McGillivray	2003	Bruce Gandy and Michael Rogers
1984	Murray Henderson	2004	Stuart Liddell and Donald F. Lindsay
1985	Donald F. Lindsay	2005	Donald MacPhee
1986	William Livingstone	2006	John Wilson and Alasdair Gillies
1987	Amy Garson, Ed Krintz and Chip Reardon	2007	John Wilson and Nancy Tunnickliffe
1988	Donald F. Lindsay	2008	Nancy Tunnickliffe, Bobby Minnear and R. Iain MacDonald
1989	Seumas MacNeill	2009	Murray Henderson, Amy Garson and Andrew Douglas
1990	James McGillivray	2010	Angus MacColl
1991	Colin MacLellan	2011	Jack Taylor and Bruce Gandy
1993	George Bell and Donald F. Lindsay	2012	Willie McCallum, Nancy Tunnickliffe and Paula Glendinning
1994	Colin MacLellan and Donald F. Lindsay	2013	Patrick Molard, Andrew Hayes and June Hanley
1995	Bob Worrall	2014	Andrew Hayes and Michael Rogers
1996	Scott MacAulay and Donald F. Lindsay	2015	Callum Beaumont
1997	Donald F. Lindsay	2016	Willie McCallum and Nick Hudson
1998	Jack Lee		
1999	Michael Cusack		
2000	Alasdair Gillies		
2001	Michael Rogers		

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The Nicol-Brown committee welcomes the judges for 2016:

Willie McCallum and Nick Hudson



PHOTO BY DEREK MAXWELL

WILLIE McCALLUM is a native of Campbeltown, Kintyre, where he learned piping primarily from his uncles Ronald and Hugh and also occasionally from P/M Ronald McCallum, Piper to the Duke of Argyll. This is Willie's second time judging at the Nicol-Brown, and it is an immense privilege to have him join us this weekend in Scotia. Willie is a Gold Medallist at Inverness and Oban, and in the last 30 years has been in the top echelons of solo piping. He has won the Glenfiddich Championship a record eight times, and recently qualified for this year's competition for the 29th time in succession. Willie's career wins include the Senior Piobaireachd Oban (3), Bratach Gorm (4), Silver Chanter (3), Former Winners' MSR Oban (5), Former Winners' MSR Inverness (4), P/M Donald MacLeod Memorial (9), Springbank Invitational (9), Dan Reid Memorial (7), Donald MacDonald Quach (3), Former Winners' MSR London (5), Gillies Cup London (2).

Willie recently took up a position at the National Piping Centre in Glasgow as lead tutor on the B. Mus Degree Programme. He runs his own piping business, Willie McCallum Piping, which involves teaching, as well as selling bagpipes, being consultant to bagpipe maker McCallum Bagpipes Ltd, in Kilmarnock, and similarly involved at Bannatyne Ltd, Pipe Bag maker, working on developing bags and moisture control devices. Willie lives in Bearsden, Scotland with his wife Christine, and has two children, Hailey and Scott.

NICK HUDSON is a native of Gaithersburg, Maryland, and lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with his wife, Amanda. Nick is the Director of Piping at The College of Wooster and received a BFA in Music Performance under Alasdair Gillies and Jimmy McIntosh at Carnegie Mellon University. His performance highlights include winning the Silver Medal at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban (2016), B MSR at the Northern Meeting in Inverness (2016), Braemar Gold Medal (2016), Piobaireachd Society Gold Medal, Canada (2015), EUSPBA Professional Overall Season Champion (2015), and The Livingstone Invitational (2016). Nick plays in the Toronto Police Pipe Band and is a member of the EUSPBA Judges' Panel.



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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.
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 years old. 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 World Champion Worcester Kiltie Pipe Band, where she played for the next two years. She also played two seasons with the former Grade 1 Stuart Highlanders Pipe Band. The last three years, she has competed at the World Pipe Band Championships. Maeghan has competed successfully in solo competitions, finishing in the number one position in Grades 2, 3, and 4 Jr. in EUSPBA, and in the top three out of 81 pipers in Grade 1 in 2014 and 2015, and number 1 in 2016. This year, at the US Piping Foundation, held at the University of Delaware, Maeghan took first in both the MSR and Piobaireachd, winning the overall prize. Last year at the Nicol-Brown, Maeghan came in fourth overall with a second in the MSR and fifth in the Piobaireachd. She has studied under John Sullivan, Nancy Tunnicliffe, and David Methven and is presently studying with both Donald Lindsay and Willie McCallum.

Maeghan is a freshman at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and is also a member of the Commonwealth Honors College. Her future goal is to become a pipe major of a Grade 1 band and win the World Pipe Band Championships.

AUSTIN DIEPENHORST San Diego, California

Austin started piping lessons at the age of 12. His first teacher was Charlie Rosenberger whom he credits with a great grounding and much patience. After a couple years, Austin then began to study with Richard King who has played a major role in his life both on and off the piping platform. Richard took Austin from Grade 3 right up to the Grade 1 level, but has also been a very positive influence in Austin's personality and his overall approach to life.

In 2015, Austin began taking lessons with Bruce Gandy and since then has won the 2015 George Sherriff Overall, the 2016 Winter Storm Championship in Kansas and the overall aggregate in Grade 1 for the WUSPBA in both 2015 and 2016. Most recently, Austin was a finalist at the MacGregor Memorial Competition at the Argyllshire Gathering this past August.

Austin turns 19 during the Nicol-Brown Weekend and is a recent graduate from high school. He is now in the application steps for a transitioning program in the San Francisco Bay area, tailored toward the visually impaired. This will assist Austin with technology and mobility skills as well as overall living skills to prepare him to enter the job market.

Austin would like to take this moment to thank some special people: his parents, Tanya and David for their support, his friends, for their ongoing help, and all of the organizers of this event for their assistance. A final note of thanks to

all of his instructors for giving him the opportunity and ability to play, which brought him here today to compete.

ANDREW HUTTON Brantford, Ontario

Andrew began piping at the age of 8 with instructor Gord Black, and was then taught for 8 years by Ed Neigh. He currently is receiving instruction from Bruce Gandy. Andrew is currently a member of the Paris Port Dover Grade 2 Band. In addition to competing with the band, he has played with them at the Virginia International Tattoo five times and at the Basel Tattoo in Switzerland twice.

Andrew has been competing as a solo player since the age of 12, both in PPBSO and EUSPBA contests. Andrew competed in the Toronto Knockout Competitions, winning Division A in 2015. In February 2016, Andrew won the Grade 1 CLASP at the National Piping Centre in Glasgow. This year, Andrew was Amateur Piper of the Day at Georgetown Highland Games, Embro, Kincardine, Cambridge and at the North American Championships in Maxville and at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina. He placed 1st in Grade 1 Piobaireachd and 2nd in Grade 1 Light Music in PBBSO.

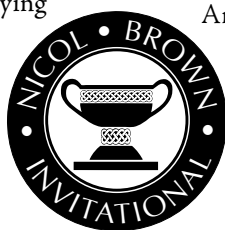
Andrew is a junior, majoring in Biology at Houghton College in Western New York, where he also has the honor of being the school piper. Andrew spent the last semester studying abroad at the University of Glasgow and the National Piping Centre. While there he had the wonderful privilege of playing with the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland in April 2016. Andrew is grateful for the many wonderful instructors who have given him encouragement for many years, most notably Ed Neigh and Bruce Gandy.

TORI KILLORAN Pitt Meadows, British Columbia

Tori is a third year Criminology student at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia. She started piping at the age of 9 under the instruction of Scot Kortegaard and later Edmund Chilton. Currently, Tori receives instruction from Jack Lee and Alan Bevan.

The Kamloops Pipe Band Society was the first band that Tori played with, and in 2011 she was asked to join the Robert Malcolm Memorial (RMM) Grade 4 Pipe Band. Tori travelled to Glasgow Green in 2012 and competed with the Grade 4 band, coming third in the Novice Juvenile Category. The following year, Tori was promoted into the Grade 2 RMM Pipe Band where she played for two years. In 2015, she was promoted to the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band. One highlight in Tori's piping career has been playing at the Glasgow Concert Hall for the Pre-Worlds Concert in 2015.

Tori is also a competitive highland dancer who has represented British Columbia at the Canadian Highland Dancing Championships in Edmonton and Montreal. One of the highlights of Tori's dancing career was being a part of the 2014 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Highland Dance Team. Tori enjoys sharing her passion of the Scottish Arts with her piping and dancing students.



GAVIN MACKAY Kitchener, Ontario

Gavin is a 15-year-old high school student at Cameron Heights Collegiate in Kitchener, Ontario. He is currently instructed by Bob Worrall and plays with the Grade 1 Toronto Police Pipe Band. He started piping in 2011 under the expert guidance of Gail Brown and Ed Neigh until Ed's sudden passing last summer. Gavin comes from a family of pipers, as his two aunts, Angela and Lynda Mackay, along with his father, Andrew, are all pipers and have all competed at the Nicol-Brown.

Last fall, Gavin won the Under-15 overall championship at the Northern Meeting in Inverness and the Balmoral Classic US Junior (Under-21) Solo Piping Championship in Pittsburgh. This spring, he won the 2015/16 Toronto "A" division knockout for Grade 1 and Grade 2 players. 2016 is Gavin's first year in Grade 1. This season, he was Amateur Piper of the Day at the Cobourg, Fergus, and Almonte Highland Games. He also won the PPBSO Champion Supreme for Light Music this year for the fifth consecutive grade.

Gavin wants to thank his grandparents, Susan and Mike Mackay at Ben Bhraggie House, for everything they contribute to his piping. He especially wants to thank all of his immediate and extended family for their constant support and encouragement, and for always providing the biggest cheering section.

MICHAEL McLEOD Greenwood, South Carolina

Michael started playing bagpipes at age 9. He joined the Grade 5 Palmetto Pipes and Drums in 2011, and currently plays with the Grade 3 Atlanta Pipe Band. Under the tutelage of Jimmy McIntosh, MBE, he is an accomplished solo competitor, having achieved Grade 1 status at age 14. Michael has also received additional instruction during multiple summers at the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming. He placed first in MSR in the 2016 Sandy Jones Invitational contest, and was Piper of the Day at Loch Norman Highland Games, receiving the Clan MacLeod MacCrimmon Quaich for Piobaireachd. He is a sophomore in high school and plays saxophone in the school band. Other instruments he plays are piano, guitar, Scottish smallpipes, trombone, Irish whistle, and ocarina.

Michael would like to thank his parents for their patience and support, and is especially grateful to Jimmy McIntosh for his masterful instruction and unending encouragement.

BEN MONTROSS Waterbury, Vermont

Ben began piping at the age of 14 with a parade band in his home town of Red Hook, New York. This winter will mark 20 years since he started playing. Over the last 20 years, Ben has studied with several teachers and played with several bands throughout the northeastern United States, including Carnegie Mellon University, Capital Region Celtic, Columbia and District, Catamount, and Oran Mor. He currently studies with Derek Midgley.

Ben lives in Waterbury, Vermont with his wife Kate, who he married in 2013, and works for the State of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. After taking

several years off from competitive piping for personal reasons, Ben resumed competing in 2015, and over the 2016 season was the Piper of the Day at the Rhode Island, Maine, Quechee, and Capital District Games. He has assembled a large collection of prizes from competing throughout the Eastern United States and Canada. In 2016, he won the Grade 1 March B and placed third in the Senior Amateur Piobaireachd A at the Glengarry Highland Games. He aspires to one day become a judge. Ben wants to thank his family for the contributions, sacrifices, and support along the way to help get him to this point in his piping career.

CHRISTIAN RHOADS St. Louis, Missouri

Christian is a 17 year old home school student who has been enamored with bagpipes since he was very young. In 2010, at age 11, 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 took multiple first place awards in various MWPBA competitions in 2013 and 2014, placing second overall in Champion Supreme points. In 2015, Christian achieved Champion Supreme in Grade 1 Light Music and Piobaireachd. He was awarded Piper of the Day at the 2015 & 2016 Alma Highland Games and 2016 Columbus Highland Games. In 2016, Christian achieved Champion Supreme in Grade 1 Light Music.

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 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 is investigating universities that offer scholarship opportunities that can help further his education and piping career.

SARAH SIMPSON Cavendish, Prince Edward Island

Sarah Simpson has been taking lessons at The College of Piping in Summerside, P.E.I. since age 8. She has studied under James MacHattie, Matt MacLaine and the late Scott MacAulay, and is currently a member of The College of Piping's Grade 2 band. Outside of highland piping, Sarah is a member of P.E.I.'s Traditional Scottish Smallpiper's Club and is an Engineering Technologist in Geomatics with Canada's federal department of Public Works.

Sarah is honored to compete at the 2016 Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational, and would like to thank The College of Piping, Doug and Debbie Hall, Barnone Brewery, the Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association, and her parents, Susan and Bruce, for their ongoing and continued support.

6/8 Marches

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

- 1. AUSTIN DIEPENHORST**
Pipe Major Sam Scott
Leaving Port Askaig
- 2. CHRISTIAN RHOADS**
Jean Mauchline
Captain C. R. Lumsden
- 3. SARAH SIMPSON**
Dundee City Police Pipe Band
Fairview Cottage
- 4. TORI KILLORAN**
Dovecote Park
Jean Mauchline
- 5. BEN MONTROSS**
Bonawe Highlanders
Dornoch Highland Gathering
- 6. MAEGHAN BIELSKI**
Lord MacPherson
Captain Lumsden
- 7. ANDREW HUTTON**
Miss Ishabel T. Macdonald
The High Island
- 8. MICHAEL McLEOD**
The Trees of North Uist
Kenneth J. MacLeod
- 9. GAVIN MACKAY**
Bruce Gandy's Farewell to The Iron Horse
The Judging Was Bad

IMPORTANT PHOTO OP

Please meet in the sanctuary immediately following the final 6/8 March performance for the official 2016 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 judges have selected one tune for each competitor.)

- 1. TORI KILLORAN**
The Big Spree
The King's Taxes
Nameless (*Hibarin odin hibirin dro*)
- 2. BEN MONTROSS**
The MacDonalds are Simple
The Marquis of Argyll's Salute
Lament for Captain MacDougall
- 3. MAEGHAN BIELSKI**
The MacKays' Banner
The MacFarlanes' Gathering
Lament for the Departure of King James
- 4. ANDREW HUTTON**
Lament for the Viscount of Dundee
The Battle of Waternish
MacLeod of Raasay's Salute
- 5. MICHAEL McLEOD**
Lament for the Children
Too Long in this Condition
Lord Lovat's Lament
- 6. GAVIN MACKAY**
Catherine's Lament
The MacFarlanes' Gathering
The Battle of Auldearn No. 1
- 7. AUSTIN DIEPENHORST**
Lament for the Viscount of Dundee
Too Long in This Condition
The Little Spree
- 8. CHRISTIAN RHOADS**
Corrienessan's Salute
The MacFarlanes' Gathering
I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand
- 9. SARAH SIMPSON**
Lament for the Viscount of Dundee
Queen Anne's Lament
MacCrimmon's Sweetheart

March, Strathspey, and Reel

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

1. ANDREW HUTTON

2/4 Marches: The Pap of Glencoe
Stornoway Highland Gathering
Strathspeys: The Piper's Bonnet
The Islay Ball
Reels: The Man from Glengarry
The Cockerel in the Creel

2. MICHAEL McLEOD

2/4 Marches: Bonnie Ann
Captain Campbell of Drum a Voisk
Strathspeys: The Shepherd's Crook
Kirstie MacCallman's Favourite
Reels: The Cockerel in the Creel
Lieutenant Colonel D. J. S. Murray

3. GAVIN MACKAY

2/4 Marches: The Clan MacColl
John MacDonald's Welcome to South Uist
Strathspeys: The Islay Ball
Inveraray Castle
Reels: Kalabakan
Johnnie MacDonald's Reel

4. AUSTIN DIEPENHORST

2/4 Marches: Major Manson's Farewell to Clachantrushal
The Braes of Castle Grant
Strathspeys: Highland Harry
Inveraray Castle
Reels: The Grey Bob
John Morrison of Assynt House

5. CHRISTIAN RHOADS

2/4 Marches: Duncan MacNeill Esq.'s Farewell to Melfort
Hugh Kennedy
Strathspeys: Lady Louden
John Roy Stewart
Reels: Bessie MacIntyre
Fiona MacLeod

6. SARAH SIMPSON

2/4 Marches: John McColl's March to Kilbowie Cottage
The Taking of Beaumont Hamel
Strathspeys: Inveraray Castle
Maggie Cameron
Reels: Kalabakan
Roddy MacDonald's Fancy

7. TORI KILLORAN

2/4 Marches: Jimmy Young
The Pap of Glencoe
Strathspeys: Atholl Cummers
Cabar Feidh
Reels: Tom Kettles
The Sheepwife

8. BEN MONTROSS

2/4 Marches: John MacColl's March to Kilbowie Cottage
The 91st at Modder River
Strathspeys: The Ewe with the Crooked Horn
Lady MacKenzie of Gareloch
Reels: Lieutenant Colonel D.J.S. Murray
Willie Cummings' Rant

9. MAEGHAN BIELSKI

2/4 Marches: The Marchioness of Tullibardine
Leaving Glenurquhart
Strathspeys: Glentruim
John Roy Stewart
Reels: The Cockerel in the Creel
Alick C. MacGregor



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

**Willie McCallum
& Nick Hudson**

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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Please join us for the 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

November 11-12, 2016 with a Judges Seminar on Sunday the 13th
Holiday Inn Inner Harbor
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Friday Evening:	Annual Reports/Old Business Meeting
Saturday Morning:	Proposals/New Business/Vendor Tables
Saturday Afternoon:	Piping and Drumming Workshops
Saturday Night:	Professional Drumming Contest & Ceilidh
Sunday:	Judges' Seminar

For more information, please contact:

Executive Secretary Sheldon Hamblin at 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

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Heather Scott-Wisheart & Kevin Wisheart
Chris Shepherd, Steward
Frank Strauss
Brian P. Turner
Mary Robinson White
Rick Woolard

Each competitor this year will receive a Nicol-Brown towel; a framed group photo sponsored by Barb, Erin, and Dan McCarthy; and the coveted Nicol-Brown lapel pin designed by Charlie Glendinning and sponsored by Steve Porter.

DEDICATIONS

Doreen Forney's donation was given in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald.
Albert McMullin's donation was given in honor of all the parents who have encouraged their children to play the bagpipes.
Robert Mitchell's donation was given in memory of a former friend, band mate, and Piobaireachd enthusiast, Howard Robinson, who passed away in November 2015.
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 tenth 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 2016 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 2017. 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"
2015	Kevin McLean: "The Red Speckled Bull"

William Ross Challenge Targe for MSR

1987	Alasdair Wright	2006	Micah Babinski
1988	Daniel Whatley	2007	Alastair Lee
1989	Ken McKeveny	2008	John Lee
1990	Robert Boyd	2009	Anthony Masterson
1991	Alan Bevan	2010	Glenn Walpole
1993	Paula Glendinning	2011	Ursa Beckford
1994	Jason Briscoe	2012	Alexander Schiele
1995	Michael Rogers	2013	Liam Hilder
1996	Michael Rogers	2014	Liam Hilder
1997	Steven Tripp	2015	James Dyson
1998	Andrew Douglas		
1999	Glenn Brown		
2000	Glenn Brown		
2001	Lionel Tupman		
2002	Lionel Tupman		
2003	Lyric Todkill		
2004	Andrew Lewis		
2005	Alex Gandy		



Donald MacLeod Memorial 6/8 Marches

1990	P. Andrew L. Hayes	2006	Kegan Sheehan
1991	Alan Bevan	2007	Gordon Conn
1993	Jamie Troy	2008	Johnny Bassett
1994	Ryan MacDonald	2009	Richard Gillies
1995	Paula Glendinning	2010	Chris Lee
1996	Ryan MacDonald	2011	Joseph Stewart
1997	Joss Fisher	2012	Joseph Stewart
1998	Andrew Douglas	2013	Jack Williamson
1999	Glenn Brown	2014	Tyler Bridge
2000	Andrew J. Hayes	2015	Tyler Bridge
2001	Lionel Tupman		
2002	Lionel Tupman		
2003	Lyric Todkill		
2004	Robert Beaton		
2005	Colin Lee		



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 unfailing 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-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 *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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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) Prizes: Airfare to London sponsored by the New Hampshire Highland Games; and a custom-engraved McC² blackwood pipe chanter, donated by McCallum Bagpipes.
2. Tyler Bridge (17 pts) Peter Henderson Blackwood Pipe Chanter donated by Henderson's, Ltd.
3. Christian Rhoads (11 points) A \$200 piping scholarship sponsored by Doreen Forney.
4. Maeghan Bielski (10 points) A \$150 piping scholarship sponsored by Ben Bhraggie House, Ltd.

ROBERT NICOL-ROBERT BROWN CHALICE FOR PIOBAIREACHD

1. Kevin McLean (9) "The Red Speckled Bull" Prize: A bound Piobaireachd Society Collection donated by Jon Maffett from The Piper's Hut.
2. Tyler Bridge (7) "The Big Spree"
3. Laureano Thomas-Sanchez (6) "The Battle of Auldearn" No. 1
4. Christian Rhoads (5) "MacLeod's Controversy"
5. Maeghan Bielski (4) "Lament for the Departure of King James"

WILLIAM ROSS CHALLENGE TARGE FOR MSR

1. James Dyson (8) "Leaving Lunga," "Loch Loskin," and "The Sound of Sleat" Prize: Custom-engraved McCallum long blackwood practice chanter, donated by The Piper's Dojo.
2. Maeghan Bielski (6) "Royal Scottish Pipers' Society," "Islay Ball," "The Brown Haired Maid"
3. Kevin McLean (5) "Miss Elspeth Campbell," "Ewe wi' the Crookit Horn," and "The Smith"
4. Tyler Bridge (4) "Donald MacLellan of Rothesay," "Highland Harry," "Thomson's Dirk"
5. Christian Rhoads (3) "Colin Thompson," "John Roy Stewart," and "Alick C. MacGregor"

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. Kevin McLean (4) "Cameron MadFadyen" and "Jean Mauchline"
3. Christian Rhoads (3) "Jean Mauchline" and "Capt. C.R. Lumsden"
4. Laureano Thomas-Sanchez (2) "P/M Charles Timmers" and "George Sherriff"
5. James Dyson (1) "The MacNeils of Ugadale" and "All the Blue Bonnets"

DRESS AND DEPARTMENT (judged by Donald F. Lindsay)

1. Maeghan Bielski Piping Vest from Hendersons, Ltd. sponsored by the Spicer family.



Maclean Macleod Memorial Piping Championships

JUNE 17, 2017

Piobaireachd and March, Strathspey & Reel events are offered for Professional and Amateur competitors.

Professional competitions are open to all pipers who are domiciled in North America and classified as Professional by their home associations. Professionals will submit six tunes of each type of their own choosing.

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

www.uspipingfoundation.org

The Nicol-Brown committee would like to thank the organizers of the NHSCOT/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 NHSCOT/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 NHSCOT/New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival, provided that piper has also played in the Grade One Piobaireachd event that day.

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Results of the 34th Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

October 8, 2016 ~~~ Scotia, New York

Judges: Willie McCallum and Nick Hudson

2016 OVERALL NICOL-BROWN CHAMPIONSHIP

1. ANDREW HUTTON (21 points) Airfare to London in November 2017, sponsored by the New Hampshire Highland Games; and a custom-engraved McC² blackwood pipe chanter, donated by McCallum Bagpipes.
2. CHRISTIAN RHOADS (10 points, Piob Pref) \$200 piping scholarship sponsored by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald, 1st Battalion Scots Guards.
3. MAEGHAN BIELSKI (10 points) \$150 piping scholarship sponsored by Steve Porter in gratitude for the summer schools at Invermark.
4. GAVIN MACKAY (8 points, Piob Pref) \$100 piping scholarship donated by Albert McMullin in honor of all the parents who have encouraged their children to play the bagpipes.
5. AUSTIN DIEPENHORST (8 points) \$50 piping scholarship donated by Charlie & Paula Glendinning.

(Points for overall champion)

ROBERT NICOL-ROBERT BROWN CHALICE FOR PIOBAIREACHD

- (9) 1. ANDREW HUTTON A bound Piobaireachd Society Collection donated by Jon Maffett at The Piper's Hut.
- (7) 2. GAVIN MACKAY TechnoPipes by Fagerstrom, donated by Scott's Highland Services, Ltd.
- (6) 3. CHRISTIAN RHOADS A copy of *Binneas is Borerraig*, sponsored by Gordie and Emily Peters; and a Piper's Pal reed case donated by Duncan's Highland Supply.
- (5) 4. SARAH SIMPSON \$60 gift card for The Piper's Hut, sponsored by Gordie & Emily Peters.
- (4) 5. MAEGHAN BIELSKI *The History & Structure of Ceol Mor* by Alexander Haddow, sponsored by Robert Mitchell in memory of Howard Robinson.

WILLIAM ROSS CHALLENGE TARGE FOR MARCH, STRATHSPEY, AND REEL

- (8) 1. AUSTIN DIEPENHORST A McCallum long blackwood practice chanter with custom-engraved sole, bowl, and presentation ferrule, donated by The Piper's Dojo.
- (6) 2. ANDREW HUTTON A MacLellan long blackwood practice chanter donated by Henderson's Ltd.
- (5) 3. TORI KILLORAN A McCallum long practice chanter with red sole and ferrule, donated by McCallum Bagpipes.
- (4) 4. MICHAEL McLEOD *Scots Guards Standard Settings of Pipe Music, Vol. 2* sponsored by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald, 1st Battalion Scots Guards; and *Donald MacPherson, The Legend Lives On* donated by JoAnn Scott.
- (3) 5. MAEGHAN BIELSKI *John Wilson's Collection of Highland Bagpipe Music, Books 1 and 2*, donated by Duncan's Highland Supply.

DONALD MACLEOD MEMORIAL 6/8 MARCHES

- (6) 1. ANDREW HUTTON The Donald MacLeod Memorial Silver Buckle created and donated by Stephen Walker of Walker Metalsmiths.
- (4) 2. CHRISTIAN RHOADS *Pipe Major Donald MacLeod's Collection, Volumes 1-3*, sponsored by Betsy & Bruce Douglas.
- (3) 3. MAEGHAN BIELSKI A \$50 gift certificate to The Piper's Dojo sponsored by Betsy & Bruce Douglas.
- (2) 4. MICHAEL McLEOD Two classic CDs: *Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band, Revisited*; and *Gordon Duncan, Just for Seumas*, donated by Greentrax Recordings, Ltd.
- (1) 5. GAVIN MACKAY *The Bagpipe Music of John MacLellan (Dunoon) 1875-1949*, sponsored by the Spicer family.

DRESS AND DEPARTMENT (judged by Donald F. Lindsay)

1. TORI KILLORAN A Piper's Choice Backpack Case, sponsored by the Spicer family.

Save the Date! ■ October 7, 2017

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