

#### The 2019 Nicol-Brown Weekend

#### FRIDAY, October 11, 2019

#### **Concert by Callum Beaumont and Matt MacIsaac**

7:00 pm at the Troy Music Hall

The 2019 competitors will be introduced and tune selections for the contest on Saturday will be announced.

#### SATURDAY, October 12, 2019

#### **The Contest**

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

6/8 Marches

Piobaireachd

March, Strathsbey and Reel

Award Ceremony

#### **Celebration Dinner**

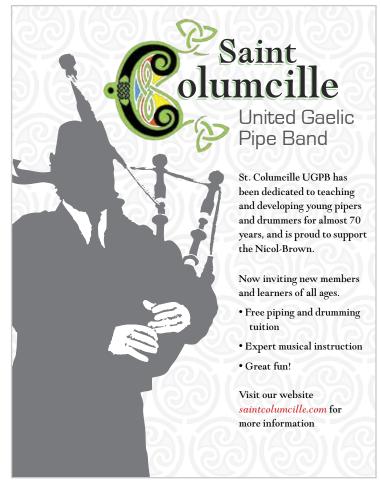
Hilton Garden Inn Albany Airport, 800 Albany Shaker Road Our private room opens at 7:30 pm. Dinner served at 8:00 pm. \$25.00 by reservation

If you'd like to join us for dinner, please see Heather Scott-Wisehart to ask if space is available and to arrange for payment.

#### SUNDAY, October 13, 2019 Master Class with Callum Beaumont, Faye Henderson, and Matt MacIsaac

9:30 am to 11:30 am at the Hilton Garden Inn Albany Airport 800 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, New York 12211

Nicol-Brown competitors will be given the privilege of receiving instruction from the judges, and pipers at all levels are encouraged to attend the Master Class. Topics will include musical expression, technique and progressing toward the professional level. Questions? Ask a committee member.



## 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 Tunnicliffe
1988	Donald F. Lindsay	2008	Nancy Tunnicliffe, Bobby Minnear, and
1989	Seumas MacNeill		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
1995	Bob Worrall		Paula Glendinning
1996	Scott MacAulay and Donald F. Lindsay	2013	Patrick Molard, Andrew Hayes and June Hanley
1997	Donald F. Lindsay	2014	Andrew Hayes and Michael Rogers
1998	Jack Lee	2015	Callum Beaumont
1999	Michael Cusack	2016	Willie McCallum and Nick Hudson
2000	Alasdair Gillies	2017	Ian K. MacDonald, Andrew Lee, and Ben McClamrock
2001	Michael Rogers	2018	Nancy Tunnicliffe and Eric Ouellette

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The Nicol-Brown committee welcomes the judges for 2019:

# Callum Beaumont, Faye Henderson, and Matt MacIsaac

ALLUM BEAUMONT has come to the fore as one of the world's most prominent and sought after pipers. The winner of some of the most famous competitions in world piping, including the prestigious Clasp at the Northern Meeting four times and four World Pipe Band Championships, his many achievements are becoming legendary.

Regularly commissioned to teach around the globe—including Australia, New Zealand and the USA—he now offers his services both privately and commercially through a variety of media, including online tuition, group workshops and face-to-face meetings. Callum is one of the piping instructors for the remarkably successful Dollar Academy Pipe Band.





AYE HENDERSON grew up in Kirriemuir, Scotland. She began chanter lessons at four years of age and started competing five years later, quickly becoming one of the top young pipers in Scotland. 2007 was a pivotal year, as the Scottish Junior Champion of Champions Aggregate led to an invitation to the George Sherriff Memorial in Toronto. She won the Piobaireachd and placed 3rd in the MSR. In the same year, Faye turned professional after winning the MacGregor Memorial Piobaireachd at the Argyllshire Gathering at age 15. This gave her an automatic entry into the Silver Medal at Oban the following year. She placed 3rd in the Silver Medal in 2008 and 4th in 2009.

In 2010, Faye won the Open Piobaireachd at the Scottish Pipers' Association and the Premier Piobaireachd at the Highlands & Islands Festival. This became a milestone year when Faye won the Highland Society of London Gold Medal at the Argyllshire Gathering, aged 18 and on her first attempt—the first female in history to achieve this award. This led to an invitation to play at the Glenfiddich Piping Championship (the youngest to be invited). The

weekend was made even more special as her sister, Fiona, qualified for the Glenfiddich Fiddle Championship.

Since winning the Gold Medal, Faye has been successful at the elite events, winning the Piobaireachd and Overall at the Uist and Barra Association Invitational and the Captain John A MacLellan MBE Invitational. She has also placed 2nd in the Bratach Gorm three times, as well as regular prizes in the Senior Piobaireachd at the Argyllshire Gathering. Faye has been taught by her mother and father throughout her career, and is grateful for their tuition, help and support over the years. She studied Law at the University of Aberdeen and graduated in 2013. She works for Scottish Rugby in Child Protection in Edinburgh. Faye lives with her partner Craig who gives invaluable support.

ATT MACISAAC is a musical phenomenon in concert and competition. Blending a mix of highland pipes, whistles, flute, guitar, 5-string banjo and percussion, Matt pushes the limits of his hands in creating a unique sound in traditional music. Matt first picked up a whistle when he was 5 or 6, squeaking out a few tunes. He picked up the pipes at age 10 after years of bugging his family for a set and from there, ran with it. He took to competitive piping and shot up through the grades, winning the Argyllshire Gathering's Silver Medal for Piobaireachd at age 18, amongst a host of other prizes.

Switching gears, Matt travelled the US for a few years with a trad/rock/fusion group called Cuillin. They recorded one critically-acclaimed album in 2000, produced by Gordie Sampson. In October of 2001 he joined fiddler Natalie MacMaster's band, and toured the world with her for 8 years. During that time he got to see, hear and play with world-class musicians like Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, Edgar Meyer, Carlos Nuñez, Don Henley, Chris Thile and many more. He again changed course and joined the Canadian Forces, serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force Band from 2009-2013, and then re-joined Natalie MacMaster on tour with pipes, whistles, banjo and guitar. He recorded the aptly named "The Piping Album" in 2005 and has appeared on several of Natalie's recordings. Matt married Kate Quinn in 2012, and they now live in Ontario, where Matt has just begun a new job as piping instructor for the St. Andrew's College Pipe Band.



# Be a Patron of the Arts!

The Nicol-Brown Contest has provided an elite, formal event for Amateur pipers since 1982, thanks to generous donors and volunteers who have given their time and financial support every year. If you'd like to volunteer to help with next year's contest, please contact a committee member. The Nicol-Brown Chalice, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We welcome donations!

Contribute through Paypal at nicol-brown.org/donations.html.

Or mail a check in US dollars made payable to Nicol-Brown Chalice to:

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# The Competitors

#### ALISTAIR BEVAN Abbotsford, British Columbia

Alistair turned 17 years old in September. He is enrolled in the AP program at Yale Secondary School in Abbotsford, British Columbia. He began piping at the age of 7 under the tutelage of his parents, Bonnie and Alan Bevan. Alistair was a member of the Robert Malcolm Memorial Pipe Band for six years, competing at the World Pipe Band Championships with the band in 2014 and 2017. In September 2017, he

was invited to join the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band. Playing with the band at the World's in four circles this year was a big career highlight. Alistair won the BC Pipers' Association Grand Aggregate in Grades 5, 4, and 3. He won the Grade 1 Grand Aggregate in 2017, his first year in the class and again in 2018 and 2019. In 2017, Alistair was the overall winner of both the Nicol-Brown and the George Sherriff Invitationals. He has won the tree of the state of the control of th

the George Sherriff Invitationals. He has won the tune writing competition at Piping Hot Summer Drummer five times and placed second twice. Alistair is excited to have been invited back to compete at the Nicol-Brown again this year.

#### ADAM BLAINE Cupertino, California

Adam is currently a Project Manager at Apple in Cupertino, California. He started learning bagpipes at age 11 under the instruction of Gerald Tetrualt and Dr. Al Walker in Plattsburgh, New York. Since then, he has taken lessons from various instructors, but now studies under Bruce Gandy and Robbie Boyd. Adam is a member of the Grade 2 LA Scots Pipe Band and is Pipe Major of the Grade 3 Silicon Valley Pipe Band.

This season, Adam is 2nd Overall in WUSPBA for Piobaireachd and is tied for 1st Overall in Light Music. He also won the Grade 1 Piper of the Day at the New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival, and the Queen Mary Scottish Festival, and Light Music Aggregate at the Caledonian Club of San Francisco Scottish Highland Games.

#### KEVIN DARMADI Houston, Texas

Kevin is a 17-year-old high school senior at St. Thomas' Episcopal School in Houston, Texas. This is his ninth year piping under instructors Lyric Todkill, Nick Hudson, Mike Cusack, and Ian K. MacDonald. He is currently pipe major of the St. Thomas Episcopal School Pipe Band, recently placing fourth in the juvenile grade at the 2019 World Pipe Band Championships. He also plays with the Grade 1 St. Thomas Alumni Pipe Band.

This season was a successful season for Kevin. He has won Grade 1 Piper of the Day prizes at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina and the Fair Hill Highland Games in Maryland. He also won the overall amateur prize

at the 2019 United States Piping Foundation Championships in Newark, Delaware with a first in Piobaireachd. He got the chance to compete at the Argyllshire Gathering this summer in the Intermediate MSR and the MacGregor Memorial. This is his second year getting invited to both the Nicol-Brown and George Sherriff competitions.

#### TYLER DESTREMPS Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Tyler is currently a senior and first year masters student at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, getting his undergraduate degrees in Bagpipe

Performance and Neurobiology and his Masters in Health Care Policy and Management. He began piping in 2012 at the age of 13 at Liberty High School in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. His first instructor was Scot Walker, whom he took lessons from until he moved to Pittsburgh to begin his studies in 2016. Tyler currently receives instruction

from Andrew Carlisle as well as Alastair Murray, playing with CMU Pipes and Drums and Ulster Scottish Pipe Band from Philadelphia.

Tyler had a very successful season this year, and is currently ranked 1st overall in the EUSPBA in Grade 1, 1st in Light Music and 1st in Piobaireachd. He won Grade 1 Piper of the Day awards at the Capital District Highland Games, Glasgowlands Scottish Festival, and Hudson Valley Celtic Festival. Tyler won 2nd overall at the 2019 Metro Cup in Newark, New Jersey, and he placed 1st in the MSR event at the 2019 US Piping Foundation Championships in Newark, Delaware. He is extremely honored to be invited for the first time to both the Nicol-Brown and the George Sherriff amateur piping competitions.

#### JOSEPH HORWATH Saginaw, Michigan

Joey is 19 years old and a freshman at Delta College, studying business. He began bagpiping in 2006 at the age of 6, but he did not start competing until 2013. His first teacher was Bob Pennington and shortly after that he moved on to take lessons with Dennis Lowe. Joey has attended the Ohio Scottish Arts School since 2015, where he has received instruction from Stephen MacNeil, Barry Conway, Andrew Duncan, and Craig Munro. He currently takes instruction from various teachers. Along with helping out the Alma College Pipe Band, he plays with the Grade 2 Great Lakes Pipe Band from Cleveland, Ohio.

Over the past five years, Joey has competed in MWPBA, EUSPBA, PPBSO, and WUSPBA-sanctioned games. He has placed in the top three in several events in each association. He was invited to both the Nicol-Brown and George Sherriff Invitationals last year. He received 2nd in the MSR and 4th overall at the Sherriff. This summer, Joey competed at the Pipe Idol event at the Piping Live festival in Glasgow, Scotland.

#### **COLIN JOHNSTONE**

Aurora, Ontario

Colin is 18 years old and has been taught by his grandfather, Reay Mackay and his mom, Glenna Mackay-Johnstone. Colin has been playing the bagpipes since he was 12 years old. This year he had a successful season being the overall winner of the Grade 1 circuit in Ontario, placing 1st in Light Music and 2nd in Piobaireachd. Colin has also been teaching bagpipes for the past four years.

Bagpipes aren't Colin's only musical instrument. He has been playing piano for the past 12 years and is in the 9th grade of the Royal Conservatory Music program. He is currently attending York University pursuing his undergraduate degree in Computer Science.

#### LIAM MACDONALD

Wellesley, Ontario

Liam is 18 years old, and began learning pipes at the age of six. He is currently taught by his father, Calum MacDonald, and previously received lessons from his Grandpa, Roddy MacDonald of Dunoon. Liam played in the Grand Celtic Pipe Band for six years, and he just finished his second year with the 78th Fraser Highlanders. Liam has competed in Canada, the USA, and Scotland. He started competing in solo piping in 2009, and has won various Champion Supremes throughout the grades. This year, Liam won Champion Supreme for Senior Amateur Piobaireachd and placed 2nd in the overall standings in Ontario. Liam was also fortunate enough to compete in the Pipe Idol Competition in Scotland this year. He is looking forward to competing for the first time at the Nicol-Brown.

#### STUART MARSHALL Greensboro, North Carolina

Stuart is a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and is the recipient of the Hayes Excellence Fellowship in the first year of earning his Ph.D. in History. He completed his M.A. in History this May, and in 2016 received

his B.A. from St. Andrews University in Laurinburg, North Carolina. Stuart has competed with the North Carolina State University Pipes and Drums and the St. Andrews University Pipe Band. In 2019, Stuart was Piper of the Day at the Cary Indoor (North Carolina), the Virginia Scottish Games, and the Middle Tennessee Highland Games, winning Clan MacLeod's MacCrimmon Quaich there. Ranked 2nd in Grade 1 of the EUSPBA (as of September 1), he also competed at the Metro Cup (New Jersey) and took 2nd overall at the Sandy Jones Invitational (South Carolina).

#### CHARLES MORRIS

Agoura Hills, California

Charlie is currently pursuing a degree in education. At a young age, he learned the importance of having teachers who are passionate about their craft and connected to their students, inspiring each to achieve their best. He has been blessed to have not only a mentor, but also a friend, in his bagpipe teacher, Seumas Coyne. Charlie hopes to one day teach both elementary school and bagpipes.

Charlie has played with the Grade 3 Robert Malcom Memorial and Grade 2 Los Angeles Scots Pipe Bands, competing at the World Pipe Band Championship with each. Most recently, he won the CLASP Grade 1 World Solo Amateur Piping Championship in Glasgow and the Balmoral Classic United States Junior Solo Piping Championship in Pittsburgh.

#### **BLAISE THERIAULT**

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Blaise grew up and lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He began playing bagpipes with the Dartmouth & District Pipe Band when he was 8 years old and has been part of the organization since. He has played in various level bands in Dartmouth and is currently the pipe major of their Grade 4 band. Blaise is also a member of the 78th Highlanders Halifax Citadel and receives tuition from the band's pipe major, Alex Gandy.

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# 6/8 Marches

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

#### 1. ADAM BLAINE

Mrs. MacDougall Dr. Al Walker

#### 2. CHARLIE MORRIS

Mrs. MacDonald of Uig Lauren Marie

#### 3. COLIN JOHNSTONE

Ellenorr Mrs. MacDonald of Uig

#### 4. BLAISE THERIAULT

Jimmy Anderson's Welcome to Arran The MacNeils of Ugadale

#### 5. JOSEPH HORWATH

Games Day at Aboyne Pipe Major Scott Ruscoe

#### 6. LIAM MACDONALD

MacLeod of Mull Cameron MacFadyen

#### 7. TYLER DESTREMPS

Cameron MacFadyen Jean Mauchline

#### 8. STUART MARSHALL

The Braemar Gathering Cameron MacFadyen

#### 9. KEVIN DARMADI

Jean Mauchline Kenneth J. MacLeod

#### 10. ALISTAIR BEVAN

Major John MacLennan Cameron MacFadyen

### **IMPORTANT PHOTO OP**

Please meet next to the stage immediately following the final 6/8 March performance for the official 2019 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. BLAISE THERIAULT

The Massacre of Glencoe

The Bicker

The MacGregors' Salute

#### 2. JOSEPH HORWATH

I got a Kiss of the King's Hand

Mackintosh's Lament Corrienessan's Salute

#### 3. LIAM MACDONALD

Too Long in this Condition The Marquis of Argyll's Salute <u>Hector MacLean's Warning</u>

#### 4. TYLER DESTREMPS

Lament for Captain MacDougall

The Mackays' Banner Melbank's Salute

#### 5. STUART MARSHALL

The Earl of Seaforth's Salute
The Desperate Battle of the Birds
The MacDougalls' Gathering

#### 6. KEVIN DARMADI

The Groat

The MacDougalls' Gathering
The Piper's Warning to his Master

#### 7. ALISTAIR BEVAN

Nameless (Hiharin Dro O Dro)

Clan Campbell's Gathering The MacKays' Banner

#### 8. ADAM BLAINE

Tulach Ard

Hector MacLean's Warning Lady Doyle's Salute

#### 9. CHARLIE MORRIS

Lament for MacSwan of Roaig

The Old Men of the Shells

The Music of the Sea

#### 10. COLIN JOHNSTONE

Lord Lovat's Lament

Cabar Feidh Gu Brath
The Lament for the Strathnaver Clearances

# March, Strathspey and Reel

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

#### 1. TYLER DESTREMPS

2/4 Marches: Jeannie Carruthers

74th's Farewell to Edinburgh

Strathspeys: Fiddler's Joy

Loch Loskin

Reels: Broadford Bay

Arnish Light

#### 2. STUART MARSHALL

2/4 Marches: The Royal Scottish Pipers' Society

Maclean of Pennycross

Strathspeys: Blair Drummond

Tulloch Castle

Reels: The Little Cascade

John Morrison of Assynt House

#### 3. KEVIN DARMADI

2/4 Marches: Arthur Bignold of Lochrosque

Duke of Roxburgh's Farewell to the Blackmount Forest

Strathspeys: Cabar Feidh

Doune of Invernochty

Reels: Loch Carron

**Broadford Bay** 

#### 4. ALISTAIR BEVAN

2/4 Marches: Pipe Major John Stewart

The Knightswood Ceilidh

Strathspeys: Dorrator Bridge

Susan MacLeod

Reels: Lieutenant Colonel D.J.S. Murray

MacKay from Skye

#### 5. ADAM BLAINE

2/4 Marches: Ross-Shire Volunteers

Atholl Highlanders March to Loch Katrine

Strathspeys: Falls of Forsy

Stac Polly

Reels: Drumlithie

Gena MacLeod

#### 6. CHARLIE MORRIS

2/4 Marches: Craig-N-Darroch

Milbank Cottage

Strathspeys: Susan MacLeod

The Shepherd's Crook

Reels: Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran

The Grey Bob

#### 7. COLIN JOHNSTONE

2/4 Marches: Dr. Allan MacDonald

Angus MacColl of Benderloch

Strathspeys: Susan MacLeod

The Ewe With the Crooked Horn

Reels: Courtney Bolger of High Bridge

The Cockerel in the Creel

#### 8. BLAISE THERIAULT

2/4 Marches: Major Manson's Farewell to Clachantrushal

Invergordon's Welcome to H.M. Queen Elizabeth II

Strathspeys: Cabar Feidh

The Bob of Fettercairn

Reels: The Ferryman

Lachlan MacPhail of Tiree

#### 9. JOSEPH HORWATH

2/4 Marches: John MacColl's March to Kilbowie Cottage

David Ross of Rosshall

Strathspeys: The Piper's Bonnet

<u>Catlodge</u>

Reels: Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran

Tom Kettles

#### 10. LIAM MACDONALD

2/4 Marches: Arthur Bignold of Lochrosque

Hugh Kennedy

Strathspeys: Fiona MacDonald

Dora MacLeod

Reels: The Brown Haired Maid

The Smith of Chilliechassie



The members of the Executive Committee of the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association offer their sincere appreciation to

# Callum Beaumont, Faye Henderson, and Matt MacIsaac

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.



Jim Dillahey, *President*David Hall, *Vice President*Jim Engle, *Executive Secretary*Stephanie Valley, *Recording Secretary*Matt Wood, *Treasurer*Brendan O'Reilly, *Officer-at-Large*Tom Burnham, *Officer-at-Large* 



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## Please join us for the 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

December 6–7, 2019 with a Judges' Seminar on Sunday, December 8

Renaissance Philadelphia Airport Hotel
500 Stevens Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19113
Book the "EUSPBA AGM" group rate of \$125/night by November 21:
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Friday Evening: Officers' Reports

Saturday Morning: Branch Proposals/New Business

Saturday Afternoon: Member Workshops
Sunday: Judges' Seminar

### For more information, please contact:

Executive Secretary Jim Engle 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 Contest 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 Judy Campbell

Daniel Cole

Maureen Connor

Jim Feeney

Paula Glendinning

June Hanley

Barbara McCarthy

Thompson McConnell

Sean Moran

Eric Ouellette

JoAnn Scott

Heather Scott-Wisehart

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#### SPECIAL GIFTS

Competitors and judges receive a Nicol-Brown lapel pin and a framed group photo, sponsored by Barb McCarthy. First-time competitors will also receive a Nicol-Brown piping towel. Andrew Berthoff has donated a one-year pipes drums subscription to each competitor.

#### **DEDICATIONS**

Doreen Forney's donation was given in memory of Pipe Major Angus Macdonald.

Stephen Pack's donation is for his late mother, Beverly Pack, who was always, and remains, such a great source of inspiration and support for his bagpipe efforts and life pursuits. "Love you Mom!"

Filemon Tan's donation honors the piping and drumming teachers at St. Thomas Episcopal School in Houston, Texas. 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

#### Nicol-Brown Chalice For Piobaireachd

Nancy Crutcher: "Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay"

1902	Trailey Cruterier: Barrierie for Borrard Buagnar Tracticaly
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"

Alexander Schiele: "The King's Taxes"

Andrew Mackay: "The Massacre of Glencoe"

Andrew Hutton: "MacLeod of Raasay's Salute"

Laureano Thomas-Sanchez: "Lament for the Earl of Antrim"

James Dyson: "MacCrimmon's Sweetheart" Kevin McLean: "The Red Speckled Bull"

Filemon Tan: "Lament for the Only Son"

Blaise Theriault: "The Massacre of Glencoe"

2012

2013 2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

awarded for the 13th 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 2019 will win up to \$1000 in travel expenses to compete in the Scottish Piping Society of London competitions in November 2020, or another major competition in 2020 to be approved by the Nicol-Brown committee. Bob Brown and Bob Nicol featured prominently in the prize lists in London, and we have been proud to connect our contest to that history since 1998. Bob Brown won the Open Piobaireachd (now called the Gillies Cup) 12 times and the Bratach Gorm (for Former Winners) three times. His last win in London was in November 1971, just 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.

### William Ross Challenge Targe for MSR

		0	0
1987	Alasdair Wright	2004	Andrew Lewis
1988	Daniel Whatley	2005	Alex Gandy
1989	Ken McKeveny	2006	Micah Babinski
1990	Robert Boyd	2007	Alastair Lee
1991	Alan Bevan	2008	John Lee
1993	Paula Glendinning	2009	Anthony Masterson
1994	Jason Briscoe	2010	Glenn Walpole
1995	Michael Rogers	2011	Ursa Beckford
1996	Michael Rogers	2012	Alexander Schiele
1997	Steven Tripp	2013	Liam Hilder
1998	Andrew Douglas	2014	Liam Hilder
1999	Glenn Brown	2015	James Dyson
2000	Glenn Brown	2016	Austin Diepenhorst
2001	Lionel Tupman	2017	Alistair Bevan
2002	Lionel Tupman	2018	Filemon Tan
2003	Lyric Todkill	2019	Joseph Horwath

#### 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	-	•
2000	Andrew J. Hayes	2014	Tyler Bridge
2001	Lionel Tupman	2015	Tyler Bridge
2002	Lionel Tupman	2016	Andrew Hutton
2003	Lyric Todkill	2017	Alistair Bevan
2004	Robert Beaton	2018	Alistair Bevan
2005	Colin Lee	2019	Alistair Bevan

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

Later in 1926, King George V was anxious to have Bob given the best tuition and he consulted the factor at Balmoral, Sir Douglas Ramsay,

and Sheriff Grant, Rothiemurchus, who were both pupils of John MacDonald. As a result, Bob Nicol was sent to Inverness to study with John MacDonald for a month that same year. It was a nerve-wracking time, as Bob related, "When John MacDonald came into the room he gave me a good dressing-down for a start. He said, 'You're no use to me.' In fact he was quite nasty to me for the whole month." But on the

completion of his course a very good report was sent to Balmoral. The following year he was accompanied by Bob Brown, and the visits continued every year until 1939.

During this period, Bob Nicol became one of the outstanding players, winning all the top honours including the Gold Medal at Inverness and Oban in 1930 and the Clasp in 1932. His medal tune at Inverness was "Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon," a tune he was later to play at the graveside of



both John MacDonald and Bob Brown. Throughout the 1939-45 war he served as pipe major in the 2nd Gordons and ran a piobaireachd class for the 15th Scottish Division. He also taught at schools in America and Brittany. He was a very good and firm teacher, a likeable man with a sharp wit and sense of humour. Dedicated to keeping the traditional piobaireachd alive, he was undoubtedly one of the greats and one of the most knowledgeable men of our time. Bob Nicol died in 1978.

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

#### PIPE MAJOR WILLIAM ROSS

Pipe Major William Ross (1879-1965) learned his early piping from his father, mother, and his uncle, Aeneas Ross, who guided his early steps in Piobaireachd. By his own great musical ability, Pipe Major Ross rose to the top of his profession. Music flowed from William Ross's pipe and fingers with no apparent effort: "the mighty frame seemed hardly to need to blow". It was the simplicity of the true expert—like the golf swing of a master—making it look easy until we try to do it ourselves. Unlike so many pipers, success never spoiled him, and if ever one needed



a tonic, an hour in the company of the illustrious Pipe Major would assure a cure for the ailment. He was peerless in conversation, a Prince of Storytellers. He loved human beings and was loved by them in return. In his life and work, Willie Ross was a delightful example of the perfect gentleman. By his courtesy, his modesty, and his professional ability, he left an indelible, honoured name that will live down through the ages and cheer the hearts of those who listen to the recordings of his lovely music.

He joined the Scots Guards in 1896 and from that date until his retirement in 1957 he served piping and pipers. In 1920 he was appointed Principal of the

new Army School of Piping at Edinburgh Castle. After his retirement from the Army, it was in 1921 that he became the Piobaireachd Society's tutor, and through his appointment, pipers both military and civilian

were able to benefit from his tuition. His pupils are scattered throughout the world and always provided the cream of the piping world with many champions amongst them. The world of pipers has not only been made up of players, teachers, and composers; there have been those who worked to make the music of the pipe available to the piper, and those who worked to ensure that the great heritage was passed on. William Ross's collection of pipe music remains the mainstay and guide of many pipers.

(Excerpted from Piping Times, June 1966; A Highlander Looks Back by Angus MacPherson; Scots Guards Book 1; and 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 36th Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational

October 6, 2018 ~:~ Scotia, New York Judges: Nancy Tunnicliffe and Eric Ouellette

#### **2018 OVERALL NICOL-BROWN CHAMPIONSHIP**

- 1. Filemon Tan (19 pts.) Prizes: airfare to compete at a major solo contest in 2019, sponsored by the NHSCOT fund; plus a blackwood pipe chanter with custom-engraved sole donated by McCallum Bagpipes in Kilmarnock, Scotland.
- 2. Alistair Bevan (16 pts.) Prizes: \$200 piping scholarship, sponsored by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald; plus a Kilt Pin, Sgian Dubh, and Cuff Links donated by Duncan's Highland Supply in Royal Oak, Michigan.
- 3. Tori Killoran (13 pts.) Prizes: \$150 piping scholarship, sponsored by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald; plus a Kilt Pin, Sgian Dubh, and Cuff Links donated by Duncan's Highland Supply in Royal Oak, Michigan.
- 4. Gavin Mackay (11 pts.) Prize: \$150 piping scholarship, sponsored by Doreen Forney in memory of P/M Angus Macdonald, 1st Battalion Scots Guards.

#### ROBERT NICOL-ROBERT BROWN CHALICE FOR PIOBAIREACHD

- 1. Filemon Tan (9 pts.) "Lament for the Only Son"
  - Prize: A bound Piobaireachd Society Collection donated by Jon Maffett from The Piper's Hut.
- 2. Gavin Mackay (7 pts.) "The MacFarlanes' Gathering"
- 3. Kevin Darmadi (6 pts.) "MacLeod of Raasay's Salute"
- 4. Alistair Bevan (5 pts.) "Nameless" Hiharin Dro O Dro
- 5. Tori Killoran (4 pts.) "The Big Spree"

#### WILLIAM ROSS CHALLENGE TARGE FOR MSR

- 1. Filemon Tan (8 pts.) "Clan MacColl," "The Piper's Bonnet," and "Johnnie MacDonald's Reel" Prize: Custom-engraved McCallum blackwood practice chanter donated by The Piper's Dojo.
- 2. Tori Killoran (6 pts.) "Bonnie Ann," "Cabar Feidh," and "The Sheepwife"
- 3. Alistair Bevan (5 pts.) "J. MacDonald of Glencoe," "Ewe wi' Crooked Horn," "MacKay from Skye"
- 4. Gavin Mackay (4 pts.) "Knightswood Ceilidh," "MacBeth's Strathspey," "Neil A. MacDonald"
- 5. Joseph Horwath (3 pts.) "Maclean of Pennycross," "Susan MacLeod," and "Sandy Cameron"

#### **DONALD MACLEOD MEMORIAL 6/8 MARCHES**

- 1. Alistair Bevan (6 pts.) "Cameron MacFadyen" and "Mrs. Lily Christie" Prize: The Donald MacLeod Silver Buckle donated by Stephen Walker of Walker Metalsmiths.
- 2. Kevin Darmadi (4 pts.) "Jean Mauchline" and "Kenneth J. MacLeod"
- 3. Tori Killoran (3 pts.) "Old Adam" and "The Trees of North Uist"
- 4. Filemon Tan (2 pts.) "MacLeod of Mull" and "Ross Battery"
- 5. Brannagh O'Donnell (1 pt.) "Fairview Cottage" and "P/M Donald MacLean of Lewis"



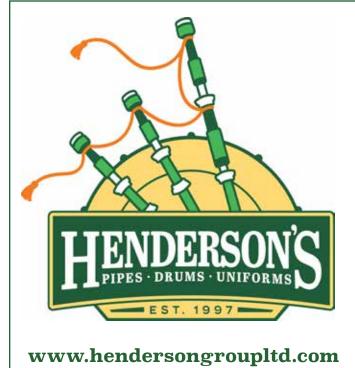
The USPF extends sincere congratulations to all the invited competitors at this year's Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational! Have a great weekend and enjoy the experience!

The USPF hosts the Maclean Macleod Memorial Piping Competition each year, offering Piobaireachd and March, Strathspey & Reel events for Professional and Amateur competitors.

www.uspipingfoundation.org

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### Results of the 37th Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

October 12, 2019

~:~ Scotia, New York

Judges: Callum Beaumont, Faye Henderson, and Matt MacIsaac

#### THE 2019 OVERALL NICOL-BROWN CHAMPIONSHIP

1	Travel expenses up to \$1000, donated by the NHSCOT fund, to compete in London or another major contest in 2020 to be approved by the Nicol-Brown committee; plus a blackwood pipe chanter with custom-engraved sole, donated by McCallum Bagpipes in Kilmarnock, Scotland.
2	C
3	A \$200 piping scholarship donated by Doreen Forney in memory of Pipe Major Angus Macdonald, 1st Battalion Scots Guards.
4	A \$150 piping scholarship donated by Doreen Forney in memory of Pipe Major Angus Macdonald, 1st Battalion Scots Guards.
THE ROBERT NIC	OL-ROBERT BROWN CHALICE FOR PIOBAIREACHD
1	A bound Piobaireachd Society Collection, Volumes 1-16, donated by Jon Maffett of The Piper's Hut in Pickerington, Ohio.
2	A Bagpipe Explorer Backpack donated by Henderson's Ltd., Traverse City, Michigan.
	A copy of <i>The History &amp; Structure of Ceol Mor</i> by Alexander J. Haddow, and a \$75 gift certificate for The Piper's Hut, both sponsored by Doreen Forney.
4	A copy of Donald MacDonald's Collection of Piobaireachd, Volume 1 (1820), sponsored by Filemon Tan.
5	A copy of <i>Binneas is Boreraig,</i> sponsored by Micah Babinski.
THE WILLIAM RO	SS CHALLENGE TARGE FOR MARCH, STRATHSPEY, AND REEL
1	A McCallum long blackwood practice chanter with custom-engraved sole, bowl, and
2	presentation ferrule, donated by The Piper's Dojo in Troy, New York.  A McCallum long blackwood practice chanter sponsored by Charles McKee.
3	Scots Guards, Volume 1, donated by Duncan's Highland Supply, Royal Oak, Michigan; and The Bagpipe Music of John MacColl 1860–1943, sponsored by Jane & Jim Spicer.
4	Scots Guards, Volume 2, donated by Duncan's Highland Supply, Royal Oak, Michigan.
5	Scots Guards, Volume 3, donated by Duncan's Highland Supply, Royal Oak, Michigan.
THE DONALD MA	CLEOD MEMORIAL 6/8 MARCHES
1	The Donald MacLeod Memorial Silver Buckle created and donated by Stephen
2	Walker of Walker Metalsmiths in Andover, New York.  A \$100 gift certificate for The Piper's Dojo, sponsored by Bruce and Betsy Douglas.
3	
4	Rick Woolard in memory of Ronald Morrison of South Uist.  A copy of Gordon Duncan's Tunes, Book II, sponsored by Steve Porter.
5	A copy of The Bagpipe Music of John McLellan 1875–1949, sponsored by Brian P. Turner.
DRESS AND DEPO	RTMENT (judged by Donald F. Lindsay)
1	A \$100 gift certificate for Walker Metalsmiths, sponsored by Jane and Jim Spicer.
	1

Save the Date! • October 10, 2020 • in Philadelphia!

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



#### Results of the 37th Nicol-Brown Amateur Invitational Contest

October 12, 2019 .:- Scotia, New York

Judges: Callum Beaumont, Faye Henderson, and Matt MacIsaac

#### THE 2019 OVERALL NICOL-BROWN CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Blaise Theriault (16 points)	Travel expenses up to \$1000, donated by the NHSCOT Fund, to compete in London or	
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another major contest in 2020 to be approved by the Nicol-Brown committee; plus a blackwood pipe chanter with custom-engraved sole, donated by McCallum Bagpipes in

Kilmarnock, Scotland.

2. Tyler Destremps (16 points) A set of Kitchen Pipes donated by Scott's Highland Supply in London, Ontario.

3. Colin Johnstone (14 points) A \$200 piping scholarship donated by Doreen Forney in memory of Pipe Major Angus

Macdonald, 1st Battalion Scots Guards.

4. Alistair Bevan (10 points) A \$150 piping scholarship donated by Doreen Forney in memory of Pipe Major Angus

Macdonald, 1st Battalion Scots Guards.

(Points for
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#### THE ROBERT NICOL-ROBERT BROWN CHALICE FOR PIOBAIREACHD

(9) 1. Blaise Theriault A bound Piobaireachd Society Collection, Volumes 1-16, donated by Jon Maffett of

The Piper's Hut in Pickerington, Ohio.

(7) 2. Colin Johnstone A Bagpipe Explorer Backpack donated by Henderson's Ltd., Traverse City, Michigan.

(6) 3. Tyler Destremps A copy of The History & Structure of Ceol Mor by Alexander J. Haddow, and a \$75 gift

certificate for The Piper's Hut, both sponsored by Doreen Forney.

(5) 4. Kevin Darmadi A copy of Donald MacDonald's Collection of Piobaireachd, Volume 1 (1820), sponsored by

Filemon Tan.

(4) 5. Alistair Bevan A copy of Binneas is Boreraig, sponsored by Micah Babinski.

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

(8) 1. Joseph Horwath A McCallum long blackwood practice chanter with custom-engraved sole, bowl, and

presentation ferrule, donated by The Piper's Dojo in Troy, New York.

(6) 2. Tyler Destremps A McCallum long blackwood practice chanter sponsored by Charles McKee.

(5) 3. Blaise Theriault Scots Guards, Volume 1, donated by Duncan's Highland Supply in Royal Oak, Michigan; and

The Bagpipe Music of John MacColl 1860–1943, sponsored by Jane and Jim Spicer.

(4) 4. Colin Johnstone Scots Guards, Volume 2, donated by Duncan's Highland Supply, Royal Oak, Michigan.

(3) 5. Charles Morris Scots Guards, Volume 3, donated by Duncan's Highland Supply, Royal Oak, Michigan.

#### THE DONALD MACLEOD MEMORIAL 6/8 MARCHES

(6) 1. Alistair Bevan The Donald MacLeod Memorial Silver Buckle created and donated by Stephen Walker of

Walker Metalsmiths in Andover, New York.

(4) 2. Tyler Destremps A \$100 gift certificate for The Piper's Dojo, sponsored by Bruce and Betsy Douglas.

(3) 3. Colin Johnstone A copy of The Fred Morrison Collection and The Outlands Collection, sponsored by Rick

Woolard in memory of Ronald Morrison of South Uist.

(2) 4. Blaise Theriault A copy of Gordon Duncan's Tunes, Book II, sponsored by Steve Porter.

(1) 5. Kevin Darmadi A copy of The Bagpipe Music of John McLellan 1875–1949, sponsored by Brian P. Turner.

#### DRESS AND DEPORTMENT (judged by Donald F. Lindsay)

1. Liam MacDonald A \$100 gift certificate for Walker Metalsmiths, sponsored by Jane and Jim Spicer.

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