

# SPAE QUARTERLY

Good fortune, good future through arts and education

Winter 2015

## Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education

P.O. Box 6761  
Chesterfield, MO 63006  
[www.stlspae.org](http://www.stlspae.org)  
[info@stlspae.org](mailto:info@stlspae.org)

## SPAE Mission Statement

In the belief that music and the arts are key to connecting cultures and understanding our roots, Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education provides cultural experiences and educational opportunities in Scottish traditional arts and the historic connections between Scotland and the USA by conducting classes, workshops, lectures and public performances.

## Announcements

### St. Louis Gaelic Psalm Singing and American Music Conference

April 25-26, 2015

## President's Message

by Michael Herron

Welcome back to our quarterly newsletter.

Our 8th season went extremely well, thanks to our Board Members. Diane McCullough, our Artistic Director, deserves much of the credit for planning our workshops and ensuring that everything runs smoothly.

We have begun planning for our 9th season, when we will welcome St. Louis favorites, Brian McNeill and Ed Miller.

In April, we have our St. Louis Gaelic Psalm Singing and American Music Conference. This is only the second place in the United States (besides Yale University) to host this event. You can learn more later in the newsletter.

Because our Conference falls in the same

month as our Annual Kilted 5K, our board decided to suspend the event for 2015. It will return in 2016.

Finally, I invite you to visit our website ([www.stlspae.org](http://www.stlspae.org)). Here you can find all current information, newsletters, annual reports, our calendar and can even register for our Conference.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our April Conference.

Michael Herron

President & Treasurer, SPAE

## Quotes and Pictures from our 2014 Artist-in-Residence Programs

pictures by Diane McCullough

### Gateway Middle School - Amy Lord, Clinician

“To me the workshop was special. I was so happy to have Ms. Amy and the other lady here to teach us new words and new songs. It inspired me to learn songs that different people and different cultures sing. When I sung those songs I was amazed that Ms. Amy recognized my voice. She said I have a strong voice. When she said that, my eyes lit up because that was a nice thing to say.” - Nyha Perkins, 6th Grade



## SPAE Board of Directors

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Professor of Music  
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Mark Clark,  
Music Teacher,  
Guitarist, Composer

## St. Margaret of Scotland School - Amy Lord, Clinician

“This was very fun. I got to learn a ton about my schools’ Scottish heritage and it improved my skills in singing. I loved learning Scottish and the words. The songs were very interesting and I thought they sounded beautiful. I hope I can see it next year or do it next year because I really loved it.” - Clare Wangard, 6th Grader of Scotland School



## McCluer High School - Brian McNeill, Clinician

“To me, this workshop meant a lot because I never had been taught Scottish tunes before. The songs were challenging to me.....because of the demanding left hand technique. I really enjoyed the music very much. Brian McNeill is a very demanding teacher with high expectations, but I feel I am a stronger musician because of what he taught me.” - Shelbie Edwards



## Ritenour High School - Brian McNeill, Clinician

“This workshop was a good experience. I enjoyed working with a professional that followed his dreams to become a wonderful musician. It pushed me to always work toward my dreams no matter what. Hard work makes you a better person and helps you pursue your dreams.” - Cydred Anderson

“This workshop meant I got the chance to cut loose & have fun with some simple-yet fun – music. We played several arrangements and changed how the music was written on a piece. This was a genuinely fun experience & I got to meet an awesome fiddler in Mr. Brian McNeill. He was energetic, passionate & above all he was a great teacher. I can’t wait to do this next year.” - Sean Holley

“It means a lot to have this workshop each year because we have Mr. Brian to teach us his techniques. Each year I learn how to better my vibrato, increase tempo, and play the music as a song. Mr. Brian brings music to life and it enlightens me everytime he plays. Being able to have Mr. Brian come here all the way from Scotland is an honor by itself.” - Ahriel Foreman



Brian McNeill works with the UMSL orchestra.

## A Border Ballad

Oh, I haven't got long to live,  
for we all  
Die soon, e'en those who live  
longest;  
And the poorest and weakest are  
taking their chance  
Along with the richest and  
strongest.  
So it's heigho for a glass and a  
song,  
And a bright eye over the table,  
And a dog for the hunt when the  
game is flush,  
And the pick of a gentleman's  
stable.

There is Dimmock o' Dune,  
he was here yester-night,  
But he's rotting to-day on  
Glen Arragh;  
'T'was the hand o' MacPherson  
that gave him the blow,  
And the vultures shall feast on  
his marrow.  
But it's heigho for a brave old  
song  
And a glass while we are able;  
Here's a health to death and  
another cup  
To the bright eye over the table.

I can show a broad back and a  
jolly deep chest,  
But who argues now on  
appearance?  
A blow or a thrust or a stumble  
at best  
May send me to-day to my  
clearance.  
Then it's heigho for the things I  
love,  
My mother'll be soon wearing  
sable,  
But give me my horse and my  
dog and my glass,  
And a bright eye over the table.

- Paul Laurence Dunbar

## NOTES FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

by Diane McCullough

Seven Rivers Highland Society – THANK YOU!! SPAE was the recipient of a donation of \$875 dollars thanks to the generosity and vision of the board of Seven Rivers Highland Society. After years of service to the St. Louis region, Seven Rivers decided to “close shop” this fall. After careful consideration as to where their remaining treasury funds should be placed, they selected SPAE because we have demonstrated that we can get the job done when it comes to serving the region with meaningful, content deep programs and projects. We will miss the special blood drives, the presence at and contributions to the heavy athletics events in the area, the work with the Missouri Conservation Department and much more. A special thanks goes to Jim Slack and Scott and Anne Runnels for their dedication to Scottish cultural heritage and their support of SPAE's work. I hope that any members of Seven Rivers who are receiving this newsletter will pass on our gratitude and praise for the work of your group to those who are not on SPAE's mailing list.

The 2014 fall residencies were exceptional this year. The quality of performance from our fiddlers and our singers was the best ever. Brian McNeill shared some new compositions with McCluer North High School Orchestra. He is in the middle of a year-long project with his hometown, Falkirk, Scotland and these compositions reflect myth and history of that area. Amy Lord made a special effort to bring to life our new interdisciplinary project that focuses on poetry written in dialect and how that expresses time and place and people who may not otherwise have a voice. Here are some important statistics from the workshops: SPAE provided four full school residencies, with exposure groups at each school, in Scottish traditional fiddle, two full residencies in Scots Song and two full interdisciplinary residencies entitled CONNECTIONS: ROBERT BURNS AND PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR – VOICES OF THE PEOPLE. Students participating in the full residencies in target groups totaled 237 and 10 teachers. Students participating in exposure sessions totaled 1430. This number includes one exposure class and culminating concerts in every school. Adults in classes and concerts totaled 430 and children under 5 years old totaled 15. Teacher Development/Orchestra Workshops at UMSL totaled 40 in attendance. Focal Point concerts by our artists brought another 115 audience members. Altogether our total numbers for Fall 2014 were 2277.

Concert performances by the students this year were of the highest quality to date. Within just a few class periods, orchestra and vocal music/general music students were able to perform with style and technique, good tone quality and confidence.

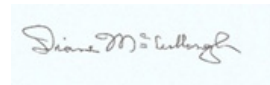
Next on our schedule is our GAELIC PSALM SINGING AND AMERICAN MUSIC CONFERENCE, April 25-26, 2015. A description, schedule and registration form can be found separately in this newsletter.

We have decided to hold our Second Annual Kilted 5K in the Spring of 2016 and hope that all of our 2014 participants will return with lots of their friends.

Thanks to all of our individual donors as well as the Regional Arts Commission; the Missouri Humanities Council; the Missouri Arts Council, a State agency; the William F. Kerr Foundation; the Dunvegan Foundation; the E. Des Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative; the Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts; the Ferguson/Florissant School District; the Focal Point; the Scottish Arms, the Shaved Duck; Thistle and Clover; the Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis; The Historic Daniel Boone Home and Heritage Center; Webster Groves Presbyterian Church; St. Margaret of Scotland Church; and Creative Scotland. Your generosity and vision makes our work possible.

Save the date and register soon for the GAELIC PSALM SINGING AND AMERICAN MUSIC CONFERENCE, April 25-26, 2015 – see the details below in this newsletter.

All the Best,



## McPherson's Rant/Fareweel

Sae rantingly, sae wantonly  
Sae dauntingly gaed he  
He played a tune and he danced  
it aroon'  
Alow the gallows tree

Fareweel, ye dungeons dark and  
strang  
Fareweel, fareweel, said he  
MacPherson's time will no' be lang  
Alow the gallows tree

It was by a woman's treacherous  
hand  
That I was condemned tae dee  
Aboon a ledge at a windae she  
stood  
And a blanket she threw o'er me

Untie these bands frae aff o' my  
hands  
And gie tae me my sword  
There's no a man in a' Scotland  
But I'll brave him at his word

There's some come here tae see  
me hang  
And some tae buy my fiddle  
But afore that I dae part wi' her  
I'd brak' her through the middle

He took his fiddle into both of his  
hands  
And he brak' it o'er a stone  
Said, Nae ither hands shall play  
on thee  
When I am deid and gane

Ach, little did my mother think  
When first she cradled me  
That I would turn a roving boy  
And die on the gallows tree

The reprieve it was coming o'er the  
Brig o' Banff  
Tae set MacPherson free  
But they put the knock tae a quar-  
ter past four  
And they hanged him tae the tree

*-Traditional/Possible Robert Burns*

**APRIL 25, 2015 - WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
APRIL 26, 2015 - ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH**

## **Gaelic Psalm Singing and American Music Conference**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Units: 12.5 hours**

**Who is invited? - Teachers, students, church choirs and congregations, family members**

**This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. St. Louis is only the second site in the USA for such a conference. The first site was Yale University.**

This conference will feature Prof. Willie Ruff, ethnomusicologist and theory professor, Yale Un. Department of Music; Dr. Douglas F. Kelly, theology professor at The Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, N.C.; Dr. Hugh Foley, professor of music and ethnomusicology at Rogers State University in Tulsa, OK; Calum Martin, native Gaelic speaker and precentor for Gaelic Psalms as sung by congregations on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland; and Duane Foster, St. Louis choral specialist/educator who will lead line singing.

This one-time event will begin at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church with Prof. Ruff's documentary on this subject. Ruff originated the research in the USA on the connections between Gaelic Psalm singing and American forms of congregational worship practiced still today in African American, Appalachian and Muskogee Creek churches.

Prof. Ruff, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Foley and Mr. Foster will present the historic background both in Scotland and the USA and show how Scottish descendants as well as African American and Muskogee Creek congregations continued and transformed this tradition.

Participants will work with Calum Martin to learn a sampling of psalms in Gaelic (which involve each person improvising on the original hymn tune from the Scottish Psalter) and with Duane Foster on line singing. The conference will close with a service at St. Margaret of Scotland Church at which everyone will participate in the singing of the Gaelic Psalms and the line singing. Following the service, we will have a Ceilidh (music party) at which any participants who sing or play are invited to share their specialty - all genres are welcome.



Prof. Willie Ruff



Dr. Douglas Kelly



Dr. Hugh Foley



Calum Martin



Duane Foster

**Registration is found on the last page of this newsletter and at [www.stlspae.org](http://www.stlspae.org)**

**SCHEDULE**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015**

WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
45 West Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119

Session 1 - 9:00-10:00 – Prof. Willie Ruff – presentation of Prof. Ruff’s documentary A CONJOINING OF ANCIENT SONG. The documentary presents the work and sounds from two conferences held at Yale Un. (2005 and 2007) researched and organized by Prof. Ruff and entitled “The Line Connecting Gaelic Psalm singing and American music”. This film reveals the deep connections among these congregational forms of worship. Prof. Ruff will hold a q and a session following the film.

Session 2 – 10:15-11:15 – Calum Martin – a singing session – Martin will introduce a Gaelic Psalm text, teach the words and the basic tune from the Scottish Psalter. Text and tune will be taught by rote and participants will also have written copies with phonetic spellings of text. The goal is to enable participants to sing the psalm in the style by the end of the day.

Session 3 – 11:30-12:30 – Dr. Douglas F. Kelly – lecture session – Dr. Kelly will discuss the history of Gaelic Psalm singing in the USA – particularly in his home state of North Carolina. This material includes the practice of Gaelic services in both the Presbyterian and the A.M.E. churches in eastern North Carolina.

LUNCH – 12:30-1:30

Session 4 – 1:30-2:30 – Duane Foster – a singing session - line singing in African American congregations – Foster will lead participants in several praise songs and forms practiced historically and particularly in St. Louis.

Session 5 - 2:45-3:45– Hugh Foley – lecture session on connections with the Muskogee Creek Nation.

Session 6 – 4:00-5:00 – Calum Martin – a singing session - building on the work of the morning singing session, Martin will demonstrate the adaptation of the hymn tune into its traditional congregational style of singing. This involves the precentor lining out the opening of the psalm – slowing down the hymn tune and adding improvised vocal ornaments – and the congregation joining with their own vocal improvisation on the hymn tune. Participants will receive practice CDs or an online link to download. These will be available before the conference for those who wish to get an early start. The participants will be able to practice on their own before the final conference day.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2015**

SAINT MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CHURCH,  
3854 Flad, St. Louis, MO 63110

Morning – TBA – possibility of attending a local church that practices “lining out the hymns”.

Afternoon – 3:30 – 5:00 - participants will sing together the psalm/s they have learned and will share their experiences with lining out hymns and their impressions from the sessions on Saturday.

5:00 – 8:00 - A Ceilidh (pronounced: kaylee) reception will follow the service – everyone invited to perform.

**Registration is found on the last page of this newsletter and at [www.stlspae.org](http://www.stlspae.org)**

“This workshop was interesting to take part in – not only did we learn Scottish folk songs, but we also learned about the culture in Scotland. Learning about Scotland and singing its songs was something that we had never done before and it was a good experience. We knew one of the songs, but the workshop helped us learn some of the history. This workshop was an experience I’m glad I was a part of.”  
- Keaton Ibandani, St. Margaret of Scotland School

“This workshop is amazing! I look forward to it every year. We only practice for about a week, but within that time, I feel like I’m actually improving as a musician. Brian is an awesome person to work with and I can’t wait for him to return! He is very good at making our pieces sound good, and it is amazing how talented he is. Very inspiring.” - Bailey Kelley, Ritenour High School

“This workshop was an amazing time for me. I love music, but traditional music of any sort is amazing. So being able to learn Scottish music was awesome. I got to learn a few tricks that I’ll keep with forever.” - Lindsay Ryan, Ritenour High School

“It’s great how Brian McNeill comes to our school every year and teaches us new things. He comes all the way from Scotland and gives us knowledge and techniques. We should be grateful and take advantage of this. I really enjoyed this all of my four years. I hope he continues to visit McCluer for the future kids. I think they would really enjoy the experience.”  
- Steron Bogan, McCluer High School

SPAЕ  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Gaelic Psalm Singing  
and American Music  
Conference**

**April 25-26, 2015**

Webster Groves Presbyterian  
Church  
45 West Lockwood, Webster  
Groves, MO 63119

Dates for our fall concerts will  
be announced soon.

**Other St. Louis Scottish Organizations**

**St. Andrew Society of St. Louis**

<http://www.stlstandrews.org/>

A not-for-profit organization dedicated to cultural interchange between Scotland and the St. Louis area.

**The Focal Point**

<http://www.thefocalpoint.org/>

Focal Point is a not-for-profit educational corporation dedicated to the promotion of folk music and other musical forms which have come from folk music, as well as other associated traditional art forms like dance, storytelling, etc...

**St. Louis Scottish Games**

<http://www.stlouis-scottishgames.com/>

The purposes of SLSG are educational, cultural, charitable, and philanthropic. The organizational objectives are to foster and encourage open exchange of cultural, educational, and recreational concepts and pursuits between those with an interest in the culture and heritage of Scotland and others in the Greater St. Louis area.

**Highland Mist Scottish Country Dancers**

<http://www.highlandmisdancers.org/>

Highland Mist welcomes beginners at every class - no prior dance experience is needed - and you may come with or without a partner. And you don't need to have a Scottish background. Just wear comfortable clothing, and dance or athletic shoes.

**Missouri Tartan Day**

<http://www.motartanday.com/>

We are a non-profit organization that hosts the St. Louis area's premiere Scottish-American cultural event, The Missouri Tartan Day Festivities.

**Dance Caledonia of St. Louis**

<https://www.facebook.com/DanceCaledonia>

Visit the facebook page of Dance Caledonia, which specializes in Highland dancing.

Scan the QR code below to visit our website.



**DES LEE**  
FINE ARTS EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

**THE DUNVEGAN FOUNDATION**  
OF THE CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY, USA, INC.



**STEWART, MITTLEMAN, HEGGIE & HENRY L.L.C.**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



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**Creative Scotland, Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, St. Margaret of Scotland Church, The Dunvegan Foundation, The W. A. Kerr Family Foundation, The St. Louis Community Foundation, and The Focal Point**



