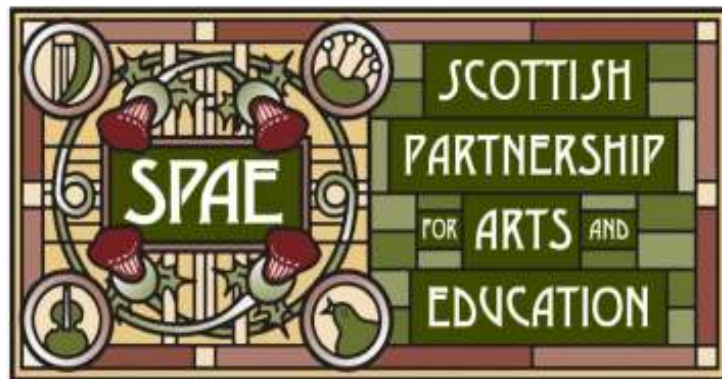


QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

of



Good fortune, good future through arts and education

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 is dedicated to supporting Scottish Traditional arts and artists and to providing cultural experiences and educational opportunities in Scottish Traditional arts in St. Louis area schools.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Winter 2010

Greetings! I hope this newsletter finds you having had a happy holiday season. The SPAE board has been busy preparing for next seasons' workshops.

First, I would like to express our deepest appreciation to our two outgoing board members. Christopher Fulton was a founding member of our board and served as Recording Secretary for almost 4 years. Jacob Sawyer joined our board about a year ago as our Attorney and has recently relocated. Both of you will be missed.

Next, we have two new board members. Cynthia Millar has joined us as a Member-At-Large. Roisin Halfar has also joined us and will be taking over the Recording Secretary duties.

As we have recently lost our legal specialist, if you know of anyone who might be interested in serving on our board in this capacity, please have them contact me at Michael.Herron@stlspae.org or our Artistic Director at Diane.McCullough@stlspae.org.

Michael Herron, President & Treasurer - SPAE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2009 ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE WORKSHOPS AND STUDENT CONCERT

TEACHER COMMENTS

Pattonville Heights Middle School Orchestra:

- **Anna Allen:** “Students love Brian’s [Brian McNeill] humor, fast pace and vast knowledge. They are inspired by his violin and concertina playing!! Students love the musical selections and the arrangements Brian comes up with.”
- **Kim Gindler:** “This has become the favorite part of my year as an orchestra teacher!” And in reference to the musical selections: “Great job.”

Pattonville High School Orchestra:

- **Daniel Henderson:** “Brian was fantastic! Thanks for all your work!”

Parkway West Middle School Orchestra:

- **Rebecca Pantano:** “I loved every minute of it! Please, please, please consider Parkway West Middle School again!”

McCluer North High School and Cross Keys Middle School Orchestra:

- **Suzanne Harlamert:** “My students love this workshop and so do I. The middle school students really ‘step up to the plate’ to get the work done in that week with Mr. McNeill.”

Left: Parkway Central High School Orchestra students playing at the Oct. 9, 2009 Student Culminating Concert at Logan College of Chiropractic, Brian McNeill director. **Right:** Pattonville Heights Middle School students concentrating in Artist in Residence Workshop in Scottish traditional fiddle.



Picture by Michael Herron



Picture by Jacqueline France

McCluer North High School and St. Elizabeth Academy performing at the **Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education Student Culminating Concert** presented at Logan College of Chiropractic on Oct. 9, 2009. Caroline Pugh directing.



Picture by Chris Fulton

Parents and friends enjoying the Oct. 9, 2009 **Student Culminating Concert at Logan College of Chiropractic.**



Picture by Chris Fulton

ROBERT BURNS AND NINETEENTH CENTURY AMERICAN FREEDOM

Diane McCullough, SPAE Artistic Director

January 25th marks the 251st birthday of Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland. We have the opportunity to celebrate that occasion on January 23rd when The Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis hosts its annual Burns Dinner. Robert Burns was first published at Kilmarnock, Scotland in 1786 and immediately captured the idea that freedom and the common man were inseparable. In 1828 Thomas Carlyle wrote of Burns in *The Edinburgh Review*; “Tears lie in him, and consuming fire; as lightning lurks in the drops of the summer cloud. He has a resonance in his bosom for every note of human feeling; the high and the low, the sad, the ludicrous, the joyful, are welcome in their turns.....[and] His songs are already part of the mother-tongue, not of Scotland only but of Britain, and of the millions that in all ends of the earth speak a British language.” {pp. 139-140; *Poems in Scots and English Robert Burns* edited by Donald A. Low, Un. of Stirling}

We sing his wonderful “Auld Lang Syne” at New Year’s every year, but it was his belief in the importance of the ordinary, the land, love and freedom of the common man that have been with us for more than two centuries. These ideas influenced the lives and work of two of America’s greatest nineteenth century patriots and visionaries – Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

Burns’ poetry had been published extensively in the United States and was even read out on the frontier. In the 1830’s, Illinois and the Mississippi Valley were still the western frontier, settled by rough and hardy families with strong Scots-Irish heritage. Abraham Lincoln was one of those rough and hardy pioneers whose education was by and large up to his own resourcefulness. In Maryland on the east coast, another great American of the nineteenth century was also responsible for his own education. That man was Frederick Douglass, the abolitionist author and orator who had escaped slavery to become a major influence on the thinking of Abraham Lincoln. Burns’ themes of Freedom of Man, Freedom of Spirit, and the right of every man to rail against the forces of unjust government were sources of inspiration for both men.

According to John Stauffer in his 2008 book, *Giants, the Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln*; “Burns was one of the writers in a core set of books that both men read and studied in their striving as self-made men. The others were the Bible; Shakespeare; Lord Byron; Aesop’s Fables and The Columbian Orator (a popular anthology of speeches for boys).” {Preface, p. xi of Stauffer, GIANTS} Stauffer further elaborates; “Lincoln.....simply adored Burns. He found in Burns a literary soul mate and a vernacular style that spoke to his own efforts to elevate frontier talk to art. And Burns’s life reflected back on Lincoln’s own: a poor, provincial farmer who rarely traveled outside his known circle and sought to represent, poetically and politically, the voice of the people.” {p. 126, Stauffer, GIANTS} Stauffer describes the impact Burns had on Frederick Douglass; “During his trip to the British Isles, Frederick Douglass made a special pilgrimage to Ayr, the birthplace of Robert Burns. He called it ‘one of the most gratifying visits’ during his stay in Scotland, for he saw the humble cottage where Burns lived, walked the streets that had inspired Burns’s poetry, and met the poet’s sister. While conversing with her, he thought he saw ‘some lingering sparks...that called to mind the fire that ever warmed the bosom of Burns.’ Douglass recognized in Burns’s life and poetry parallels with his own plight and that of other blacks. Both men had been born poor, were oppressed by elite whites and treated like brutes, and found in language a way to remake themselves and build a vision of humanity. Burns’s verse taught Douglass to feel *proud* of his lowly origins. ‘The honest man, tho’ e’er sae poor,/Is king o’ men for a’ that.’ Honest poverty was superior to the slavishness of the rich coward. And Douglass shared with Burns the dream of brotherly love: ‘that man to man the world o’er,/Shall brothers be for a’ that.’” {from p. 125 of Stauffer, *GIANTS the Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln*}.

Both Lincoln and Douglass were known to use bawdy stories and the dialects of their youth to make serious points and this made Burns' poetry a natural fit in their literary lives. Today, we Americans still proudly exalt the "self-made man/woman" and encourage resourcefulness, imagination, energy and humor – all characteristics of Robert Burns. We are, even now, possibly getting back to "the land" in our own way with our interest in ecology and living organically. We certainly hold true the fact that every person is a person of worth who needs to be heard in this great democracy we call our homeland.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Stauffer, John, *GIANTS The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln*; Twelve Hachette Book Group, New York, 2008. ISBN 978 0 446 69898 6

Low, Donald A., ed., *Robert Burns Poems in Scots and English*; Everyman J.M. Dent, London, 1993. ISBN 0 460 87786 0

Unpublished Copyright Diane McCullough, December 15, 2009.

SCOTTISH/CELTIC CULTURE & EVENTS CALENDAR

Scottish St. Andrew Society of Great St. Louis

January

23rd: Annual Burns Dinner at the Hyatt Regency in downtown St. Louis. Call 314-342-4618 to make hotel reservations. Price is \$79 for a room; inform hotel attendant of this rate for the St. Andrews Society Burns Dinner when making the reservation (Group Rate). For additional information:

www.slssas.org

Schlafly Tap Room

2100 Locust Street, St Louis, MO 63103

(P) 314-241-2337

January

25th, 5pm – 10pm: Burns' Night is our annual, extraordinary celebration of the life, works and spirit of the great Scottish poet, Robert Burns (1759-1796). Scottish Fare, Scotch Ale and Haggis, and Scottish Fun. For additional information:

www.schlafly.com/burns.shtml

Seven Rivers Highland Society

January

26th, 7pm: January's Board meeting will be held at the St Charles Rock Road Branch of the St. Louis County Library.

The Fabulous Fox

527 N. Grand, St. Louis, MO 63103

(P) 800-293-5949

For additional information: www.fabulousfox.com

February

13th, 8 pm: **The Band of the Irish Guards and the Royal Regiment of Scotland**

This exciting production brings the music of Scotland, England, Ireland & Wales to the Fox stage

March

30th and 31st, 7:30pm: **Celtic Woman – Songs From the Heart**

Come see Celtic Woman with their 6 piece band and the Aontas Choir perform unique renditions of Irish standards, classical favorites and contemporary hits.

Scottish Arms Restaurant and Whisky Bar

10 S. Sarah Street, St. Louis, MO 63108

Reservations and information: 314-535-0551

Sunday, 10am – 12am

Monday, 4pm – 12am

Tuesday – Friday, 11am – 1am

Saturday, 4pm – 1am

Be on the lookout for information regarding SPAE's February Fundraiser at the Scottish Arms!

Missouri Tartan Day

Missouri Tartan Day Festivities

P.O. Box 1961

St. Charles, Missouri 63302

April

9th – 11th, 2010: Frontier Park, St. Charles, Missouri. For general information, please send inquiries to:

info@motartanday.com

FUNDRAISING

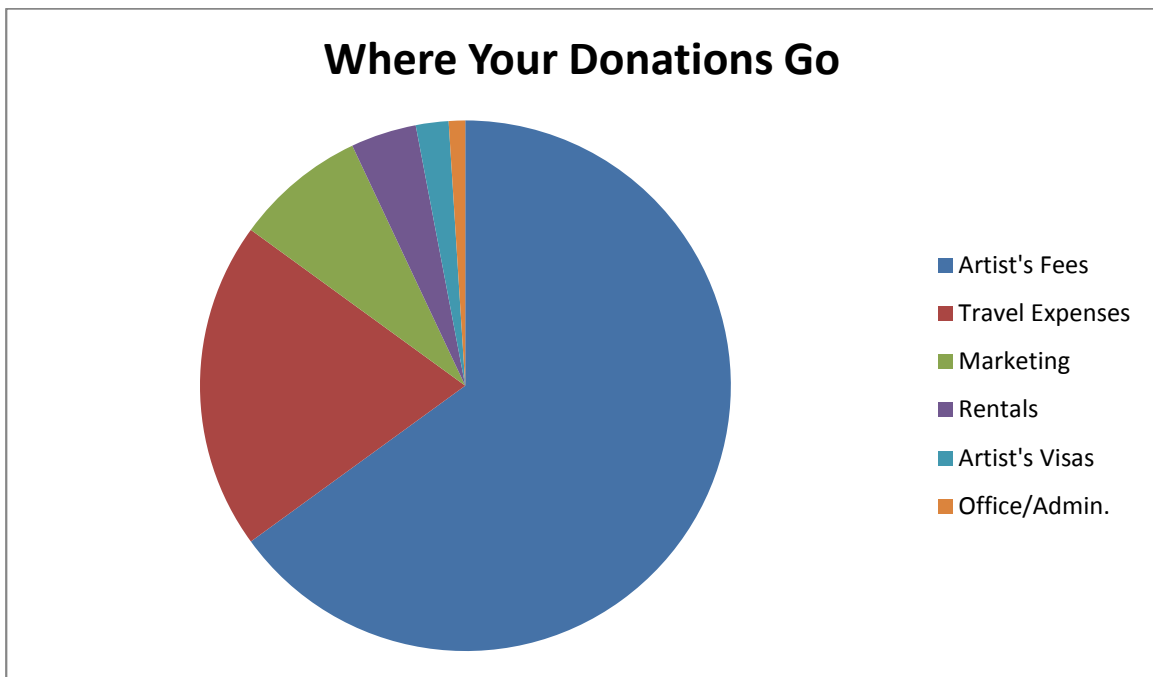
Rebecca Warren

Hello and Happy New Year! Now you've seen our pictures, heard from our participating teachers and students and (hopefully) have heard the students and/or our *Artists in Residence* perform. If you heard them perform, you had a special treat. SPAE wants to continue to offer these wonderful educational and cultural opportunities to students and Metro Area residents, but we can't do it without your help. We're a small non-profit organization made up of volunteers who love Scottish traditional music and want to share it with you and future generations of musicians. We don't have paid staff or corporate sponsorship, so we depend on your generous donations and our Artistic Director's AWESOME grant-writing abilities to raise funds to keep the 'show on the road'!

In 2010, SPAE will need approximately \$30,000.00 to cover everything from artist fees to travel expenses (see the pie chart). SPAE receives approximately \$10,000.00 annually from the Regional Arts Commission and Missouri Arts Council; most of the remaining funds come from generous donors like you! Our 2010 minimum quarterly goal is \$7,500.00. Please help us reach our goal. Perhaps you and your family/friends/colleagues could assist SPAE by:

- Hosting a house party
- Sponsoring a donor challenge
- Renewing your membership or becoming a new member of SPAE

Please make a financial commitment to SPAE during the upcoming year. Whether they're monthly, quarterly or one-time donations, we appreciate every penny! You will help us to continue to bring talented Scottish musicians, singers and songwriters to our area. Though we don't have corporate sponsorship, many employers will match your contributions - please contact your HR/Volunteer/Corporate Giving Departments for additional details. During these tough economic times, it can be difficult to decide to whom to donate your hard earned money; if you would like additional information about SPAE and our contributions to the community, please don't hesitate to contact us. Our gratitude will be *'music to your ears'*!



LINKS

Folk School of St. Louis: www.folk-school.com

Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education: www.stlspae.org

Missouri Tartan Day: www.motartanday.com

Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis: www.slsas.org

Mitzi MacDonald: www.mitzimacdonald.com

Seven Rivers Highland Society: www.sevenrivers.us

Scots for Tots: www.scotsfortots.org

St. Louis Caledonian Pipe Band: www.slcpb.com

Scottish Arms (The): www.thescottisharms.com

Thistle and Clover: www.thistleandclover.com

SPAE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cynthia Millar, Member-At-Large

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Dennis Riggs
Director of HEC-TV

SPAE IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH:



SPAE receives partial funding from the Regional Arts Commission and Missouri Arts Council, a State agency

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For additional information about SPAE or to become a member, please contact us at: www.stlspae.org

SPAE is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation. All donations are 100% Tax Deductible.

If your employer will match your donation, please provide your Corporate Matching Gift Form

Please mail donations to: SPAE, P.O. Box 6761, Chesterfield, MO 63003-6761

SPAE Brochure and Annual Report are available at:

www.stlspae.org