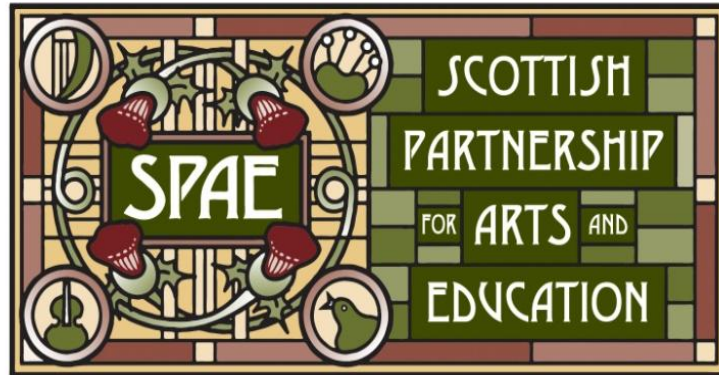


QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

Summer 2011

We are working hard to prepare for our 5th season of workshops and concerts. To date, we have presented workshops to over 5000 students! Each of these students has the opportunity to learn traditional Scottish music in workshops, both the music and the performance style, and present what they have learned in performance. Our artists who teach these children are among the best in their field, love what they do and share that love with the students. We look forward to adding several new schools to our workshops this year, as well as an exciting new partnership with the Riverview Gardens School District which will explore music, art and poetry.

We cannot present these programs, free of charge to the schools, without your support. While we do receive grants from arts organizations, we still rely on individual donations for more than 60% of our operating budget. Please consider helping us continue these exciting programs with a donation. The simplest way is to go to our website, www.stlspae.org and click on the orange "Donate" button in the upper left-hand corner. This will allow you to make a donation through PayPal, either through your own PayPal account or by credit card. We do not receive any of your credit card information. You can also

click on “Make a Donation” on the left hand side of the screen. This will take you to a page where you can download the donation form, print it off and mail it to us along with your check.

While on our website, please explore our new brochure (available for download) or our 2010 Annual Report. Both documents are full of more information about our organization and upcoming events. You can also see pictures of past events, explore links to our partners and artists, and even view older copies of our newsletter.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our events, beginning with the return of Jim Malcolm in September.

Michael Herron

President & Treasurer, SPAE

CAPE BRETON MUSIC AND DANCE: AUTHENTIC SCOTTISH OR NOT?

By Mitzi MacDonald

The famous inventor and Scotsman, Alexander Graham Bell, once said: “I have travelled around the globe. I have seen the Canadian and American Rockies, the Andes, the Alps and the Highlands of Scotland, but for simple beauty, Cape Breton outrivals them all!”...

I love that quote, and I should!...since I grew up there.

Cape Breton Island is a part of the province of Nova Scotia, Canada, and sits between the mainland and Newfoundland. Alexander and his wife, Mabel, are buried there, on the beautiful hillside of their estate, overlooking the Bras d’Or Lakes, in Baddeck. They named their property Beinn Bhreagh, meaning “beautiful mountain”, and to this day, it is a magical place to be. You’ve only to stand there, to feel the history and power which seem to emit from the very soil. Bell was not only an inventor but also a pianist and huge music lover. As a Scotsman, he was in fine company indeed, with first and second generation fiddlers and pipers all around him on that island. A lot of the early settlers of Cape Breton came by passage of their own accord, with the promise of land. This would be late 1700’s but before 1815 and the clearances. These were people who left Scotland, knowing it was now or never, and hoping for a life far better than what they had. Many wrote letters back home asking for their loved ones to join them, as did my own ancestors. They missed their homeland, and were determined to recreate what they could. The landscape was actually very similar, and it is still evident today. They picked the names of places they loved so dearly...Loch Lomond, Inverness, Dunvegan, and more.

Nowhere else on the planet was there such a huge re-settlement of Scots, as Nova Scotia (meaning New Scotland in Latin). And nowhere else (speaking strictly of the Scottish arts) have people, to this very day, been less affected by the outside influences of the modern world. World music scholars have suggested that quite possibly the true style of Scottish fiddle is more authentic in Cape Breton, than in Scotland. This fact can be argued of course, and there is no way to know for sure. Probably, like a lot of things, it is somewhat true, and certainly one could say that within Cape Breton there is a certain style that is well recognized. I believe you can hear it best in the “strathspey” and the “reel”. Cape Breton players have a style, of that it is certain. It is a strong up-bow for sure, with lots of “snaps” and it ties in completely with the solo dancer. In fact, sometimes it seems the bowing happens because of what the feet of the dancer are doing! You see, it would be impossible to talk about Cape Breton fiddle playing without

talking about Cape Breton Step Dancing. The fiddler is there for the dancer, and the dancer for the fiddler...providing that percussive sound. It is a beautiful thing to watch and listen to. They call it Cape Breton Step Dance, but it is of course, Scottish Step Dance. It came from the fields where the worker taking a break after lunch probably danced barefoot, listening to a buddy playing a reel on the fiddle. Historians have found descriptions of it in history books, mostly entries of visiting tourists to Scotland in the late 1700's early 1800's, that seem to describe this style exactly. The feet are kept "close to the floor" and always a "brushing" effect as the foot runs along the floor, with strong heel taps. Somehow this style of dance vanished from Scotland over the 1800's. So next comes the question...is this a very authentic form of the working man's Scottish dance? Probably, but no one knows for certain. Again, there are many historians who think so. Some say perhaps it is a hybrid form, influenced slightly by Irish Dance. Some think that maybe Queen Victoria of England only wanted dance schools in Scotland to teach "Highland Dance" because it was more graceful and upper class, and this step dancing business was for peasants. And so it faded away. In Cape Breton, they danced and kept their traditional ways alive, as best they could.

These two questions of style for the fiddler and the dancer may never be answered for certain, and it doesn't really matter. History has played itself out, and this is what it left us...and this we will hold on to, and cherish. For it is a strong part of who we are as Cape Bretoners, and my Scottish heritage. It is much more fun to enjoy it than to question it anyway! If you'd like to see and hear this all for yourself,...just google "Cape Breton Step Dance", and "Cape Breton Fiddle" on your computer, and sit back and enjoy. Or better yet...experience it in person, and sit in on a discussion or two on this very subject that takes place during the many performances of *Celtic Colours*...a nine day, world inclusive Celtic festival during the month of October held throughout the island. If you are even thinking about going, book some accommodations now...you can always cancel, because rooms go fast. If you would like more information about where to book, and how to approach this giant festival in general, feel free to email me, and I'll send you more info.: mitzimusic@aol.com.

Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education (SPAЕ): Scottish Music in Local Schools **By Diane McCullough, July 30, 2011**

Scottish traditional music returns in September for its fifth season serving St. Louis area schools (Sept. 19-30), The Focal Point (Sept. 10, 24, and Oct. 1) and The Folk School (Sept. 8). Brian McNeill, the great Scottish fiddler, songwriter, producer and novelist, continues to be the "artist in chief" and will return to St. Louis again in September. In addition to Brian's work in traditional fiddle, SPAЕ offers artist in residence workshops in Scots and Gaelic song and our lead teacher there is Caroline Pugh – a former student of Brian's at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD). She is a beautiful singer, composes her own experimental pieces and has a wealth of teaching experience. Caroline will be assisted this year by American folk singer and composer Cindy Kallet who is also an accomplished composer. Our artists have served students and teachers in St. Louis City, Ferguson/Florissant, Parkway, Pattonville, St. Charles, the Archdiocese of St. Louis and UM-St. Louis. Each school receives a week of contact with the artists at the end of which the students and artists perform for the rest of the school. In this way SPAЕ has reached more than 5000 students and teachers to date. Our students love the music and only wish the workshops could be longer.

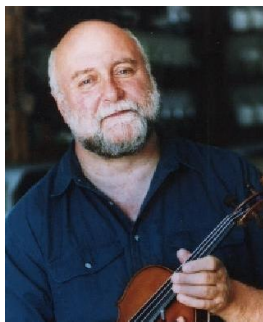
New this year for SPAЕ is an interdisciplinary curriculum especially developed for the Highland Elementary School in Riverview Gardens. This curriculum entitled: ***Community and the Environment:***

Inspiration for Art and Music will combine history, character education, poetry, art and music by focusing on the work of John Muir (Scottish immigrant and founder of The Sierra Club) and Col. Charles Young (first African American commander of the Buffalo Soldiers). Muir and Young were both involved in 1903 with the development of Yosemite, Sequoia and King's Canyon (then called Gen. Grant) National Parks. Students will study the work of these two men, both of whom faced difficulties and barriers in life but went on to make important contributions to future generations. Inspired by nature, students will write poetry, compose songs, learn Scots songs and create art works. Laumeier Sculpture Park will be a destination for several field trips to gain more inspiration. Caroline and Cindy will teach the music, St. Louis artists Yvette Woods and Courtney Henson will teach the art classes and poet Shirley LeFlore will be on board to guide the poetry writing. Artistic director, Diane McCullough will teach the history/character education classes.

In addition to our school programs, SPAE sponsors artists in concert at **The Focal Point**. Jim Malcolm starts our "Scottish month" this year on September 10th. Brian McNeill will be there on September 24th and Caroline Pugh on October 1st. All performances start at 8:00 p.m. The Jim Malcolm concert is a benefit for The Focal Point. Jim will teach a workshop in Scots song at **The Folk School** on September 8th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. For registration call The Folk School at 314-781-2244, or visit their website at www.folk-school.org. See **The Focal Point** page in *Folk Fire* for prices on the concerts.

SPAE is a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation. Memberships start as low as \$40 and are tax-deductible. We are always looking for more supporters. For more information visit our website at www.stlspae.org. SPAE is grateful for the support of The Missouri Arts Council, a State Agency; The Regional Arts Commission; Enterprise Holdings Foundation; and all of our current donors.

2011 SCOTTISH PARTNERSHIP FOR ARTS AND EDUCATION - ARTISTS IN ST. LOUIS



Brian McNeill, virtuoso on fiddle, viola, mandolin, cittern, bouzouki, guitar, bass, concertina and hurdy-gurdy and long recognized as a great songwriter, founded the Battlefield Band in 1969 (one of Scotland's best known folk bands). He has numerous recordings both solo and in ensemble. He is a music producer, novelist and teacher and still maintains a rigorous touring schedule. He was Head of Scottish Music at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) in Glasgow, Scotland for 8 years where he developed a curriculum that teaches as well as guides the students to be full-time professionals in the art of Scottish traditional music. Brian is a Master Teacher and his students in Glasgow, Denmark and St. Louis all describe their experiences with him as fun, challenging, and exciting. His concert audiences react in the same way. His website is: www.brianmcneill.co.uk.



Caroline Pugh is a velvet-voiced singer from Edinburgh, Scotland currently living in Belfast, Ireland. She performs traditional folk music and her own original material around Northern Europe and the USA, and will be doing a house concert tour of California in 2012. She currently teaches voice at Queen's University Belfast, and has led vocal workshops at Northumbria University, The Lyric Theatre Belfast and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD). She was awarded a Distinction for her Master of Music degree from Newcastle University in 2010, and earned a Scottish Music honours degree from the RSAMD in 2007. Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education has brought her to St. Louis where she will teach in local schools as Artist in Residence. She has a unique singing style and a velvety voice. Contact her at www.carolinepugh.co.uk.



Cindy Kallet holds a Masters in Elementary Education from Lesley College, Cambridge, MA and a BA in biology from Bennington College, Bennington, VT. She is a private guitar teacher in Evansville, Indiana. She has taught at a number of adult music camps including Puget Sound Guitar Workshop, Meadowlark Music Camp, Northeast Heritage Music Camp, Timber Flute Festival, Mountain Arts Gathering, and the Folk College. She taught songwriting residencies in elementary and high schools in Midcoast Maine. Besides teaching, Cindy is part of the Cindy Kallet Grey Larson duo and tours playing at clubs and festivals across the USA and the UK. Their new CD, "Cross the Water", contains original and traditional songs and tunes rooted in folk traditions of America, Ireland and Scandinavia.



A native of St. Louis, **Yvette Woods** studied at Forest Park Community College and completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree at the Kansas City Art Institute. She studied art and music at Dartington in Devon, England through North East Missouri State University. She taught drawing, design and figure drawing for 30 years at Meramec Community College. In 2007 she opened Studio W in St. Louis' Central West End where she teaches students of all ages. She was featured on a "Living St. Louis" segment on PBS Channel 9. She has had numerous exhibits and received many awards. The most recent is the 2011 Grand Center Visionary Award for Outstanding Arts Educator.



Courtney Henson holds a BFA in painting from the University of Oklahoma (2003) and a MFA in textiles from the University of Illinois at Edwardsville. She is an experimental artist and is the Visitor Services Manager at The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts in St. Louis.



Shirley Bradley LeFlore is a native of St. Louis, poet/performing artist, psychologist and educator. A published writer and recording artist veteran poet who, in collaboration with national and international musicians and dancers, was one of the first consummate artists to preserve the sanctity of the Oral Tradition with the inclusion of multiple arts disciplines. She is also a former member of the historic Black Artists Group (BAG) of St. Louis.



Jim Malcolm is a singer/songwriter and 2004 winner of the Scottish Songwriter of the Year Award. He was also the lead singer in the Scottish band Old Blind Dogs (2004 Scottish Folk Band of the Year). Raised in Perthshire and Angus in Scotland, he is recorded on Greentrax, Linn Records and Beltane Records and has appeared on Scottish radio and television broadcasts and at all of the major folk festivals in Scotland. He has toured extensively in the US, UK, Germany, Canada, Denmark and Ireland both as a solo artist and with Old Blind Dogs. His impersonation of Robert Burns is a special treat.

SPAЕ 2011 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- **Sept. 8 – Jim Malcolm song workshop:** 6:00-7:30 pm - at The Folk School of St. Louis, 3155 Sutton St., Maplewood, MO 63143. \$30 – To register visit their website: www.folk-school.org
- **Sept. 10 – 8:00 pm – Jim Malcolm in concert:** The Focal Point, 2720 Sutton St., Maplewood, MO 63143. \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. Advance tickets see Focal Point website: www.thefocalpoint.org
- **Sept. 19 – 30 – Artists in Residence workshops and concerts:** The Riverview Gardens, Ferguson/Florissant, Pattonville, Normandy, St. Louis Archdiocese districts and at the Grand Center Arts Academy (a St. Louis City charter school)

- **Sept. 23 – Ferguson/Florissant participating schools concert:** 7:00 pm at McCluer South Berkeley – 201 Brotherton Lane, Ferguson, MO 63135-3105
- **Sept. 21 – Brian McNeill workshop with UM-St. Louis Orchestra:** 3:30
- **Sept. 24 – Brian McNeill workshop with the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra:** 12:30 at Powell Hall – 718 N. Grand, St. Louis, MO 63103
- **Sept. 24 – Brian McNeill in concert:** The Focal Point – 8:00 pm
- **Oct. 1 – Caroline Pugh in concert:** The Focal Point – 8:00 pm

ST. LOUIS SCOTTISH GAMES 2011 ENTERTAINMENT



Jil Chambless, originally from Montgomery AL, now resides in Tuscaloosa and has played an active role in the Celtic music scene for more than 20 years. As singer and flute and whistle player, Jil has completed many recording projects and performed at Celtic festivals and concerts all over the U.S. as well as in Canada, Scotland and Israel with Henri’s Notions, Ed Miller, the Vogt Family Contra Band, The Vulcan Eejits, and with guitarist Scooter Muse. *“A truly great singer”*, Brian McNeill

Scooter Muse is a master guitar and banjo player, founder of the Full Moon Ensemble (5 CDs in the 90’s), member of Henri’s Notions and 8 time winner of the Tennessee Valley Championships (banjo). He plays with Jil Chambless as a duo, in the Ed Miller Trio and with fiddler John Taylor. Scooter is a Master Folk Artist with the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Referring to his solo CD, *“Saddell Abbey”*: *“... a haunting and beautiful piece of music. The peace of the Abbey is complimented perfectly by your composition. Well done! Just wonderful!”*, The Saddell Abbey Trust of Scotland

Contact Jil at: www.jilchambless.com, and Scooter at: www.scootermuse.com.



Ed Miller is one of the finest singers to come out of the Scottish folk revival and brings his love of Scotland to every performance. Originally from Edinburgh, Ed now lives in Austin, TX where he hosts a folk music program on Austin's National Public Radio station. Ed is one of the most popular folk artists on the Highland Games circuit in North America, and has recorded numerous CDs, his latest being "Never Frae My Mind". His performances include traditional ballads and the songs of Robert Burns, as well as songs from contemporary Scottish song writers such as Brian McNeill, Alan Reid, and of course, Ed himself. Ed is in great demand by Scottish music lovers in the St. Louis area. This will be his seventh year to be a featured artist at our Scottish Games and he has also been the guest entertainer for two of the St. Andrew Society annual Burns Dinners. *"His clear, sure way with a song, and gentle, humorous way with an audience, will charm every listener."*, Judy Stein, The Focal Point, St. Louis. Contact Ed at: edmiller@songsotscotland.com.



Peat Fire Flame is a Ceilidh band and plays music for Scottish country dancing as well as for concerts. Songs include Scots and Gaelic. Since 2001 the band has played for Burns Dinners, St. Andrew Dinners, highland games, parties, Festival of Nations, weddings and receptions. Their first CD, "Life's Journey", was recorded in summer 2010. For information or to engage the band, call Diane at 314-773-4195 or email dmccspae@sbcglobal.net. Pictured left to right: Mark Clark, guitar/vocals; Anna Allen, fiddle/vocals; Diane McCullough, piano/vocals; Wayne Elrod, flute, whistles/vocals.



Mitzi MacDonald and Keltic Reign. Mitzi, an award-winning singer-songwriter with seven albums to her credit, has performed throughout Canada and the US, and now resides here in St. Louis with her equally musical family. She brings the light-hearted flavor of her maritime homeland, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, to her music and all her performances, while her daughter Holly treats audiences to the toe-tapping Cape Breton Scottish style of playing. Contact Mitzi at: mitzimusic@aol.com.



Duddy Breeks plays traditional Scottish and Celtic folk music. Ken MacSwan, the group's leader, grew up in Scotland and has lived in St. Louis for over 20 years. The band features Ken on octave mandolin and guitar, Thayne Bradford on fiddle and George Kieffer on accordion. George is on leave so Duddy Breeks appears as a duo this year. Contact Ken at: duddybreeks@yahoo.com.

For more information and ticket prices visit www.stlouis-scottishgames.com

ST. LOUIS SCOTTISH GAMES 2011 MUSIC SCHEDULE

Friday, September 30, 2011

- **Alex Sutherland Music Tent**
 - 8:00-9:00: Jil Chambless and Scooter Muse
 - 9:00-10:00: Ed Miller, Jil Chambless and Scooter Muse
- **Ceremonies Field**
 - 6:45: Ed Miller featured singer at the Torchlight Ceremony

Saturday, October 1, 2011

- **Alex Sutherland Music Tent**
 - 10:00-10:45: Mitzi MacDonald and Keltic Reign
 - 11:00-11:45: Duddy Breeks
 - 11:50-12:30: Jil Chambless and Scooter Muse
 - 1:30-2:15: Peat Fire Flame
 - 2:30-3:15: Ed Miller
 - 3:30-4:15: Jil Chambless and Scooter Muse
 - 5:00-6:00: Ed Miller, Jil Chambless and Scooter Muse
- **Ceremonies Field**
 - 9:15: Jil Chambless sings National Anthem
 - 12:30: Ed Miller featured singer at the Parade of Tartans
 - 4:30: Ed Miller featured singer at the Closing Ceremony

SCOTTISH/CELTIC CULTURE & EVENTS CALENDAR

The International Institute's Festival of Nations (Tower Grove Park, St. Louis, MO)

August

27th – 28th: Join us in Tower Grove Park for the region's premier multicultural celebration, featuring more than 40 ethnic food booths, non-stop dance and music, children's arts and crafts, and an international bazaar with unique gifts from around the world. **Admission is Free!** For additional information, please visit: www.festivalofnationsstl.org

Seven Rivers Highland Society

September

9th, 7pm: **Kilt Night at Fallon's Bar & Grill**, 9200 Olive Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132: www.fallonpub.com

November

5th, 7pm: **Trivia Night and Silent Auction at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church.** Admission price: TBA. 1424 First Capitol Dr., St. Charles, MO 63303 (Highway 70 and MO-94): www.strobertbellarmineparish.com

Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis

September

12th, 6-8 pm: **Annual General Meeting at Llywelyn's Pub – Webster Groves**, 17 Moody, Webster Groves, MO 63119: www.llywelynpub.com/locations.htm

2011 St. Louis Scottish Games and Cultural Festival (Forest Park, St. Louis, MO)

September

30th – Oct. 1st: For additional information and gate prices, please visit the website at: www.stlouis-scottishgames.com (see Artist Bios, above)

The Folk School of St. Louis, 3155 Sutton Blvd., Ste., 101, St. Louis, MO 63143

September

8th, 6-7:30pm: **Jim Malcolm Song Workshop.** Admission: \$30. Register at: www.folk-school.org

The Focal Point, 2720 Sutton, Maplewood, MO 63143, 314.781.4200, www.thefocalpoint.org

September

10th, 8pm: **Jim Malcolm.** \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door.

24th, 8pm: **Brian McNeill.** \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door.

October

1st, 8pm: **Caroline Pugh.** \$15 at the door.

The Fabulous Fox, 527 N. Grand, St. Louis, MO 63103, www.fabulousfox.com

October

20th, 7:30pm: **Celtic Thunder** presents **Heritage**, a show accentuating the musical culture of Ireland.

Tickets: \$49.50 - \$68.

LINKS

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

Matt Pantaleoni: www.pipingstl.com/Home

Mitzi MacDonald: www.mitzimacdonald.com

Scots for Tots: www.scotsfortots.org

Scottish Arms (The): www.thescottisharms.com

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

Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis:
www.stlstandrews.com

Seven Rivers Highland Society: www.7rhs.net

St. Louis Scottish Games: www.stlouis-scottishgames.com

Thistle and Clover: www.thistleandclover.com

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Alex Sutherland, In Memoriam

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SPAE IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH:



SPAE receives partial funding from Enterprise Holdings Foundation, 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. Donations are Tax Deductible to the extent the law allows.

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

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SPAE Brochure and Annual Report are available at:

www.stlspae.org