



SPAE QUARTERLY

Good fortune, good future through arts and education

Winter 2025

Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education

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SPAE Mission Statement

Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, believes that the historic connections between Scotland, countries of West Africa, and the United States provide an educational foundation which broadens perspectives and understanding, creating mutual respect and unity.

Announcements

Come visit our booth at the [St. Louis Scottish Games](#) on Saturday, May 17th in Schroeder Park in Ballwin. Check out their [website](#) for more information.

[GiveSTLday](#) is our biggest fundraiser of the year. This year the date is Thursday, May 8, 2025. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

President's Message

by Michael Herron

We've had a great season so far with Brian's workshops in several area schools (virtually). Some of our board members were able to be present at Holman Middle School for their Winter Concert that featured the pieces they learned from Brian. Our Scots folk song workshops with Jil Chambless concluded with a concert at The Focal Point with her and some of the students from STEAM Academy (vocal and string) and St. Gabriel the Archangel on January 31st. Next up we have poetry workshops over the next few months at St. Gabriel the Archangel and Yeatman-Liddell Middle School. Please visit our website at stlspae.org for more information about any of our events. We also have a Face-book page at <https://www.facebook.com/STLSPAE>.



Michael Herron

Michael Herron
President & Treasurer, SPAE

Notes from the Artistic Director

by Diane McCullough



Dear Friends,

SPAE is having a stellar year of workshops for students. In July 2024 poet Gregory Maurice guided students at Camp Flourish in writing poetry and at St. Gabriel the Archangel in January 2025. Greg will be at Yeatman Middle School (St. Louis Public Schools) in February 2025. Student poetry is always published as part of the workshop experience. October 2024 saw the return of Scots Fiddle workshops with Brian McNeill. In 2024 the virtual workshops took place at five schools: The STEAM Academy High School (Ferguson/Florissant School District), Ritenour High School, Gateway Science Academy, and two middle schools in the Pattonville School District – Pattonville Heights and Holman Middle Schools. Students performed their Scottish music in subsequent concerts.

Jim and Susie Malcolm returned to perform Scots songs at The Focal Point November 1, 2024 to a sold - out crowd. Jil Chambless returned the week of January 27, 2025 to teach Scots and American Song at the STEAM Academy High School and St. Gabriel the Arch-

angel. They performed beautifully with her band to an enthusiastic crowd at The Focal Point on January 31, 2025. It feels like things are getting back to normal after the disruption of the pandemic. We are excited about our possibilities for the future. We thank you for your continued support and hope that we will be considered in your charitable giving plans for 2025.

All the very best,

Diane McInerney



Vocal students from the STEAM Academy and St. Gabriel the Archangel perform with Jil Chambless at The Focal Point on January 31, 2025.



String students from the STEAM Academy (part of Brian McNeil's workshops) perform with Tyler Moore at The Focal Point on January 31, 2025.

Molly Cochran – 7th Grade at St. Gabriel the Archangel School

Quatrain:

White squeaky shoes and dark blue jackets
Brown colored hair and bright green rackets
Smack, hit, slap, I hear the balls
Passing with the wall in the big tennis stalls.

Kwansaba:

The water splashes against a big rock
White birds fly above the glistening bay
Horses gallop while the little ones walk
Lizards and frogs slide in the clay
The cows move in a large flock
Tall giraffes move around, then they lay
I look at the world in praise

I have a voice

Faith:

Faith is belief, faith to me is God
Faith reels me in like a fishing rod
Faith isn't always about the Lord though
Faith could be believing in anything, and wanting it to show
Faith could be showing loyalty in country
Faith could be standing up, maybe just to save one tree
You could show faith by yelling, screaming aloud
But faith is also being quiet, feeling proud

Kindness:

You may not notice their smile fade
You might only think about the funny jokes you made
The class erupts and ripples with a laugh
You feel so tall and mighty, like a giraffe
When you look at that poor kid you may see
Their fingers stumbling around their leg, picking at the skin on their knee
Your stomach does a flip, maybe it's guilt
Even when you push it away, it lays on you like a big heavy quilt
You ask yourself, why did I do that?
So after class, you walk up to them to chat
You say that you're sorry and you were being mean
They smile and say don't worry about it, your record's clean
You turn on your heel, good and ready
You walk out of the room, your feelings now steady
After that day, you try to be nice
Sometimes you slip up, and it does pay a price
You might think, only one person could do a touch
But one person could do a lot more, they could do so much

Death:

You've heard the news, someone has died
Your feelings felt delicate, then you cried
Your heart broke, shattered like glass
Shards fell to the ground, somewhere in the grass
You leave the pieces on the floor
You have lost your energy, you have no more
After a while, you have that feeling
You look up at the sky, then drop to the ground kneeling
You pick up the pieces, putting them together

Your heart may still be wounded, but it won't last forever
As your days go on, memories come back
Some bright and colorful, others white and black
Some days you're up, some days you're down
Some days you smile bright, some days you frown
Memories could be sad, or they could be a pleasure
But treat all memories like they're gold or treasure
Instead of lurking on what your loved one didn't get to do
Think of the time you shared with your loved one, how happy they made you
Just because someone has passed, you're not at your doom
That person hasn't left forever, they have just walked into the next room

Holman Middle School Winter Concert
(Pattonville School District)

Scottish Fiddle Set



HOLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
WINTER CONCERT

STUDENTS PLAYING THEIR
SCOTTISH FIDDLE SET





DIANE MCCULLOUGH

Board Member
SPOTLIGHT CONT.

She has been a founding director for three nonprofit organizations - 1) Karumanta, an Andean flute band, 2) The St. Louis Scottish Games, and 3) Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education (SPAE). SPAE was her brainchild and she is their artistic director, curriculum writer, and grants administrator. SPAE, founded in 2006, provides free Artist in Residence workshops in Scottish traditional fiddle, Scots and Gaelic song, poetry and their connections to American music and poetry, and professional development workshops for teachers, including a STEAM lesson on felting for both MMEA (Missouri Music Educators Association) and MAEA (Missouri Art Educators Association). In partnership with Missouri Alliance of Arts Educators (MAAE) she presented SPAE curriculum at the 2023 conferences of both MMEA and MCDA (Missouri Choral Directors Association). She received an "Ageless Remarkable St. Louisan" award from the St. Andrew Charitable Foundation in 2022.

Besides doing work for SPAE and leading the band "Peat Fire Flame", Ms. McCullough volunteers as:

- Co-chair of the Docents Committee for Opera Theatre of St. Louis's Guild. 2008-2020
- Chair of the Entertainment and Sound Committee for the St. Louis Scottish Games. 2007-2017 and co-chair 2023 - present
- Chair of the Advocacy Committee for Opera Theatre of St. Louis's Guild 2020-present
- Serves as an Elder at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church and is the moderator of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy Dismantling Racism and White Privilege Committee (DRAWP). The DRAWP Committee successfully submitted "An Overture of Apology to African Americans for the Sin of Slavery and its Legacy" to the Presbyterian Church USA General Assembly in 2022. It is now an official statement of apology from the PCUSA.

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BEVERLY WHITTINGTON

Board Member SPOTLIGHT

Beverly Whittington, a Director in the Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education (SPAЕ), grew up in New Jersey. Her love of music grew out of her father's love of all kinds of music from all kinds of places. Beverly, along with her three brothers, learned to appreciate many styles of music. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education. Her Master of Arts in Teaching degree is from Webster University.

Presently Beverly is a vocal music specialist at the Ames Visual and Performing Arts Elementary School in the city of St. Louis. She retired from teaching after thirty-three years from this district. Beverly felt a need and desire to be part of the Retire-Return- to-work program. The 2024-2025 school year is her second year in this endeavor.

Beverly is a National Board-Certified Teacher. She has received the Music Teacher of the Year Award, the Arts and Education Award, and The St. Louis Symphony Teacher of the Year award. Beverly has been a Director in SPAЕ since 2013. She thoroughly enjoyed this experience and journey.

Missouri arts need your voice!

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Music Teacher,
Guitarist, Composer

Marie Brown,
Violin, Viola Teacher

Dear SPAE Supporter,

Thank you so much for your steadfast support of SPAE. Today, I'm reaching out personally about an important issue that will impact not only SPAE, but the entire Missouri arts landscape: Will you please sign up for action alerts with [Missouri Citizens for the Arts](#) and follow them on [social media](#)?

For more than 40 years, Missouri Citizens for the Arts has provided a presence for Missouri's arts industry, including SPAE at the state Capitol. When funding for the arts is presented as a "discretionary" choice, MCA is there to remind 197 state legislators that for every one dollar invested in the arts, more than eight dollars are returned to the Missouri economy. MCA has successfully saved MAC from being zeroed out of the state budget to securing over \$10 million in the FY25 state budget to support over 500 arts organizations and events statewide.

Meanwhile, MCA has no paid staff, only volunteers. So advocating for arts dollars is tough work and they need help for full amplification.

Here is my simple request:

- Please [sign up](#) to receive alerts from MCA
- Follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#)

You'll stay on top of opportunities to make your voice heard, you'll help us at SPAE receive greater state support, and you'll ensure Missouri's dynamic cultural and artistic identity thrives!

With appreciation,

Michael Herron, President of SPAE

P.S. You can learn more about MCA's work [here](#). Thank you again for your support of SPAE as well as the arts in Missouri!

SPAЕ
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[giveSTLday](#)

Wednesday, May 8, 2025

[St. Louis Scottish Games](#)

May, 17, 2025

Other St. Louis Scottish Organizations

St. Andrew Society of St. Louis

<http://www.stlandrews.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.

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.

