

SPAE QUARTERLY

Good fortune, good future through arts and education

Fall 2024

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

Join us at [The Focal Point](#) on Friday, November 1st as we welcome [Jim and Susie Malcolm](#). We have welcomed [Jim and Susie](#) to [The Focal Point](#) several times, with SPAE paying the [Malcolms](#) and the ticket sales being donated back to [The Focal Point](#) as a fundraiser for them. You can [purchase tickets here](#).

President's Message

by Michael Herron

We are beginning our 19th season this fall. We welcome back our artists – [Brian McNeill](#), [Gregory Maurice](#), [Jil Chambless](#) and [Jim Malcolm](#). [Jim Malcolm](#) will be performing a benefit for the Focal Point with his wife Susie on November 1st. You can purchase tickets at this site. [Jil Chambless](#), our vocal teacher, will also be returning in late January and will have a concert, also at the Focal Point, on January 31, 2025. Please visit our website at www.stlspae.org for more information. We also have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/STLSPAE>.

Finally, thanks to those that donated on giveSTLday on May 6th. We raised over \$2,800!



Michael Herron

Michael Herron
President & Treasurer, SPAE

Notes from the Artistic Director

by Diane McCullough

Dear Friends,

One of our earliest supporters was the [Dunvegan Foundation](#). They are a [Clan McLeod](#) organization that local Clan McLeod members Iona Baldwin and Ian Good introduced SPAE to when the clan held their international conference here in St. Louis. John McLeod was then president and he and his wife, Judy, guided us to apply for a grant from the [Dunvegan Foundation](#).

This summer I had the pleasure of meeting Charlene Boyes and Linda McLeod in Columbia, MO. Charlene is moving from grants chair to president and Linda is taking over as the grants chair. I was thrilled to learn that they support our mission enthusiastically. I am so grateful for their continued support and look forward to working with them.

SPAE is an associate arts organization with the [Des Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative](#). This organization works to provide arts education in school districts that are considered under-served in the arts. A majority of students in these schools receive free and/or reduced rate lunch services. (51% of Missouri school age children are under the poverty line.) Every year there is a Des Lee Kickoff where teachers and administrators come to see what the Des Lee group of arts organizations has to offer for the year. SPAE received

a lot of interest in two of the research studies that I have written so I have been busy writing unit and lesson plans that meet state education standards. This will make it easier for teachers to incorporate these materials into their class work. It is very detailed but important work.

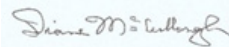
Our Scottish fiddle workshops with [Brian McNeill](#) are scheduled for October in five schools. [Brian](#) is still working virtually with our schools and it is working out beautifully.

[Jil Chambless](#) will teach Scots and American Song in January at two schools. They will perform with her band on January 31, 2025 at The Focal Point. [Jim and Susie Malcolm](#) will perform at [The Focal Point](#) on [November 1, 2024](#). We look forward to seeing them again.

Thank you for supporting our work. We can't do this without you.

Peace,

Diane

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane McNeill".



SPAÆ SUMMER 2024

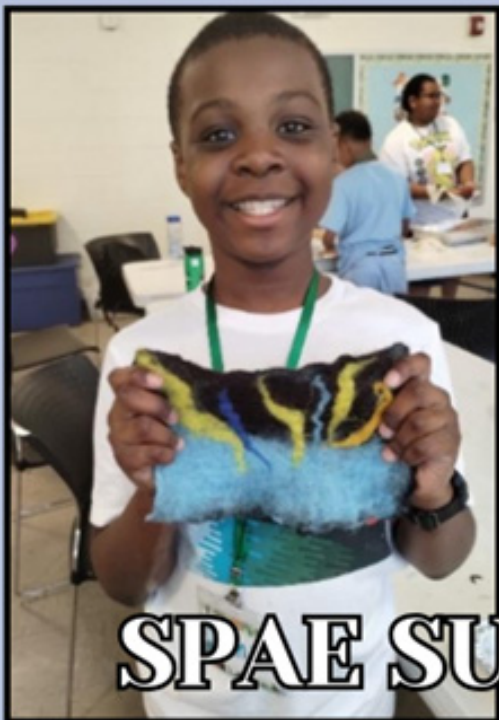
STL Scottish Games

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.



The Art & Science *of Felting*

Providing a sense of how science and art are truly tied together, and how a simple conversation between teachers can turn into so much more for students' academic growth at Camp Flourish.



SPAEE SUMMER 2024

SPAÆ SUMMER 2024



Camp Flourish



POEMS 2024 Camp Flourish:

I Have a Voice
What's the point?
We live in a society
Where things repeat themselves
And from right to war,
It gets worse.
What's the point?
All places and countries get colonized
And turned into landfills.
So why do we do it?
To cities, to landmarks,
And even to people's homes,
They disappear.
Why should people have to shield their
children and siblings
From their rightful habitats?
And why does no one address it?
For we will never know,
As the answer is a grain of sand
In a desert.

By London Nicholson

I Have a Voice

Before the year of 2020, I could walk...
I still remember the fun memories of the
McDonalds playplace
Or going outside everyday, walking.
The days where I didn't have to worry about people
shooting
Or fighting at my birthday party
Or the days where I didn't have to see people giving
out bags
With white powder in them
Or even the days where I didn't have to watch
people
Carry around cardboard signs
Asking for anything they can get.
The days where I could be a kid,
The days when I was able to walk...
Nowadays I stand still...
I don't walk, I don't run. I don't jump..
I can't move because of the internal void I'm stuck
in.
The void full of anger, separation, bad memories,
And things that happened to me that are
completely out of my control.
But, I have to stand there and let the bombs
explode in my face.
Because I CAN'T walk.
But today, that changes...
Because I have escaped the void and
I will be taking my first step in a while, because...
I've realized my generation is gonna be the one to
fix the mess.
Our world has gotten into, because
I HAVE A VOICE. WE HAVE A VOICE!

By Alexander Thurston

Haiku:

Gifted Giraffes are
Gifted, very cool, and smart
I saw one today

I love trees they are
Beautiful and cool they give
People like me air.

By Imory Clark

SPAÆ SUMMMER 2024



St. Gabriel the Archangel



Haikus

The loud ocean breeze
The sand between my tan toes
The best vacation

A box of chocolates
What a nice caramel filling
Very delicious

By Lisa Bene

Haikus

Many rainbows near
The pink fluffy unicorns
Dancing on top

The springtime is near
Many flowers blooming here
The sun shines above

By Luna Nguyen



Michael Herron
SPAE President & Treasurer

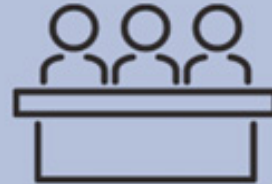
Michael is beginning his 29th year as a teacher in St. Louis Public Schools where he teaches middle school choir, coding and video production. He grew up as a member of the St. Louis Children's Choirs and is beginning his 32nd year working for them, currently as an ensemble assistant. Outside of work he is a docent for Opera Theatre of St. Louis. He has Level 1 Certification in Choral Music Education from the Institute for Choral Teacher Education. He has been honored in "Who's Who Among American Teachers" in 2005 & 2006.



Carolyn Peters
Director & Liaison to the
St. Louis Scottish Games



BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



Carolyn Peters grew up on her grandfather's farm in Sparta, Illinois where she milked cows, twice a day---45 of them, gathered eggs, shoveled manure, baled hay and sat on the well top helping her grandfather roll his cigarettes. She lived in 6 states and attended 7 high schools.... In her own words:

"I've had many different jobs, not exactly a profession. Sometimes I wonder just what I do! Let's see, waitress, cook, employed by 3 airlines-reservations, ticket office, ticket counter and operations; owner of a travel agency, paralegal, sold caskets, care giver and now customer service. Most important, life changing was being a mother to 3.

I enjoy many music genres--classical to rap, country. I joined the board 13 years ago, tried to do what was asked of me. Since I am still working, I cannot make it to many of the daytime functions. So, I work for 6 months on the Scottish game's entertainment committee.

I am fortunate to be on a board with members that are focused on education and music, and the ability to adjust the sails when the wind blows in an opposite direction."

Carolyn is officially the SPAE liaison to the St. Louis Scottish Games where SPAE sponsors the Entertainment Stage. SPAE is grateful for her dedication and hard work!!

Missouri arts need your voice!

SPAE Board of Directors

Michael Herron,
President/Treasurer/
Secretary

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Artistic Director/
Founding Director

Carolyn Peters,
Director

Beverly Whittington,
Director

Lorine Pattin,
Director

Kimberly McAllister,
Director/Grants
Administrator

Heather Day,
Director

Alex Sutherland,
In-Memorium

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Retired Supervisor of
Music for St. Louis
Public Schools. E.
Desmond Lee Pro
fessor Emeritus of
Music Education at
the University of
Missouri at St. Louis.

Mark Clark,
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

Concerts

[Jim Malcolm](#)

Friday, November 1, 2024
8:00 PM

SPAЕ Benefit for [Focal Point](#)

[Jil Chambless](#)

Saturday, January 31, 2025
8:00 PM

SPAЕ Benefit for [Focal Point](#)

[giveSTLday](#)

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

[St. Louis Scottish Games](#)

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/>

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Highland Mist Scottish Country Dancers

<http://www.highlandmistdancers.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.

