

Piob Rocks!

New Club

A workshop for beginning piobaireachd players was held on November 5, 2005, in Neffsville, PA. It was a teaching workshop with some playing by a few pipers. Out of this workshop, a new club for piobaireachd enthusiasts was born.

The club is open to anyone, anywhere, who has an interest in Ceol Mor, the "Great Music" of the Highland bagpipe. However, it is mostly designed to promote the playing, study, and teaching of the "Great Music" we call "piobaireachd" in Central Pennsylvania.

There are probably 100-200 pipers in the Central Pennsylvania area with only a small minority that know how to play a piobaireachd. While there are knowledgeable instructors to the east, west, and south of our area. There is not a great deal of knowledge of piobaireachd at a professional level in our area.

With that said, there are a number of prize-winning amateur players that would like to expand their knowledge and ability in piobaireachd playing, as well as a number of amateur pipers who are interested in learning about piobaireachd for the first time.

The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania will be providing many opportunities for the piobaireachd player/enthusiast. We will encourage the playing of Ceol Mor through a variety of gatherings and competitions, and the

learning of Ceol Mor through workshops and recitals.

Some of the activities we will continue to support include:

- "Introduction to Piobaireachd" workshops for pipers new to piobaireachd.
- Provide a forum for piobaireachd players to perform the "Great Music" of the Highland bagpipe.
- Support piobaireachd competitions / performances in central Pennsylvania.

Through our first two workshops/gatherings, members have already had the opportunity to learn three piobaireachds, and listen to nine tunes being played on the pipes. Our first two workshops have been very successful. Our first workshop was promoted as "An Introduction to Piobaireachd". For our second workshop, we brought in David Bailiff, a professional piper and EUSPBA Judge.

Many more activities are being planned for the future. The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania will continue to promote the playing of piobaireachd in the area. Whether your interested in playing piobaireachd or just listening to some great music, we encourage you to join The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania.

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We support Piobaireachd in Central Pennsylvania!

- "Introduction to Piobaireachd" workshops for pipers new to piobaireachd.
- Provide a forum for piobaireachd players to perform Ceol Mor "Great Music" of the Highland Bagpipe.
- Provide workshops for the Study of piobaireachd

New Club, New Name

The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania would like to extend a big “Thank You!” to Clemson N. Page, Jr., Esquire. Clem Page has been playing the bagpipes for many years, and is also, a piobaireachd enthusiast from the Reading area. In addition, Clem works for the law firm of Austin, Boland, Connor, and Giorgi.

Clem Page was in contact with Andrew Wright, President of The Piobaireachd Society (UK) about using our new name “The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania”.

In addition, Clem has been helping us file all the paperwork associated with starting a piping society. He has helped us file our articles of incorporation and other important filings.

Through his help we are registered as a non-profit corporation in The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Clem used to compete on the EUSPBA circuit at the Grade III level. He has also been a member of several local pipe bands in the area.



New Club, New Website

The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania has a presence on the World Wide Web. We have established a website at www.geocities.com/pennpiob. It has been operational since November 25, 2005.

The website will contain up-to-date information on Society information.

The **HOME PAGE** contains a little background about the Society and our Mission.

The **NEWS** page contains the latest news concerning the Society and other exciting news concerning the Society’s members and their accomplishments related to piobaireachd. Copies of the Society Newsletter will be available for download here.

The **SCHEDULE** page contains information on important upcoming events. The **SOCIETY SCHEDULE** contains information specifically related to Society events. Registration forms for Society events will be available for download here. Another section will list other events that may be of interest to Society members.

The **MEMBERS** page lists members of the Society. The Society already has members from the Beginner level all the way through the Professional competitive level. The current Membership Form will be available from this website.

The **RESOURCES** page is a great page to visit for references relating to piobaireachd. Items that are currently posted on this page include:

- The Piobaireachd Society Set Tunes for 2006
- EUSPBA list of Tunes requiring a Crunluath a mach variation.
- Tunes played at the 2004 & 2005 Pipes & Drums Festival. (We hope to add tunes played at the Elizabethtown Scots-Irish Festival shortly.)
- Tunes taught at our workshops.
- Tunes played at Society Gatherings.

The **LINKS** page contains links to websites that would be of interest to piobaireachd players. Some of the links currently available include:

- Piobaireachd Societies
- On-Line Piobaireachd Resources
- Other Important Links

Join the Club

We encourage anyone who has an interest in piobaireachd to join us. Our organization’s mission is to promote the study, teaching, and performing of Ceol Mor, the ‘Great Music’ of the Highland Bagpipe in Central Pennsylvania.

Membership forms are available from the Society website. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Thompson McConnell at (717) 581-0068 or lancaster_piper@comcas.net.

New Club, New Newsgroup

In order to maintain a working E-mail Newsgroup, we have created a new Yahoo! Newsgroup specifically for The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania. If you are interested in keeping up to date with the latest information on the Society, please subscribe to the newsgroup. There is no charge to receive the e-mail. Only the Society administrator will have access to send you e-mail through the group so there is no un-solicited, broadcast messages.

There are two ways to subscribe to the newsgroup. First, if you are already a Yahoo! Member, add "pennpiob" to your Group list. Log into Yahoo! using your user name & password, click on

"Groups". Find "pennpiob" and join. You can also join Yahoo! for free.

The second way to join the newsgroup is to send a blank e-mail to pennpiob-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. This will automatically add your e-mail to the newsgroup.

You can unsubscribe at anytime by sending a blank e-mail to pennpiob-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

We will be using the Newsgroup to relay information about upcoming events and news. Be the first to know by signing up now.

Quote of the Month

"5. Learn piobaireachd at the earliest opportunity. There's nothing better to improve mental and finger stamina. Avoid the "but I don't like it" trap. Once you gain some understanding of piobaireachd, you'll learn to love it. It's what the pipe was made for."

- Excerpt from George Campbell's "Five tips for young players" in "George Campbell—The P&D Interview", Piper & Drummer Magazine, September 2005, Vol. 22, Issue 4, p. 34.

What is Piobaireachd?

"Piobaireachd" literally means "pipe playing" or "pipe music." However, in recent times it has come to represent the type of music known as Ceol Mor. The music for the Highland Bagpipe can be divided into three classes of music: Ceol Beag, Ceol Meadhonach, and Ceol Mor.

Ceol Beag (Little Music) is the gaelic name for the classification of tunes known as Marches, strathspeys & reels. Marches came out of the military tradition of the 19th century. Strathspeys & Reels came out of the dance traditions.

Ceol Meadhonach (Middle Music) refers to the jigs, hornpipes and slow airs. Slow airs were played by the ancient piping masters, however, jigs and hornpipes are fairly modern additions to a piper's repertoire.

Ceol Mor (Great Music) is the classical music for the Highland Bagpipe, also known as, piobaireachd. It is the oldest type of pipe music that we have, with some of the music dating back to the fifteenth century. Much of the Ceol Mor that has been handed down were written as Laments, Salutes, Gathering or Battle tunes.

Piobaireachd music consists of a ground or a theme, followed

by variations on the theme. This ground is often referred to its gaelic name (Urlar). Each variation progresses through the tune using more intricate fingering than the previous variation. Many of these tunes will end with a crunluath (Crowning) movement.

There were several hereditary lines of pipers throughout the highlands. The most important line comes through the MacCrimmons of Skye. The MacCrimmons were hereditary pipers to the MacLeods on the Isle of Skye. The MacCrimmons were given lands near Dunvegan Castle, known as Boreraig. The MacCrimmon cairn (stone monument) was recently erected to mark the place where the MacCrimmons held their famous piping school at Boreraig.

On the solo competition circuit, piobaireachd is where it's at. The Highland Society gold medals at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban and the Northern Meeting in Inverness are considered the pinnacle achievements by many pipers.

Piobaireachd truly is Ceol Mor, the "Great Music" of the Highland bagpipe.

“An Introduction to Piobaireachd” Workshop

The first meeting of the Piobaireachd Club was held as a workshop on November 5, 2005. “An Introduction to Piobaireachd” was a great success with 8 students signing up for a six-hour workshop with instructor, Thompson McConnell. The event was held at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Neffsville, PA (outside Lancaster).

As students were arriving from throughout central Pennsylvania, the DVD of the THE BAND ROOM MASTERS Piobaireachd competition was playing in the background. Many of the students had been introduced to piobaireachd in the past with some of the attendees coming to learn another one for their repertoire. Attendees included:

Doug Campbell (York, PA), Tim Culbertson (Reedsville, PA), Joshua Dye (Bethel, PA), John Morrison (Red Lion, PA), Wade Reeser (State College, PA), Adam Schaller (Hershey, PA), Thomas Thomson (South Lebanon, PA), and Tom Thomson (South Lebanon, PA).

The workshop included a brief background on piobaireachd, an introduction to various piobaireachd competitions, and an introduction to piobaireachd structure, terminology, etc. The class then went through a great beginning tune, the “Mackintosh’s Banner”. This is a tune that was composed by William MacKenzie, Piper to The MacKintosh, in the early 1880’s.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Thompson McConnell played “Mackintosh’s Banner” for the class on the pipes. Thompson had also arranged for a couple of the attendees to play for the class. Thomas Thomson played the Urlar and a couple of variations of “Glengarry’s Lament” from Kilberry Book. Wade Reeser, who finished the 2005 season ranked 1st in the EUSPBA Grade IV Senior Overall and Piobaireachd standings, played “Too Long in this Condition”.

It was decided that some sort of piobaireachd club should be formed to promote the study and playing of Ceol Mor throughout central Pennsylvania.

2006 Winter Workshop

What a great day for a piobaireachd!

The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania held a Winter Workshop on January 21, 2006, in Lititz, PA. David Bailiff came to teach two new piobaireachds to the group: “The MacKintosh’s Lament” and “The Munro’s Salute”.

“The MacKintosh’s Lament” is a standard crunluath tune with a beautiful melody. “The Munro’s Salute” has a crunluath fosgailte. It is attributed to John Dall MacKay, piper to MacKenzie of Gairloch, who was a great favorite with the Munros. He was a frequent guest at their stronghold in Fern Donald, the seat of the Munro chiefs at that time. John Dall MacKay was apparently treated with particular kindness and in compliment to the hospitality which he received from the Munros, he composed this salute.

Workshop Attendees included

Ken Campbell (Mountville, PA), Tim Culbertson (Reedsville, PA), Joshua Dye (Bethel, PA), Karen Helm (Lancaster, PA), Thompson McConnell (Lititz, PA), Wade Reeser (State College, PA), Adam Schaller (Hershey, PA), Thomas Thomson (South Lebanon, PA), and Tom Thomson (South Lebanon, PA).

While the group enjoyed pizza & drinks for lunch, we also enjoyed THE BAND ROOM MASTERS Piobaireachd competition on DVD.

After the workshop, the Society held a brief meeting about upcoming events.

We were then graced with the playing of several piobaireachd by those in attendance. The Society welcomes Ruth Fisher, Marty McKeon, and James Diener who joined us for the Gathering in the afternoon.

We started off the Gathering by reviewing the Histories associated with each of the tunes to be played. (Histories are available from the RESOURCES page of the Society’s Website). We were all treated to several piobaireachd:

Joshua Dye—**The Massacre of Glencoe** (Urlar)

Thomas Thomson—**Glengarry’s Lament** (Urlar)

Ken Campbell—**Colin Macrae of Invereenat’s Lament** (Urlar & Variations)

Karen Helm—**The MacDougall’s Gathering** (Urlar & Variations)

Thompson McConnell—**His Father’s Lament for Donald MacKenzie**

David Bailiff—**Lament for the Viscount of Dundee**

It truly was a great day for piobaireachd. Those in attendance were taught two tunes and were treated to another six on pipes.

Upcoming Events

February 18, 2006

Road Trip - Join us at the "Metro Cup". This all day competition in Newark, New Jersey, is one of the most exciting professional competitions around. Invited competitors include: Bruce Gandy, Alasdair Gillies, Stuart Liddell, Donald MacPhee, Duncan Bell, Scot Walker, John Patrick, Ian Whitelaw, Peter Skae and Brian Meagher and last years amateur champion Dan Cole.

The amateur Grade I competition will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The Professional Piobaireachd will begin at 1:00 p.m.

The Professional Medley (Metro Cup) will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania has purchased a block of tickets. 15 Tickets are available to Society members on a first-come, first-served basis for a price of \$15. Tickets will be \$25 at the door.

February 2006

We are trying to line up one of the Metro Cup competitors for a Piobaireachd workshop in central Pennsylvania. Check the website for details.

April 1, 2006

Event - Judge's Critique.

Are you getting ready to compete in solo piobaireachd competition this season? Play for a EUSPBA judge for a public critique. June Hanley will be on hand to hear you play your piobaireachd. Find out what you will need to work on before your first competition. Also, find out what your competition will be working on.

More information to follow.

June 10, 2006

The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania will be hosting a EUSPBA-sanctioned amateur solo piping competition somewhere in central Pennsylvania. Check the Society website or EUSPBA website (www.euspba.org) for details when they become available. The events to be offered include:

Grade I: Piobaireachd; March, Strathspey & Reel; Hornpipe & Jig; 6/8 March

Grade II: Piobaireachd; March, Strathspey & Reel; Hornpipe & Jig; 6/8 March

Grade III: Piobaireachd; March; Strathspey & Reel; Jig; 6/8 March

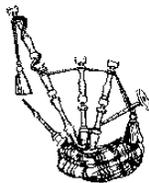
Grade IV (Senior): Piobaireachd (Ground only or Full Piobaireachd); 2/4 March; Slow Air/March; 6/8 March

Grade IV (Junior): Piobaireachd (Ground only or Full Piobaireachd); 2/4 March; Slow Air/March; 6/8 March

Grade V (Practice Chanter): March

June 2006

Ian Whitelaw will be in town for the U.S. Piping Foundation Championships in Newark, NJ. We are in the process of lining up a piobaireachd workshop with him while he is here. Ian Whitelaw recently won the U.S. Gold Medal at the Mid-West Highland Arts Festival (www.mhaf.org). He has won many other prizes. He is also an accomplished band player having played with the World Champion Simon Fraser University Pipe Band and other notable bands.



**THE PIBAIREACHD SOCIETY OF
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**

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*Piobaireachd players do it with
variations on the ground.*

We're on the Web!

www.geocities.com/pennpiob

Society Members Finish in the Rankings

We have been very fortunate to have several talented pipers in Central Pennsylvania. In our first two meetings, we have been treated to eight different piobaireachd tunes performed by seven different pipers. Several members of the Society have finished the 2005 season ranked in the EUSPBA (Eastern United States Pipe Band Association) Season Standings.

Congratulations to Wade Reeser for winning the Gold Medallist Certificate for Grade IV Senior Piping. Wade finished the year ranked 1st Place in the EUSPBA Season Standings for both Overall Piping and Piobaireachd. It has been announced that Wade has been upgraded to Grade III for the 2006 Season.

Congratulations to all Society Members who finished the season ranked in the EUSPBA:

Thompson McConnell	6th Place—Grade II (Overall) 8th Place—Grade II (Piobaireachd)
Karen Helm	45th Place—Grade III (Overall) 37th Place—Grade III (Piobaireachd)
Wade Reeser	1st Place—Grade IV Senior (Overall) 1st Place—Grade IV Senior (Piobaireachd)
David Laughlin	16th Place—Grade IV Senior (Overall) 10th Place—Grade IV Senior (Piobaireachd)
Joshua Dye	29th Place—Grade IV Junior (Overall)
Thomas Thomson	75th Place—Grade IV Junior (Overall) 74th Place—Grade IV Junior (Piobaireachd)