

# THE PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

Derek Midgley will be running a workshop on April 14, 2018, to review the eight Silver Medal Tunes chosen for 2018. Here is are two excerpts from The Piobaireachd Society website ([www.piobaireachd.co.uk](http://www.piobaireachd.co.uk)). Hope you will join us to expand your repertoire.

## How are the set tunes chosen?

The Music Committee is responsible for recommending the tunes to be played in the Silver and Gold Medal and in the Clasp and Senior Piobaireachd competitions at the Northern Meeting and the Argyllshire Gathering each year. The set tunes are normally also used for the Canadian Gold and Silver Medal and Irish Silver Medal competitions.

The aim is to select tunes of roughly equal ‘weight’ or ‘difficulty’ that will be challenging to competitors at the different levels and will also provide entertaining listening for audiences. Another aim is to explore the piobaireachd repertoire as extensively as possible over the years.

It is usual for the settings of the tunes to be chosen from the Piobaireachd Society and Kilberry collections, but from time to time other settings are prescribed. It is always made clear, however, that alternative settings are acceptable provided that there is good authority for them, that judges are advised in advance if they are to be played and that copies of the music are provided by the competitors.

The list of set tunes is published on the Piobaireachd Society’s website and in the piping press in the Spring of the year before they are due to be set so that competitors will be aware of them in good time.

Each year the judges on the Piobaireachd Society’s register hold two informal meetings in order to explore and discuss different styles and settings of the tunes.

Brief notes from these seminars are published on the website also.

The set tunes are used widely throughout the world as the curriculum for study at piobaireachd workshops. The evidence is that a very wide range of tunes is played nowadays for which the setting of tunes must, in part, be responsible.

## I am a beginner in field of Piobaireachd - which tunes should I start with?

There is no particular tune which is an ideal starting point, but some tunes are much more difficult than others – so it makes sense to start with the easier ones. The College of Piping Tutor (part 4 – piobaireachd) suggests the following 4 tunes:

- The Company’s Lament
- Mackintosh’s Banner
- The Lament for Alistair Dearg MacDonnell of Glengarry
- Glengarry’s Lament

Each year the Piobaireachd Society suggests “set tunes” for the major solo competitions in Oban and Inverness. This system encourages the competing pipers to learn a wide variety of music as the years go by, and it is of course therefore more interesting for listeners who regularly attend these meetings, if the tunes vary from year to year.

In general, the tunes set for the Silver medal are easier than the Gold medal tunes, which in turn are not as difficult as the tunes for Clasp (this is the senior competition for those who have won a Gold medal). However there is a lot of good music in the “easier” piobaireachd and many of the most famous tunes in the repertoire are in this category – and can easily be learned by most pipers.

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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, the “Great Music” of the Highland Bagpipe.
- Provide workshops for the Study of piobaireachd

## MARCH PÌOBAIREACHD & PUB EVENT

The weather was much more cooperative for us this month. There was no snow to keep the pipers away for our latest Pìobaireachd in the Pub event. We had six pipers who shared tunes with the group, and we were happy to share tunes with several new audience members who made their way in and out throughout the session. We also had two pipers join us from New Jersey, Laura Neville and Jean Gould.



Ken Campbell of Mountville, all regaled in his Clan Campbell kilt, got the afternoon started for us by playing the **Clan Campbell's Gathering**. There is little known about this tune, but it is a powerful gathering tune.

Gus Person of Elizabethtown was up next. He started his set with a 3/4 March, "Heroes of St. Valery." Donald MacLean of Lewis is the composer of this tune. Donald MacLean was captured at St. Valery in 1940, along with many other pipers from the 51st Highland Division, including John Wilson and George McIntyre. Gus shared his pìobaireachd, **Colin MacRae of Invereenat's Lament**.

Jimmy McIntosh took the history of the tune from Alex Haddow's book, "The History and Structure of Ceol Mor", published in 1982:

"The great grandson of Duncan of the Silver Cups was Farquar who narrowly escaped after Culloden and was the last of the family to hold Inverinate. Colin Macrae was Farquar's youngest son born in 1776. He became a merchant and planter in Demerara and married the daughter of the Dutch governor there. He eventually returned to Edinburgh where he died in 1854. As the pìobaireachd first appears in Angus Mackay's manuscript, it cannot originally have been a lament for Colin Macrae and must have been composed much earlier – almost certainly in honor of Duncan of the Silver Cups."

Gus Person finished his set with the Irish Waltz, "Saffron Kilt" in honor of the upcoming St. Patrick's

Day.

Thompson McConnell of Lititz started his set with a couple of 3/4 Marches, "The Dream Valley of Glendaruel" and "Mo run geal dileas (My Faithful Fair One)". This was followed up with a Slow Air, "Loch Rannoch", and the 2/4 March "The Royal Scots Polka." Thompson also offered an Irish set starting off with the lament "For Ireland I'll Not Tell Her Name", followed by a Shaker Hymn (A Gift to be Simple) which was hijacked by the Irish to become "The Lord of the Dance" and followed up with two Irish Jigs, "Rocking the Baby" and "Queen of the Rushes." Thompson played the pìobaireachd "Rory McLoude's Lament." There is little known about this tune. It is only found in its entirety in the Campbell Canntaireachd, but it is believed to be written for one of the Rory MacLeod's of Dunvegan.

Laura Neville started off with a couple of 6/8 Marches "Jean Mauchline" and "The MacNeill's of Ugadale", the second tune being composed by Piper Major John MacKenzie. John was raised in Campbeltown and was founder of the Kintyre Piping Society. He served in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He later served as the Piping Instructor at the Queen Victoria School in Dunblane.

Laura Neville continued by playing "The Clan MacColl" by the great march composer, John MacColl.

Laura then presented her pìobaireachd **Ceol Na Mara (Song of the Sea)**. This tune can be found in The Pìobaireachd Society's Collection of Modern



## MARCH PUB EVENT

Piobaireachd. This tune was also written by Pipe Major John McKenzie. Hugh MacCallum (a student and well known champion piper from Campbelltown) relates the story that “The piobaireachd “Ceol na Mara” was composed whilst he [John MacKenzie] was on holiday in his native Kintyre. He told me he sat on the rocks at Machrihanish listening to the sound of the Atlantic breakers on the shore and got the idea for the tune.



Jean Gould, also of New Jersey, started her set with a few light music tunes including the slow march, “Loch Rannoch”, a 2/4 March by John MacColl “Jeannie Carruthers”, and another popular slow march “Morag of Dunvegan.” *Mòrag à Dùn-Bheagain* was a composed song written by Catriona Dhughlas (1893-1965) of Skye. It was later re-written to be played on the pipes.

Jean played **Lament for MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart #1**. This lament was composed in memory of Donald MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart who was executed at Carlisle in 1746 for his share in the Jacobite Rebellion. Donald joined Prince Charles Edward Stuart, who visited him in his house at Kinlochmoidart, and, at the head of a faithful band of a hundred of his retainers, accompanied the Prince throughout the whole campaign.

Our last scheduled performer was Marty McKeon of Lancaster, PA. Marty started off with two slow airs. The first one being “The Unknown Warrior” by G.S. McLennan. The second tune being “Aviemore” by P/M Bill Livingstone of the Grade 1 78th Fraser Highlanders of Toronto, Ontario. Marty played a 6/8 March by Peter R. MacLeod (the senior) called “The 8th Army” which is named after the 8th Army formation that was formed and served in North Africa and Italy during World War II.

Marty McKeon played the popular piobaireachd, **The Little Spree**. According to Fionn, the three tunes, The Great, The Middling, and The Little Spree were all

composed by a MacGregor chief (and they do seem related) about a blacksmith (in some stories, a warrior) who was very valiant in battle but rather fond of strong drink which caused him to be deranged from time to time. What is interesting is to consider the three degrees of ‘Spree’, whether there were indeed degrees of inebriation.



Marty followed his piobaireachd with a few jigs, “Alex Currie’s Jig”, “The Duck” by Donald MacLeod, and “The Irish Washerwoman.”

This concluded the scheduled performers for the day and the floor was opened up for more piping. Gus Person offered another selection of tunes including “Believe Me, if All Those Endearing Young Charms” and “Killaloe”. The first tune is a popular song written in 1808 by the Irish poet, Thomas Moore. Wikipedia suggests “It is thought that after Moore’s wife, Elizabeth, was badly scarred by smallpox, she refused to



## MARCH PUB EVENT

leave her room, believing herself ugly and unlovable. To convince her his love was unwavering, Moore composed the 'Endearing' poem which he set to an old Irish melody and sang outside her bedroom door. He later wrote that this restored her confidence and re-kindled their love." Killaloe is the Regimental Quick March of many of the Irish Regiments of the British Army including The Royal Irish Rangers and others.

Thompson took another turn playing a few 6/8 Marches, "The Highland Circus" by Robert Mathieson and "P/M Sam Scott" also by Peter R. MacLeod (senior). Jim Diener requested the Donald MacLeod Strathspey "Catlodge" so Thompson obliged and played the strathspey & reel set "Catlodge" and "Sandy Cameron".

Thompson finished off the day by playing the piobaireachd, **The Marquis of Argyll's Salute**. This tune commemorates the only Marquis of Argyll, who, during the decade 1640 to 1650, was head of the Covenanting Party and the most powerful noble in Scotland. But he was defeated more than once by Montrose and the disastrous defeat of Inverlochy in 1645 resulted in the Shire of Argyll being raided from end to end by the MacDonalds from Ireland, who had thrown in their lot with Montrose. When Charles II was restored in 1660 the Marquis, who had placed the crown on his head at Scone some ten years before, went to London to offer his allegiance, but owing to the successful hostility of his enemies, he was arrested, sent back to Edinburgh, tried for treason, condemned and executed in 1661.



# TARTAN DAY PIBROCH

## WHEN

**April 8, 2018**  
**1pm - 4pm**

## WHERE

**In the SpeakEasy at Tellus360**  
24 East King Street, Lancaster, PA 17602

## FEATURING (Alphabetically)

**Daniel Emery - TBA**

**Marty McKeon - Lament for Donald of Laggan**

**Additional Pipers To Be Announced**

**National Tartan Day is April 6th. Join us for a day with Scotland's national instrument as we celebrate the U.S. recognition of Scottish heritage.**

**WWW.PENNPIOB.ORG**

## FREE MUSIC EVENT AT TELLUS360

**Classical Music of the Great Highland Bagpipe featuring pipers of The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania**

## ALL ARE WELCOME

**This event is open to the public. We encourage anyone interested in hearing the classical music of the clans to attend.**

**(Kilts are optional.)**

## SPONSORS

**The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania is a non-profit educational and cultural corporation that promotes the study, teaching, and playing of Ceol Mor, the "Great Music" of the Highland Bagpipe.**

## PERFORMERS

**If you are interested in performing at this or future piobaireachd events, please contact us through our website.**

## UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS

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### **April 8, 2018—Pub Event**

This will be our 3rd Pub Event held at the Speakeasy (An Sibin) at Tellus360. This will be another 3 hour event held from 1 to 4 p.m.

We currently have the following pipers lined up to perform:

Ken Campbell - Clan Campbell's Gathering  
Daniel Emery - TBA  
Marty McKeon - Lament for Donald of Laggan  
Gus Person - Mackintosh's Banner



This event is open to the public. Invite your friends and family. We are hoping to have additional time for pipers to perform after the scheduled performers. Please bring your pipes if you would like to play.

### **April 14, 2018—Silver Medal Tune Workshop**

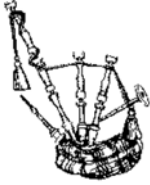
Derek Midgley will be leading us through the 2018 Silver Medal Tune list. Derek Midgley ([www.derekmidgley.com](http://www.derekmidgley.com)) is an EUSPBA Judge, Open Grade piper in the EUSPBA, and an "A+ Grade" competitor in Scotland. Visit his list of accomplishments on his website, but some of the highlights include winning the 2016 Dunvegan Medal at Skye and 2017 Golden Axe for the senior piobaireachd at the Lochaber Gathering.

Derek Midgley will review all 8 tunes from the 2018 Silver Medal Tune List.

Glengarry's March PS 2 , K  
Grain in Hides and Corn in Sacks (#) PS 5, K  
The King's Taxes PS 5, K  
The Desperate Battle (#) PS 7 , K  
MacCrimmon's Sweetheart PS 7, K  
Lament for the Little Supper PS 8, K  
The MacLeods' Salute (#) PS 12, K  
Chisholm's Salute PS 14, K



We will be holding a gathering of pipers following the workshop where pipers will have a chance to play tunes that they are working. Derek Midgley will also play for the group. A flyer is available for this event at [ww.pennpiob.org](http://ww.pennpiob.org).



**THE PIBAIREACHD SOCIETY OF  
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**

c/o Thompson McConnell  
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Lititz, PA 17543

Email: piobaireachd@hotmail.com

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

**We're on the Web!**  
**www.pennpiob.org**

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

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The following events may be of interest to members of The Piobaireachd Society of Central Pennsylvania.

- May 18: Open Piping Competition, Colonial Highland Gathering, Newark, DE <http://fairhillscottishgames.org/>  
Open Piping events to be held Friday night. A full Highland games will be held on Saturday.
- June 16: United States Piping Foundation Championships, Newark, DE <http://www.uspipingfoundation.org/>  
A national level professional and Grade 1 championship held at the University of Delaware.
- September 8: Covenanter Scottish Festival, Quarryville, PA <http://www.oldcovchurch.com/>  
A local Scottish Festival with an EUSPBA-sanctioned amateur piping competition.
- November 17-18: Pocono Workshop, Pocono Manor, PA <http://www.poconoworkshop.com/>  
A fairly local weekend workshop. The 2017 workshop featured members of the World Champion Inverary & District Pipe Band and others. Pipe Major Stuart Liddell and 8-time World Solo Drumming Champion, Steven McWhirter, are confirmed again for the 2018 workshop.