
MOHAWK VALLEY IRISH CULTURAL

EVENTS NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 12

December 2010

Irish Tenors Reunite for Holiday Tour

The Irish Tenors line-up of Finbar Wright, Anthony Kearns, and Ronan Tynan is reuniting for an exclusive 13 date tour this coming Christmas Holiday season. Though not the original trio assembled by television producer Bill Hughes for a “one time” 1998 PBS special, it is the Irish Tenor combination that mesmerized audiences around the world with their highly successful PBS specials, including the ground breaking Ellis Island Project that sold over a million CDs and DVDs.

Beginning on December 2nd in Erie, PA, the Reunion Christmas Tour brings them to our area four times before its close in Shippensburg PA later this month. On Dec 4, they’ll be performing at the Auditorium Theater in Rochester, NY (885 East Main Street), followed by a show in Buffalo at Shea’s Performing Art Center (646 Main Street) on Dec 9. Then on Dec 15th they come to The OnCenter in Syracuse (800 South State Street), and then to the Palace Theatre, Clinton Ave. in Albany, on Dec 18th.

The Tenors built up a reputation for continuing the living legacy of Irish music, crafting a repertoire of old and new songs; recording several PBS specials, performing for heads of state and cranking out albums that have topped Billboard charts. Then around 2005, founding member Tynan decided he needed a break to concentrate on his second career as a motivational speaker. He was temporarily replaced by a founding Tenor, John McDermott, who was eventually swapped out for Karl Scully.

“It will be exciting to hear the three voices live together again - it is a unique sound which will undoubtedly recreate the magic that has made The Irish Tenors special from the very beginning,” says Finbar Wright. As for why they’re reuniting now, Wright said it came down to timing. “We’ve been great friends from the start,” he said. “Since Ronan left, we’ve always looked forward to the day when we’d have a reunion tour.”

The Tenors can be expected to perform selections from their most recent Christmas CDs, “We Three Kings” and “The Irish Tenors Christmas,” as well as other Christmas classics. For more information, visit the venues’ web sites via the event calendar at the end of this newsletter, or call (585) 222-5000 for the Rochester show; (716) 847-1410 for the Buffalo performance; (315) 435-2121 for the OnCenter, and (518) 465-3334 for the Palace Theatre.

Andy Cooney Promises “A Classic Irish Christmas 2010”

It seems like only yesterday that “Irish America’s Favorite Son” -- **Andy Cooney** – brought his acclaimed “Classic Irish Christmas” show to the area, but it was five years ago that then restaurateur Charley Thomas brought him in to play a successful benefit for the local chapter of the Irish Political Prisoners’ Children’s Holiday. While much has changed since then, what hasn’t changed is Cooney’s love for entertaining or his ability to put together an impressive lineup of artists giving their all for a memorable night of music and comedy. On Saturday, December 11th, Cooney will bring his “Classic Irish Christmas 2010” show to the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, at 7:30 PM. The show features a selection of Ireland’s great classics and some of the world’s favorite Christmas songs, and joining the tour this year are comedian George Casey, Irish soprano Emma Kate Tobia, the Darrah Carr Dance Troupe and Andy’s world famous Irish Band. Tickets for “A Classic Irish Christmas” range from \$29 to \$34. The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall is located at 30 2nd Street in Troy.

It's A Leahy Family Christmas

Have you been a good boy or girl this year? No? Most of the year, though, right? Um, okay, but you were almost nice that one time, weren't you? Well Santa happened to be looking that day, so he's got a treat for you. On December 18th, in the first appearance in the area since their explosive sets at this year's Great American Irish Festival, Canadian powerhouse **Leahy** will be gracing the stage at the Oneida High School auditorium, as part of the 2010 Oneida Area Arts Council season. If you haven't heard them, Leahy is family of eight musical brothers and sisters who have been playing together their entire lives. They are instrumentalists, singers and dancers who bring a rare level of originality and musicianship to the stage (and if you haven't heard them, that would explain why you aren't as excited as we are to be even announcing this!). Tickets for the 7:30 PM performance of The Leahy Family Christmas Show are \$25, and are available by calling (315) 363-7064.

Natalie MacMaster Returns to The Egg

Marking a triumphant return to the area, Cape Breton fiddling sensation **Natalie MacMaster** brings her high energy show to The Egg in Albany, on Sunday December 5 at 7 PM. The niece of influential Cape Breton fiddler Buddy MacMaster and wife of fiddle virtuoso Donnell Leahy, she is widely considered one of the finest fiddlers in the world. Whether performing with her band, or with a classical orchestra, or conducting a small scale workshop, Natalie has thrilled audiences with her exciting fiddling, fancy footwork and dynamic stage persona. Tickets for the show are \$34.50, and can be purchased by calling the Box Office (518) 473-1845, or through Ticketmaster. The Egg is located in the Empire State Plaza in Albany.



Electric Company Serves Up Haggis for Christmas

Ever since Enter the Haggis burst onto the local scene at the Great American Irish Festival, the Mohawk Valley has had a love affair with the talented Toronto band. Well, they must surely love the Mohawk Valley as well, as the boys will be bringing their trademark high energy show back "home" for a special show at the Electric Company on Thursday, December 9th.



At this show, you can certainly expect to hear many of your favorite ETH tunes, as well as a healthy sampling of their seventh studio album, "Gutter Anthems." Showtime is at 10 PM, and general admission tickets are \$15. Be warned, tickets are only available at the door, and if it's anything like their appearance at the Electric Company last March, you'd better get there early. The Electric Company is located at 700 Varick Street.

"The Legend of the Christmas Candle"

Christmas is a season of peace and joy; a season of family celebrations and traditions. In Ireland the tradition of the Christmas candle is lovingly handed down from generation to generation. Placed on the sill of the most conspicuous window in the house is a tall, thick candle. On Christmas Eve the youngest child usually lights it and the candle stands as a beacon of welcome to any travelers who, like Joseph and Mary, may be in need of shelter and warmth.



[This piece of lore was submitted in 2005 by our dear friend Bonnie Ehre, who left us a year ago this month. Bonnie, your presence will forever be a part of our Christmas memories]

“Over the River and Through the Woods...”

Besides the great musical events mentioned above, there are a few more that bear mentioning. Okay, so it may put a few miles on the odometer to catch some of these acts, but we think it's worth considering. Or you could stay home and listen to Mariah Carey's latest Christmas CD. Yeah; thought so... so here they are:

-  On December 19th, the Smith Center for the Arts (82 Seneca Street, Geneva, NY) plays host to the fabulous **Cherish the Ladies**. Cherish The Ladies, who helped catapult the Great American Irish Festival to its position as one of the preeminent Irish events in the world with their appearance in 2004, was organized by folklorist/musician Mick Moloney as a concert series featuring the brightest lights in Irish traditional music. Though initially the group won recognition as the first and only all-women traditional Irish band, they soon established themselves as musicians and performers without peer and have won over millions of listeners and fans of their music. Tickets for the 7:30 PM show are \$15-\$20. For more information, call (315) 781-5483 or send an email to boxoffice@thesmith.org.
-  GAIF favorites **The Glengarry Bhoys** will find themselves at Sterling Auditorium at Cooperstown High School, on Saturday, December 4th. Their blend of traditional music, fused with the multicultural sounds of modern and contemporary Celtic music, has brought them international acclaim. Led by charismatic singer Graham Wright and drummer Zig Leroux, the Bhoys are revered as much for their personality as their musicianship. This will be your last chance to see them until February, so you might want to factor that in. Plus, after the show, Zig is going to fight Justin Bieber. No, not really... but talk about “all I want for Christmas”? Tickets for the 7:30 show are \$20 for adults, \$15 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students; students 12 and under will be free when accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (607) 547-1812 or email info@cooperstownconcertseries.org. Cooperstown High School is located at 39 Linden Avenue.
-  **Celtic Thunder** - What do you get when you put out an open call for male Irish singers from every end of Ireland, irrespective of age or experience? What you get is... Celtic Thunder, and you get them twice this month; at the Rochester Auditorium, at 7:30 PM on December 8th, and the next night at the Broome County Arena in Binghamton (1 Stuart Street), also at 7:30. Tickets for the Rochester show range from \$35.50 - \$65 (check the web site or call the box office at 1 (800) 745-3000) and for the Binghamton performance, ticket prices range from \$45.10-\$68.80, through Ticketmaster.
-  **Slide**, a five-piece band from Ireland, will be bringing their Christmas Show to the Catherine Cummings Theater, Cazenovia, on Sunday, December 12th at 4 PM. This performance, presented under the auspices of The Earlville Opera House's annual Holiday Celebration, also features step dancers from the Johnston School of Irish Dance. Tickets are \$24 for adults and \$16 for youth (18 and under), and are available by calling (315) 691-3550, or online through the NY Charities.org link, found [here](#).

Local Drum Major Competitor Needs Your Help

We got a letter last week that said we could save 15% on our car insurance by switching to Geico. We ripped it up. But then we found another letter from Jason Matteson, a Drum Major from Taberg. Jason, an accomplished and respected competitor and instructor, has his sights set on competing in the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, in August, 2011. These championships attract the best competitors from around the globe, and as it stands now, Jason will be the only Drum Major representing the eastern US. But talent, training, dedication and determination are not enough to get him there. It's going to cost money; nearly \$4000 in total. While he is confident he can come up with a third, he is asking for your help; either in frequent flyer miles, monetary donations, or even fundraising ideas. We've included some additional information and a flyer at the end of this newsletter. As Jason says in his letter, “With your help, I will be able to attend these competitions and bring Central New York pride while solidifying ties to our Celtic heritage.”

Book Review:
“The Ghosts of Belfast”
By Mark Sisti

If there remained any doubt that the best hard-boiled crime fiction these days is coming out of Ireland, that doubt is clearly removed with Stuart Neville’s “The Ghosts of Belfast.” With this brilliant debut Neville joins such Irish writers as Ken Bruen, Adrian McKinty, Declan Hughes and John Connolly as the top practitioners of the art of the noir novel.

The Troubles are ostensibly over and an uneasy peace has come to Belfast, but for ex-IRA hitman Gerry Fegan, there is no peace of any kind. Even since he was a child, Fegan has believed he is able to communicate with the dead. Now the dead – namely those he killed in the name of the cause – are with him constantly, relentlessly haunting his every move to the point where his only escape is in mind-numbing drunkenness. Or maybe they’re not. Neville skillfully avoids easy answers to the question of whether these apparitions are real or a manifestation of Fegan’s conscience. The effect on Fegan, however, is the same either way.

Fegan makes no effort to minimize his own part in the killings; in fact many times he contemplates suicide as the easiest way out. But he also realizes that he – like so many soldiers – was nothing but a pawn. (This is brought home in a brutal dog-fighting scene, and the analogy is not lost on the reader.) Fegan comes to the realization that the only way to appease these tortured and torturing souls is by killing those who were ultimately responsible for their deaths, and he goes on a systematic mission to remove those who gave the orders. With each assassination, one of the ghosts disappears, but unknown to Fegan, the killings threaten the fragile peace being worked out.

Complications ensue – various political factions vie for supremacy and struggle to keep the peacekeeping process under control, informants and double agents make moves and countermoves, police are seeking the person responsible for the recent murders – but the chief complication arrives in the form of Marie McKenna, the estranged niece of one of those Fegan has killed. Fegan takes it upon himself to protect her and her young daughter, Ellen, from those who would harm them, and they thus become Gerry’s true ticket to redemption. Marie, with ties to both the Catholic and Protestant factions but accepted by neither, represents Ireland as it stands, but Ellen is the Ireland of the future, and it is to her that Gerry becomes most devoted.

It is a complicated series of threads that all come together in the stunning, heart-stopping conclusion, which I will strongly advise you to put off to a night when you don’t need to go to sleep, since you will not be able to put it down. Nor will the story or characters leave you after you’ve closed the book.

It would be a mistake to relegate “Ghosts of Belfast” to any particular niche or genre. Like the best of John Connolly, it straddles the line adroitly between supernatural and literary fiction. Like Bruen’s best, it’s a compelling study of a deeply flawed but fundamentally decent character. Like the novels of McKinty it’s a pedal to the metal ride of non-stop action and tension. And like Hughes’s Ed Loy books, it’s a fascinating but disturbing view of modern day Ireland that is seldom contemplated by those whose most recent idea of Ireland comes from “The Quiet Man.” But even as it connects with current Irish authors, Neville’s novel also has echoes of classical literature like that of Conrad, Dostoyevsky and, yes, even Shakespeare.

I have often issued the following caveat before, but never to the extent applicable here: this is not a novel for the squeamish. The violence is horrific in parts, and is unsettling as much in its nonchalance as in its graphic nature. Similarly, the language in the novel, which will undoubtedly offend many, is an essential part of the makeup of the characters, dispensed so casually that it loses any meaning beyond its coarseness. None of this is gratuitous; the atmosphere created so deftly by Neville could not have been created without the brutality or the profanity. These are people emerging from a culture of hate, mistrust, and war-weariness, who take two steps back to the past for every one step they take toward the future, people for whom violence has been a way of life for so long they can’t fully comprehend how to live without it. If this type of language or this level of graphic violence offends you, take a pass on this novel. For everyone else, read it and enjoy a dazzling new voice in Irish fiction.

Craobh Dugan “Tune of the Month” – Christmas Eve – *by Skip Mansur*

Must have been the turkey last week.... closed my eyes for a nap, and already Black Friday (not to be confused with the events of almost 40 years ago in Belfast) and Cyber Monday have come and gone, and it is nearly time for the March Of The Dreoilín (also known as the Wren Boys Procession), in which boys go from home to home carrying a fake wren on a holly stick, singing carols and playing musical instruments like violins, accordions, harmonicas and horns, collecting money ‘for the starving wren.’ In Ireland, it is tradition to place lighted red candles on windowsills that are decorated with sprigs of holly so that Mary and Joseph looking for shelter may find the way to their homes. On Christmas Eve, the door is left open for Mary and Joseph and bread and milk are left out for them. It is also considered as a symbol of hospitality. Irish children put out sacks to receive presents from Santa rather than stockings and leave mince pies and a bottle of Guinness for him with the sack, which brings us to our tune...

A popular session tune that was composed by East County Galway fiddler Tommy Coen is now entitled “Christmas Eve.” As noted in *The Fiddler’s Companion*, Coen, who later lived in Salthill, was a conductor for Connemara buses during the day. One story tells of the leader of a ceilidh band from Coen’s area who had been having a fight or dispute with the fiddler. He was invited with his band to play for a radio show in Dublin just before the Yule, and when introducing the tune names they were to play he choose not to mention Coen, but said the name of the reel was “Christmas Eve” because of the proximity of the holiday and to irk Coen. No one seems to know if Coen himself had a title for it.

In any event, this month we present two lovely three-part reels in the jolly holiday key of G major. These tunes are favorites of our local accordionist Jim O’Looney and are usually played together in a set with “Christmas Eve” following “The Shaskeen.” The word ‘shaskeen’ is derived from the Irish seisgeann, meaning either a marshy country or fen, a truss of corn, or gleaned land. Supposedly, the tune was played by a piper from the area, but instead of being named for the musician (as is often the case), the melody was called by the place the piper lived.

The Shaskeen Reel

G Reel

Chords: G, Am, Bm, Am, G, D, A7, D, G, Am, Bm, Am, D, G, D, G, D, A7, D, G, D, D7, G, G, D, G, D, A7, D, G, Am, Bm, Am, D, G.

Christmas Eve

G

Reel

G C G C D G C G C G D G C

G Em Am C D G Em Am D G

G C G D G C G C G D G C

To hear examples of these tunes, try [here](#) for “The Shaskeen,” and [here](#) for “Christmas Eve.” Happy Holidays, and don’t forget the Guinness for Santa! *[editors’ note: No doubt you’ve been impressed with Skip’s historical and anecdotal knowledge of traditional Irish music in this column... well, you’re not alone. At the Northeast Regional Comhaltas Meeting last month, he and fellow Comhaltas mate Sarah Swann were honored for passing the SCT (Scrúdu Ceol Tíre) exam last spring. The SCT program is a graded series of exams designed to test not only a musician’s basic proficiency in tune-playing, but also his/her knowledge of sources of tunes, regional styles, players and so forth; certifying each of them as having achieved a level of competency in traditional Irish music. Our congratulations to Sarah and Skip!]*

From the Irish Kitchen (*recipes suitable for clipping*)

This month's recipe – "Cider Loaf" Dried fruit in cider is used for this delicious slightly crunchy tea loaf also flavored with orange rind.

INGREDIENTS:

12 oz mixed dried fruit	6 oz soft brown sugar
1/2 pint sweet cider	grated rind of 1 orange
10 oz self raising flour, sifted	2 large eggs, beaten
2 oz nuts, chopped	

METHOD:

Put the fruit into a bowl with cider and leave to soak for at least 3 hours or overnight. Turn into a saucepan and bring to a boil. Remove from the heat and leave to cool. Grease a 9x5x3 inch loaf tin and line the bottom and sides with greased waxed paper. Mix the flour, nuts, sugar and orange rind together in a bowl. Add the cider mixture and eggs and mix thoroughly. Turn into the prepared tin and bake in a moderate oven (325 degrees) for 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 hours or until the loaf is well risen, golden brown and firm to touch. Turn out onto a wire rack and leave to cool. Serve in slices with or without butter.

If you try this recipe, feel free to share your experience with all of us; and of course, if you have a recipe you'd like to share, please contact Beth Loftis at bloftis@ymail.com.

RANDOM RAMBLINGS

☘ **"Nuacht as Craobh Dugan"---news from the Dugan Branch** Chris Hoke of Craobh Dugan reports: "I received an email from Helen Gannon this month with an offer to host the North American Tour group in 2011. Each year, Comhaltas in Ireland assembles a group of very talented musicians and dancers (many of whom are all-Ireland champions) and sends them on a tour of North America. Our branch has hosted to concert 7 times, the last being in 2003, so we are excited to have this opportunity again!! We do not have a date for the concert yet, but it will most likely be in September or October. This is a chance for us to host a really great show, and to promote Comhaltas and our Irish culture! It will be a huge undertaking and will require a lot of hard work from everyone in our branch!! I know we are up for this challenge!! Watch for more details. I will share any information as I receive it."

☘ **Christmas in Florence** The Friends of St. Mary's Committee will start the holiday season by lighting the Christmas Tree on the church grounds at 6 PM on Saturday, December 4th. Festivities will start at 5 PM at the Florence Hotel with food, drinks and raffles. Entertainment will be provided by the All Star Kazoo Band with guest conductor. You may purchase a raffle ticket for \$20 which makes you eligible for 15+ drawings during the evening. One ticket covers them all. In addition, you may purchase a tree light for \$5 to honor a person or event in someone's life. A string of lights (25) may be purchased for \$100 (for which you also receive a free raffle ticket). To purchase a ticket or lights, please make your check payable to "Friends of St. Mary's," and mail to Monica Clark at 11907 Florence-TC Road, Camden NY, 13316, or you can call Monica at 245-0319 or Dorothy Fey at 245-2859. Proceeds will go to benefit St Mary's Preservation Fund. The Friends thank you for your continued support.

☘ **Great American Irish Festival News** So, do you know where you're going to be in...hmmm... scratch scratch carry the one....238 days? Why, the 2011 Great American Irish Festival, of course! And do you want to be informed on plans, progress and other announcements concerning your festival? Well, you can... it's as easy as going to www.gaif.us/email-updates/, and signing up for...uh, email updates.

Celtic Club Calendar Finally, here's the Irish Musical and Cultural calendar for December:

Dec 2	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Dec 3	Donal O'Shaughnessey	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Dec 3	"Mostly Irish" Monthly Jam	Irish American Club	Amsterdam NY	7:30 PM	Free
Dec 4	Glengarry Bhoys	Cooperstown High School	Cooperstown	7:30 PM	\$5 - \$20
Dec 4	Trad Irish Music Session	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
Dec 4	Irish Tenors Christmas	Auditorium Theater	Rochester, NY	8 PM	\$47-\$77
Dec 4	Pat Kane	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Dec 5	Natalie MacMaster	The Egg	Albany	7:00 PM	\$34.50
Dec 5	Donal O'Shaughnessey	Coleman's Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Dec 6	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Dec 7	"Nail Creek Sessions"	Nail Creek Pub	Utica	7:30-10 PM	Free
Dec 8	Celtic Thunder	Auditorium Theater	Rochester, NY	730 PM	\$35.50 - \$65
Dec 9	Enter the Haggis	The Electric Company	Utica	10 PM	\$15 at the door
Dec 9	Irish Tenors Christmas	Shea's Performing Art Ctr	Buffalo, NY	8 PM	\$37.50 - \$77.50
Dec 9	Celtic Thunder	Broome County Arena	Binghamton	730 PM	\$45.10-\$68.80
Dec 9	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Dec 10-11	Neil Emberg	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Dec 11	Andy Cooney Christmas 2010	Troy Savings Bank Music Hall	Troy	7:30 PM	\$29-\$34
Dec 11	Hair of the Dog	The Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	8 PM	\$13, res. req'd
Dec 12	Blarney Rebel Band	Coleman's Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Dec 12	Slide	Catherine Cummings Theater	Cazenovia, NY	4 PM	\$16 - \$24
Dec 13	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Dec 15	Irish Tenors Christmas	The OnCenter	Syracuse, NY	7:30 PM	\$61.15- \$81.90
Dec 15	Traditional Irish Session	The Mill	Rome, NY	7:30 PM	Free
Dec 15	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Dec 17	A Blarney Rebel Christmas	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Dec 17-23	McKrells Christmas Show	The Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	times vary	\$10
Dec 18	Irish Tenors Christmas r	Palace Theatre	Albany, NY	8 PM	\$37 - \$77
Dec 18	Leahy Family Christmas	Oneida High School Aud	Oneida, NY	7:30 PM	\$25
Dec 18	Trad Irish Music Session	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
Dec 19	Cherish the Ladies	Smith Opera House	Geneva, NY	7:30 PM	\$15-20
Dec 19	Syracuse Irish Session	Johnston's Bally Bay Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Dec 19	Cassidy/McCale	Coleman's Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Dec 20	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Dec 23	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Dec 27	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Dec 30	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free

If you have anything you want to share with us, feel free to send it to us (sistia@roadrunner.com, bloftis@gmail.com or marksisti@roadrunner.com), and we'll be happy to include it. In the meantime, Mark, Beth and I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and holiday season. As our colleague Tom Malley would say (as would we, if we could pronounce it):

Beannachtaí na Nollag díbh go léir
"The blessings of Christmas to you all"



The World Championships are regarded as the epitome of pipe band and drum major competition, and this year is proving to be the right time to make my international debut and compete at this prestigious event.

There are a few reasons why I believe this year to be appropriate for competing overseas. The first reason is that the current competition standings place me favourably for achieving my goals. Secondly, overseas and domestic colleagues have been urging me to compete at the world level as they believe that I will enjoy success and be the first Eastern US Drum Major to make the finals at the World Championships.

My goals include placing within the top ten positions at the World Championships and finish within the top three at the Bridge of Allen and North Berwick competitions the weekend prior. I believe these goals are quite obtainable and easily surpassable with proper training through rigid practice and determination.

The only items that pose a problem are the expenses of airfare, automobile rental, and living in Scotland for almost two weeks.

Some of this burden I can handle, but with an endeavor like this there is a portion that I cannot handle, and for that part am relying on gracious donations to help make this dream a reality.

Accomplishments



Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
2010 Champion Supreme



Hunter Mountain Celtic Gathering
2010, 09, 08 Champion Standing



Celtic Classic Invitational
2010 Champion



Pipers & Pipe Band Society of Ontario
2010 North American Champion



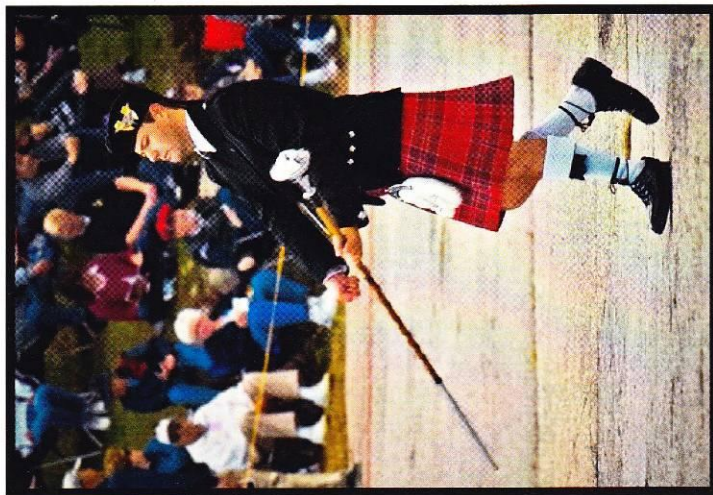
About Me

Bagpiper, Mohawk Valley Frasers, 11 years
Instructor, Mohawk Valley Frasers Grade 4

Private Voice, Piping, Drum Major Instructor
BM. Music Education, Crane School of Music
AOS, Culinary Arts Management, MVCC



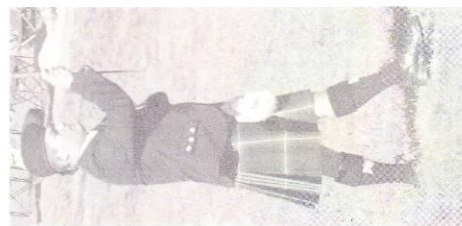
Drum Major Jason Matteson



World Championships 2011

Through your sponsorship,
Jason can represent the
Eastern United States
at this prestigious event

Thank you, most kindly.



The expenses to attend the World Championships are quite staggering and number in the thousands of dollars.

The expenses that I am planning on include:

Airfare:	\$1200
Auto rental and fuel	\$800
Housing and living	\$1200
Additional equipment	\$600

These numbers are an estimate but do reflect expected costs.

I can personally afford about \$1200 of the total cost. The remainder must come from generous donations and sponsors to help make the trip possible.

Any amounts are most welcomed and will be directly applied towards these expenses.

Please fill out the following form and return this sheet with your donation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Donation Amount: _____

If returning by mail, please send to this address:

Jason Matteson
9923 Carlisle Road
Taberg, NY 13471

Thank you most kindly for your gracious gift.