

SUMMER 2019



The Pine Tree Highlander

A Publication of the St. Andrews Society of Maine

Summer means it's Highland Games Time

While there'll be the expected pipes and drums, fiddles, highland athletics of every discipline, a variety of dancing performances, food enough to fill the bellies of scores of hungry clansmen, dogs, sheep, and colorful tartans measured by the hundreds of yards, there'll also be surprises for the thousands of visitors to the 41st Annual Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival at the Topsham Fairgrounds on Saturday, August 17.

Following is a glimpse of what's happening during the day in popular Fiddlers' Glen.

by **Julie A. Potter-Dunlop**
Entertainment Coordinator

Fiddler's Glen is a gathering place where our community can collectively celebrate Scottish heritage and culture. The program seeks to engage and inspire all ages through shared experiences of song, music, and dance. Featured in the 2019 program are these professional musicians and step dancers:

"**Andrea Beaton and Troy MacGillivray** are good friends who have been playing music together for many years and it shows. Both have deep roots in the traditional music of Cape Breton Island and bring to their performances both the great energy of experienced dance musicians and a deep lyricism that is especially evident when playing their own compositions. Their small concert venues are a joy, not only for their wonderful music but Andrea's bubbly enthusiasm and Troy's understated sense of humor. Their performances are not to be missed." – Paul Fackler, June 2018

Described as a folk fiddler with both speed and sav-



Andrea Beaton



Troy MacGillivray



Gus LaCasse

Brannish Thomson Photo

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age energy, **Gus LaCasse's** repertoire reflects his innovative spirit and dedication to the Cape Breton and Acadian fiddle traditions, playing both standards of the genre and his original material. Based in Downeast Maine, Gus maintains an active performance schedule as a solo artist and with other musicians. *"...a natural-born fiddle player...whose energy would power a small city."* -Peter Sutherland, *Artistic Director, Young Tradition Vermont*

Bob McCormick, who has been step dancing for more than 20 years. Bob's training began in the year 1998, at The Gaelic College for Celtic Arts & Crafts in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. He has performed and taught many times at the Skye Theater for Celtic Arts, Acadia Trad School, Maine Celtic Celebration in Belfast/The Bangor Folk Festival, The Maine Highland Games, etc. Bob's goal "has always been and continues to be to share the joy that is associated with this rich and cultural form of dance."

Jo Morrison is an award-winning Scottish harper, as well as being a Distinguished Scottish Harp Society of America (SHSA) judge, one of only five in the country. She is also a Certified Music Practitioner (CMP), providing therapeutic music at the bedside for the ill or dying. Jo's favorite performance locations include the Library of Congress and An Lanntair Arts Centre (Scotland). She performs solo and as part of Port Righ.

Charlie Zahm is one of the most popular soloists at Celtic music festivals, Maritime, and American Traditional music events anywhere east of the Mississippi. With a baritone voice some have described as "coming along once in a generation," Charlie has become one of the most successful performers on the Celtic festival circuit, weaving magical moments of Scottish and Irish history for the listener and viewer, with passion for the performance and a chosen repertoire pleasing to all members of the family. A master of the guitar as well, Charlie brings an authentic love and respect for the music he sings - and with dashes of humor and a light in his eyes, he will draw you into the stories of his songs!



Bob McCormick



Jo Morrison



Charlie Zahm

Headliners for the Concert Venue

Elizabeth and Ben Anderson, a Boston-based fiddle and cello duo, has an enthusiastic following in the U.S. and internationally. Blending Scottish tunes with lively rhythms and innovative harmonies, they create a sound rooted in tradition, inspired by the contemporary, and completely original.

Elizabeth is the 2016 Perth All-Scotland Fiddle Champion and a 2018 New England Scottish Fiddle Champion. A graduate of Berklee College of Music, she teaches string instruments as a middle school and private instructor.

Ben studies computer science and music at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. After years of learning Scottish fiddle at camps in the U.S., they both spent the fall of 2016 in Glasgow, immersing themselves in traditional music and refining their style under renowned Scottish fiddler Douglas Lawrence.

They released their CD “Over the Isles” in 2018.



The **Tartan Terrors** are their own Celtic Invasion, mixing rock’s energy with traditional folklore, dance, and humor. With an arsenal featuring classic pipes and fiddle, driving drum tones, and signature guitar styles, standing-room only audiences understand why *Dig This Magazine* declares “The Terrors are one act to keep an eye on.” Members of the Tartan Terrors have performed on four different continents; in some of the most prestigious Festivals, Highland Games and Theatres of North America. *Celtic Beat Magazine* hails them as “the heirs apparent to the (Celtic) mayhem.”





The St. Andrews Society of Maine is proud to announce

Clan Donnachaidh Society



(Duncan - Reid - Robertson)

as the Honored Clan for the
2019 Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival

And Who Is Clan Donnachaidh...?

As stated by the eminent historian, William F. Skene in 1837, "The Robertsons of Struan are unquestionably the oldest family in Scotland, being the sole remaining branch of that Royal House of Atholl which occupied the throne of Scotland during the 11th and 12th centuries."

Clan Donnachaidh, meaning "The children of Duncan," emerged from the union of the Scottish and Pictish kingdoms. The name comes from the Gaelic word "clann" meaning child and "Donnachaidh" the Gaelic spelling of the name Duncan. Our ancestors were known to the Romans as the Kaledonioi, or Caledonia, one of eleven tribes in the northern Pictish nation. They inhabited the area now known as Atholl in Perthshire. They were the only race in Europe that could not be defeated by Imperial Rome.

Jo Morrison to Perform and Teach the Harp

We are please to announce that Jo Morrison will be teaching the harp ensemble workshop, and performing in Fiddler's Glen at this year's Highland Games and Scottish Festival.

Jo is an award-winning Scottish harper, as well as being a distinguished Scottish Harp Society of America (SHSA) judge, one of only five in the country. She is also a Certified Music Practitioner (CMP), providing therapeutic music at the bedside for the ill or dying.

Jo's favorite performance locations include the Library of Congress and An Lanntair Arts Centre (Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland). She performs solo and as part of Port Righ, a duo pairing Celtic harp, bagpipe and English concertina.

As an interesting aside, Port Righ (pronounced Port Ree) is the Gaelic name for the town of Portree on Scotland's Isle of Skye. Port Righ is usually translated as "king's port" but may also be translated as "king's music." Since the Celtic harp and bagpipes were both historically used to entertain kings, the name seems fitting for this unusual group.

Jo's six recordings include one with Port Righ and one of all-original music based in Celtic tradition. Jo has several books of tunes and arrangements and has contributed to several other Scottish music collections. She is the director of the harp program for Common Ground on the Hill.



If you have questions about the harp workshop you can contact Melanie Lee at melleesharp@gmail.com

**Here's Your
Big Chance**

**to be a Highland Games
Volunteer....**

It's easy and Fun! Sign up at
<https://signup.com/go/AKsrSNE>

BECOME A SPONSOR! It's not too late to become a Sponsor for the 41st Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival. Help support the Games and at the same time get some

advertising for your business. Contact Patti Tillotson pstllotson@gmail.com for more information or visit our website mainehighlandgames.org for information on sponsorship levels.

Scottish Country Dancing

There is lots to do at the Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival, including a chance to dance. Come to the Scottish Country Dance tent and give dancing a try as we put on two workshops -one at noon and another at 2:00. All are encouraged to come and join the fun. There is dancing for all: children, grandparents, and all the age groups in between. There will be dancers from the Brunswick and Penobscot Bay Scottish Country Dancers to chat with you, answer questions, and give you contact information about classes in Maine.

Scottish Country Dancing is the traditional ballroom dancing of Scotland. It has the energy and agility found in its jigs and reels with lively movements coming from the vitality of the Scottish people. The Strathspey brings an elegance and strength to the dancing. Social, enjoyable and ever evolving, this Scottish social dance can be found around the world.

Like Scotland's unique musical heritage, Scottish Country Dancing reflects the country's rich cultural heritage. Be sure to come to the Parade Field at 9:15 to watch a demonstration by the two groups.

Hope to see you there, whether you dance or just observe the fun.



Clan Village News

The 41st Annual Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival is fast approaching. We have about six weeks to go, and there's still room for more clans to register. We are going to have several new clans this year so let's welcome them with open arms and show them why Maine is a great place to be for the Games in August.

There are a couple of minor changes I'd like to mention. At the Ceilidh, we won't be serving whisky this year. There's a considerable liability when alcohol is served, and we don't want to get in trouble. Of course, participants can still bring their own flask, and enjoy responsibly.

We've had some difficulty with the PayPal function this year, so even if you fill out the registraton form online, please be sure to click the box for mailing in your check or money order. Even if it looks like it's been clicked already, click it again just to be sure. And if at all possible, choose the option to have me hold the packet for your arrival (again, click it twice to be sure). It saves time and money if I don't have to mail out the tickets.

One parting thought: You and I didn't choose to be Scots. Almighty God blessed us with that heritage; and He never makes bad decisions. Everyone take care of yourselves, and see you all in August at the 41st Annual Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival.

George Newell, Clan Secretary
gen81465@yahoo.com
207-446-4141

Ceilidh Dancing...an old tradition still very much alive

When you're in Scotland long enough you'll sooner or later get to know the word Ceilidh, a Gaelic word meaning gathering or party. In the past, young and old were entertained by the reciters of old poems and legendary stories which dealt with ancient beliefs. Some sang old and new songs set to old music or new music composed in the manner of the old. Nowadays Ceilidhs are still held but they differ from those of the olden days where there was no radio or television. They feature Scottish folk music and dance and are sometimes held on special occasions, such as weddings. They are also held on a regular basis in village halls throughout Scotland, a bit more in the west than in the east, and in the more traditional hotels to entertain the guests.

The Gay Gordons, a couples dance, is traditionally the first dance of the evening. This dance is more than 130 years old, and was named after the famous 92nd army regiment from the North East of Scotland called the Gordon Highlanders. It is one of the traditional "Olde Tyme" dances that never went out of fashion or in danger of being lost, as were many of the longways country dances. It is usually danced to a march like 'Scotland the Brave' or the tune 'The Gordon Highlanders'. Everyone does the same steps in a circle going anti-clockwise around the room. Sometimes it is done progressively (progressing during the lady's turn) which is a nice mixer. Since it is a couples' dance, it is really up to each couple how they manage the details as long as they don't interfere with others.

Dashing White Sergeant is a round-the-room reel done in groups of three and is a very sociable dance, as your group of three changes to another group of three every 32 bars. Dating back about 150 years, it first became popular in the mid-19th century. Different villages or different areas of the country have slightly different versions, especially in the reeling part. The Dashing White Sergeant, a song tune, was composed by Sir Henry Rowley Bishop to the words by General John Burgoyne who wrote

them for the Glasgow Orpheus Choir and published in 1826. The dance is in the first book published by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

General Burgoyne's lyrics

If I had a beau for a soldier who'd go,
Do you think I'd say no? No, no, not I!
For a soldier who'd go, Do you
No, no, no, no, no, no, not I!
When his red coat I saw,
Not a sigh would it draw,
But I'd give him eclat for his bravery!
If an army of Amazons ere came in play,
As a dashing white sergeant I'd march away.

Strip the Willow is an old Hebridean weaving dance with one long line of men facing a long line of ladies. All you really need to do is grab yourself a partner, stand opposite them in line, and be ready to turn your way down and back up the line, a weaving figure of eight. Fast and burling, it is danced with accented running steps in a 9/8 rhythm. On 30 December 2000, 1,914 people danced the largest Strip the Willow as part of Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations at the 'Night Afore Fiesta'. It is danced with unbridled abandon to the tune of "Drops of Brandy."

Ceilidh Dancing "Try It"

Going to Scotland soon? Join in with the dancing at the hotels, parties, and ceilidhs at village halls, already knowing some of the popular ceilidh dances. There will be a "try it" at the Scottish Country Dance booth. Check the schedule for the time.

SAINT ANDREWS SOCIETY OF MAINE
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Society Schedule for the Remainder of 2019

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| Friday August 16- | Gathering of the Clans Ceilidh
Topsham Fairgrounds, Topsham, Maine (6:30pm) |
| Saturday August 17- | Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival
Topsham Fairgrounds, Topsham, Maine
(Gates open 8:00 am). (Opening Ceremony 11:00 am) |
| Sunday November 10- | Kirkin' O' the Tartan
Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church
84 Main Street, Topsham, Maine (10:10 am) |