

SCOTT MCCANN WINS THE 2013 US JUNIOR SOLO BAGPIPING CHAMPIONSHIP

PITTSBURGH (November 11, 2013) -- Seventeen-year-old **Scott McCann** of Staunton, Illinois wins the 2013 Balmoral Classic US Junior Solo Bagpiping Championship, receiving the top prize of the Ralph Murray Memorial Trophy and Memorial Scholarship to attend two weeks of the Balmoral School at a location of his choice. He also took first place in the March/Strathspey/Reel competition, receiving the E.W.Littlefield, Jr. Trophy and an AB Celtic engraved alloy-mounted set of bagpipes, donated by McCallum Bagpipes, Kilmarnock, Scotland.

The national competition, which was open to the public for viewing, took place Saturday, November 9, 2013 at Central Catholic High School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is the only US bagpiping competition for pipers 18 years of age and under. An invitational tournament, entrants are required to meet strict standards based upon amateur upper grade competitive successes.

Entrants competed in two main styles: Pìobaireachd, the classical music of Highland bagpiping, and MSR (march, strathspey, and reel), the traditional competition medley. The Overall is a combination of scores from Pìobaireachd and MSR. The competitors were adjudicated by a panel of three champion senior pipers and awarded points for tempo, tone, rhythm, execution and expression.

Winners were announced immediately preceding the Balmoral Classic's evening concert featuring Scottish Master Fiddler Alasdair Frasier, and noted cellist Natalie Haas. Trophies, medals, prizes and scholarships were presented to the winners. Scott, as Overall winner, performed his MSR set for the concert audience, and Balmoral instructor Donald McBride of Kansas City, Kansas played a lament on bagpipes to honor the memory of Pittsburgh piper Dave Olson who passed away a few days prior.

Christian Harrs, Bayville, New Jersey, was the first-place winner for Piobaireachd competition, winning the Balmoral Trophy and a handcrafted set of imitation ivory mounted bagpipes donated by Brian Donaldson and Inveran Bagpipe Makers of Delafield, Wisconsin. The judges were Andrew Wright of Dunblane, Scotland; Duncan D. Bell and Scot Walker, both of eastern Pennsylvania.

The competition is the *raison d'etre* of The Balmoral Classic, a US celebration of Highland bagpiping which is held annually in Pittsburgh. Founded in 2007, the Balmoral Classic is home to the only US Junior Solo Competitions for bagpipers and snare drummers 18 years of age and under. Judges are carefully chosen from among veteran judges in the USA and Scotland. Successful contestants usually advance to major invitational competitions and are encouraged to compete in Scotland. Balmoral Classic events also include a Friday night reception as well as a Saturday evening concert with acclaimed international Scottish or Irish traditional music artists.

The US Solo Snare Drumming Championships have been held in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, and are planned again for 2014.

The Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded and maintained in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2014, the school conducts weekly summer sessions in bagpipe music at college campuses throughout the US, bringing together world-champion Highland piping and drumming instructors for students beginning through advanced. It is the Balmoral School's mission "to raise the standard and promote the appreciation of bagpipe music in the USA by providing world class instruction, cultivating excellence in youth, presenting innovative musical events, and fostering tradition."

2013 US Junior Solo Bagpiping Championship Winners

Overall:

1. Scott McCann, Staunton, Illinois
2. Christian Harrs, Bayville, New Jersey
3. Tyler Johnson, Farmington Hills, Michigan
4. Colin Tait, Milford, Michigan
5. Chandler Sievewright, Hales Corners, Wisconsin

Pìobaireachd:

1. Christian Harrs, Bayville, New Jersey
2. Scott McCann, Staunton, Illinois
3. Chandler Sievewright, Hales Corners, Wisconsin
4. Tyler Johnson, Farmington Hills, Michigan
5. Colin Tait, Milford, Michigan

MSR:

1. Scott McCann, Staunton, Illinois
2. Tyler Johnson, Farmington Hills, Michigan
3. Colin Tait, Milford, Michigan
4. William Shropshire, Rockville, Maryland
5. Christian Harrs, Bayville, New Jersey

Other competitors were Maeghan Bielski, Middleboro, Massachusetts; Thomas Cangelosi, Rockaway, New Jersey; Dylan Chrismer, Alta Loma, California; and Anya Glover, Glendora, California.

###

A listing of entrants and prizes, judge bios and competition rules are available at BalmoralClassic.org

Balmoral® is a registered service mark of Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming.

For more information, contact:

George Balderose

Executive Director

Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming

1414 Pennsylvania Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15233-1419

412 323-2707

www.BalmoralSchool.org

george@bagpiping.org