

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRIFFIN HALL WINS THE 2014 US JUNIOR SOLO BAGPIPING CHAMPIONSHIP  
MILES BENNINGTON WINS THE 2014 US JUNIOR SOLO DRUMMING CHAMPIONSHIP

PITTSBURGH (November 22, 2014) -- 15-year-old Griffin Hall of Overland Park, Kansas wins the 2014 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 Piobaireachd competition, receiving the Flora MacDonald Dalzell Trophy and a handcrafted set of imitation ivory mounted bagpipes donated by Inveran Bagpipe Makers, of Delafield, Wisconsin (formerly of Fife, Scotland).

The winner of the 2014 Balmoral Classic US Junior Solo Drumming Championship was 21-year-old Miles Bennington of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, receiving the top prize of the Dave Peet Memorial Trophy, a Premier HTS-800 Snare Drum donated by Henderson Imports, and a Ralph Murray 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 St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh Trophy.

The national competition, which was open to the public for viewing, took place Saturday, November 22, 2014 at Central Catholic High School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is the only US bagpiping competition for pipers 21 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: Piobaireachd, the classical music of Highland bagpiping, and MSR (march, strathspey, and reel), the traditional competition medley. The Overall is a combination of scores from Piobaireachd 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 the Battlefield Band, one of the great institutions of Scottish traditional music. Trophies, medals, prizes and scholarships were presented to the winners. The overall winners of the competitions (Griffin Hall and Miles Bennington) each played their MSR sets for the audience to open the second half of the concert.

Additional trophies were awarded to Andrew Hutton and Nick Parr. Andrew Hutton, Brantford, Ontario, the first-place piping winner for the March/Strathspey/Reel competition, won the

E.W.Littlefield, Jr. Trophy and an AB Celtic engraved alloy-mounted set of bagpipes, donated by McCallum Bagpipes, Kilmarnock, Scotland. Nick Parr, Saugerties, New York, the first-place drumming winner for the Hornpipe/Jig competition, won the Pittsburgh Firefighters Memorial Trophy. The piping judges were Dr. Jack Taylor of Aboyne, Scotland; Ed Neigh of Ontario, Canada; and Brian Donaldson, of Delafield, Wisconsin (formerly of Fife, Scotland). Our drumming judges were Gordon Bell of Neptune, New Jersey, and Jon Quigg of Joppa, Maryland.

The competition is the *raison d'etre* of The Balmoral Classic, a US celebration of Highland bagpiping and related arts which is held annually in Pittsburgh. Founded in 2007, the Balmoral Classic is home to the only US Junior Solo Championships for bagpipers and snare drummers 21 years of age and under. This year the US citizens requirement was dropped, and two of the competitors were from Canada. 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, this year featuring the Battlefield Band of Scotland.

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."

#### 2014 US Junior Solo Bagpiping Championship Winners

Overall:

1. Griffin Hall, Overland Park, Kansas
2. Stanton Man, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
3. Andrew Hutton, Brantford, Ontario
4. Laureano Thomas-Sanchez, Parma, Ohio
5. Colleen Poe, Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Piobaireachd:

1. Griffin Hall, Overland Park, Kansas
2. Laureano Thomas-Sanchez, Parma, Ohio
3. Colleen Poe, Chagrin Falls, Ohio
4. Allyson Crowley-Duncan, Latham, New York
5. Stanton Man, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

MSR:

1. Andrew Hutton, Brantford, Ontario
2. Stanton Man, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
3. Griffin Hall, Overland Park, Kansas
4. Christian Rhoads, Maryland Heights, Missouri
5. Kathleen Brown, Gaithersburg, Maryland

Other piping competitors were Joshua Ackerman, Fountain Hill, Pennsylvania; Kathleen Brown, Gaithersburg, Maryland; Thomas Cangelosi, Rockaway, New Jersey; Allyson Crowley-Duncan, Latham, New York; Stephen Gruber, Monmouth, Illinois; Jack O'Connell, Croton-on-Hudson, New York; Nolan Ryan, St. Charles, Illinois; Christian Rhoads, Maryland Heights, Missouri; Chandler Sievwright, Hales Corners, Wisconsin; and Colin Tait, Milford, Michigan

### 2014 US Junior Solo Drumming Championship Winners

Overall:

1. Miles Bennington, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2. Jeremiah Whitney, Rockville, Maryland
3. Nick Parr, Saugerties, New York
4. Aubree Caldwell, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

MSR:

1. Miles Bennington, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2. Jeremiah Whitney, Rockville, Maryland
3. Nick Parr, Saugerties, New York
4. Aubree Caldwell, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Hornpipe/Jig:

1. Nick Parr, Saugerties, New York
2. Jeremiah Whitney, Rockville, Maryland
3. Miles Bennington, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
4. Aubree Caldwell, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

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A listing of entrants and prizes, judge bios and competition rules will be available at [BalmoralClassic.org](http://BalmoralClassic.org)  
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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](http://www.BalmoralSchool.org) \* [george@bagpiping.org](mailto:george@bagpiping.org)