

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania - November 20-22, 2015: The Ninth Annual Balmoral Classic US Junior Solo Junior Bagpiping and Solo Snare Drumming Championships were won by Piper Gavin Mackay of Kitchener, Ontario, and drummer MacKenzie Chamberlain of Sarnia, Ontario.

Mackay and Chamberlain each won both events in piping and drumming. Kathleen Brown of Gaithersburg, Maryland placed 2nd in the piobaireachd event and Steven MacDonald of Pittsburgh via Florida and Dundee, Scotland, won 2nd in the MSR. Twelve pipers from five states and Ontario and four drummers from New York, Maryland, Ontario, and Scotland competed in the double event contest.

The competition is produced by the Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming and was held in the McGonigle Theatre, Central Catholic High School, in the university district of Pittsburgh. Arthur McAra was the emcee. Piping judges were Duncan Bell, Bill Livingstone, Dr. Bill Wotherspoon, and drumming judges were Gordon and Donald Bell.

Major sponsors for prizes included McCallum Bagpipes, David Naill Bagpipes, & Henderson Imports. Additional prize sponsors were MacLellan Bagpipes, Pipers Croft, Pipers Hut, Scott's Highland Services, Duncan's Highland Supply, Temple Records, Greentrax, Ceol Sean, Sandy St. James, and the Balmoral School.

PIPING RESULTS: Piobaireachd

1. Gavin Mackay *Clan Campbell's Gathering*
2. Kathleen Brown *MacGregor's Salute*
3. Stanton Man *Park Piobaireachd #2*
4. Steven MacDonald *The Battle O' The Pass of Crief*
5. Colin Tait *The Big Spree (C.S. Thompson setting)*

PIPING RESULTS: March, Strathspey, Reel

1. Gavin Mackay *Dr. E.G. MacKinnon - Islay Ball – Kalabakan*
2. Steven MacDonald *The Duchess of Edinburgh, Ewe with the Crooked Horn, The Cockerel in the Creel*
3. Stanton Man *Leaving Lunga, John Roy Stewart, The Rejected Suitor*
4. Kathleen Brown *The Stirlingshire Militia, The Doune of Invernochty, Alick C. MacGregor*
5. Jack O'Connell *Major Manson's Farewell to Clachanstrusal, The Ewe With the Crooked Horn, Major Manson*

PIPING RESULTS: Overall

1. Gavin Mackay
2. Kathleen Brown
3. Stanton Man
4. Steven MacDonald
5. Colin Tait

14 year old Gavin Mackay won the E.W. Littlefield Jr Trophy for the MSR and the Balmoral Trophy for Piobaireachd, and a presentation set of celtic engraved alloy-mounted blackwood bagpipes w/case donated by McCallum Bagpipes

Kathleen Brown with a 2nd in Piobaireachd won a presentation set of runic-design aged imitation ivory blackwood bagpipes, donated by David Naill Bagpipes. Kathleen received the David Naill set because of a rule that says should the same contestant win both events, the set assigned to the winner of the piobaireachd event set goes to the 2nd place contestant in that contest.

Prizes for 2nd to 5th place pipers included blackwood chanters donated by MacLellan Bagpipes and Pipers Hut, a set of kitchen pipes donated by Scott' Highland services, a white and black Rabbit Fur Sporrán donated by Celtic Croft, and additional prizes donated by Jim McGillivray, Duncans Highland Supply, Temple Records, Greentrax, Ceol Sean, Sandy St. James, and the Balmoral School.

DRUMMING RESULTS: March, Strathspey, and Reel

1. MacKenzie Chamberlain *Brigadier Ronald Cheape of Tiroron , Dora MacLeod, John Morrison of Assynt House*
2. Cameron McCall *John McDonald of Glencoe, Maggie Cameron, Loch Carron*
3. Jeremiah Whitney *Lord Alexander Kennedy, Maggie Cameron, Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran*
4. Dan Evans *William Grey's Farewell to Cowal , Dora MacLeod, The Brown Haired Maid*

DRUMMING RESULTS: Hornpipe and Jig

1. MacKenzie Chamberlain *Train Journey North, The Boys of the Lough*
2. Cameron McCall *Crossing the Minch, The Old Wife of the Mill Dust*
3. Jeremiah Whitney *Tam Bain's Lum, Hen's March*
4. Dan Evans *The Tourist, Donald Cameron's Powder Horn*

DRUMMING RESULTS: Overall

1. MacKenzie Chamberlain
2. Cameron McCall
3. Jeremiah Whitney
4. Dan Evans

PIPERS FOR THE DRUMMERS:

Marshall Chamberlain for MacKenzie Chamberlain

Ben Peterson for Cameron McCall

Nick Hudson for Jeremiah Whitney

Liz Cherry for Dan Evans

MacKenzie Chamberlain won both firsts and first overall, entitling him to take home a Premier HTS-800 snare drum donated by Henderson Imports of Traverse City, Michigan. Also donated by Henderson for the 2nd to 4th place drummers were a Kirkpatrick Snare Drum Carrier with articulating back support for the 2nd, and generous gift certificates for the 3rd and 4th place contestants.

The weekend began on Friday evening with a Gathering / Reception for the out of town contestants, supporters of the Balmoral Classic, and the public, which featured music by the ensemble Road to the Isles and the Pittsburgh Scottish Country Dancers. Bill Livingstone, Dr. Bill Wotherspoon, and Gordon Bell also entertained guests with musical selections. Because of the restrictions on ivory crossing the US border, Bill Livingstone and Bill Wotherspoon only

brought their chanters, blowsticks, and reeds with them, and were provided with two sets of vintage drones with bags, enabling them to play in Pittsburgh.

During the evening after the Saturday contest, there was a concert in the same hall with the internationally acclaimed duo Alasdair Fraser (Scottish fiddle) and Natalie Haas (cello) to an audience of approximately five hundred that also featured dancers from the Pittsburgh Celtic Spirit School of Highland Dance and Burke-Conroy School of Irish Dance. The Friday and Saturday events featured separate silent auctions and raffles each day.

Sunday morning from 10 am to noon Dr. Bill Wotherspoon gave a talk to pipers and piobaireachd enthusiasts some of the set tunes for 2016 in the Scottish Room of The University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning.

The event was made possible by grants from the Sage Foundation, the Heinz Endowment, The Laurel Foundation, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Pittsburgh Firefighters Memorial Pipe Band, the St. Andrews Society of Pittsburgh, and individual donations.

Silent Auction donors included: Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort, Ligonier Golf Club, Birdsfoot Golf Club, the Boys of the Lough, Caliban Bookstore, Calliope the Pittsburgh Folk Arts Society, Caraidean Crafts, The Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Hillman Center for the Performing Arts, The Irish Design Center, Kathleen Cleaver, Joan Green, Max's Allegheny Tavern, Pittsburgh Concert Chorale, Dawn McBride, Mullaney's Harp and Fiddle, Riley's Pour House, the Priory Inn, The Scottish Banner, St. Brendan's Crossing, Senator John Heinz History Center.

PIPING CONTESTANTS:

Jacob Abbott	Montgomery Village, Maryland
Joshua Ackerman	Fountain Hill, Pennsylvania
Kathleen Brown	Gaithersburg, MD
Alex Burlew	Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Evan Burlew	Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Tyler Destremps	Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Steven MacDonald	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Gavin Mackay	Kitchener, Ontario
Stanton Man	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Jack O'Connell	Croton-on-Hudson, New York
Colin Tait	Milford, Michigan
Laureano Thomas-Sanchez	Parma, Ohio

DRUMMING CONTESTANTS

MacKenzie Chamberlain	Sarnia, Ontario
Dan Evans	Rochester, New York
Cameron McCall	Stirling, Scotland
Jeremiah Whitney	Rockville, Maryland

Submitted by:

George Balderose

Executive Director

The Balmoral Classic