

# GRACE NOTES

Vol. 23, No. 3

Mar. 2007

March 25th is the date and Memphis College of Art, Callicott Auditorium is the place to hear Battlefield Band. The group has been on the world's roads for just on 30 years now, distilling their own unique form of the Scottish spirit and bottling it in concert and onto disc.

According to Billboard, "What the internationally renowned Irish band, The Chieftains, has done for Irish music, Battlefield Band is doing for the music of Scotland."

Battlefield Band is frequently featured on "Thistle & Shamrock" and well known for their excellent Memphis concerts. Tickets are a bargain at \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, and can be obtained at Cafe Francisco, Davis-Kidd, and Fiddler's Green. This concert is presented by the Midsouth Celtic Arts Alliance.



## Battlefield Band is coming back

### The Ceilidh's a-comin'...

The goose is getting fat.  
Please to put a penny  
In the old man's hat!

Well, you get the idea. Mark your calendars now for Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm and make plans to come to our Spring Ceilidh. But... you can do a lot more than just come to the Ceilidh: you can bring a guest with you, you can perform as part of the entertainment (that's what a ceilidh is all about, anyway!), you can join in the performances of others, you can show off your culinary skills in the pot luck, etc, etc. You can also be part of the Ceilidh Committee: there are opportunities to co-ordinate the program or the dinner, set up the decorations or tables & chairs, liaise with St. Luke's Lutheran Church (our host facility), or work on children's aspects of the Ceilidh.

For more information or to volunteer to help in any of the above area, contact me at 901-272-7159 or [sammy.rich@memphisscots.com](mailto:sammy.rich@memphisscots.com). *Sammy Rich*



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### Robin Bullock in Concert

Memphis Acoustic Music Association invites us to a concert by Robin Bullock at 8 pm on Saturday, March 17, 2007 at Otherlands Coffee Bar, 641 South Cooper, Memphis TN. Robin is a prolific composer and multi-instrumentalist, whose virtuosity on guitar, cittern and mandolin blends the ancient melodies of the

Celtic lands and their vigorous Appalachian descendants into one powerful musical vision.

Tickets are \$12.00 at Otherlands and Davis-Kidd Bookseller. MAMA's concert series is partially funded by the Tennessee Arts Commission and the Greater Memphis Arts Council.

### OLD-TIME MUSIC ALERT!

Lovers of old-time music, heed the call!

Event: **Breakin' Up Winter** — a veritable feast for folks who play and enjoy old-time string band music!

Location: Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Lebanon, TN

Directions from I-40: Lebanon Exit 238 south on US 231 toward Murfreesboro—a distance of 6 miles. Turn left into Cedars of Lebanon State Park and follow the signs.

Dates: **March 2-4, 2007**

Details: Online at the Website for the Nashville Old-Time String Band Association (NOTSBA) at [www.nashvilleoldtime.org](http://www.nashvilleoldtime.org)

The event is set in a beautiful state park in Middle Tennessee (between Lebanon and Murfreesboro on US 231 South) with lots of trees, cabins, fires in fireplaces, and old-time music going everywhere! There are jams, lectures and workshops by some famous folks, good food, shape-note (Sacred Harp) singing, and a world of wonderful music at every turn.

There's a silent auction, too, so clean out the closet or back room: bring instruments, music accessories, books, music-related art, music-related clothing, services (music lessons, instrument set-up), to donate to the silent auction.

Heard yourself or your band recorded on wax cylinders lately—just to see how you might have sounded almost a hundred years ago? Now's your big chance!

Looking for those hard-to-find old-time music CDs? The vendors will be right there at Breakin' Up Winter.

Clear your calendar. Go online now to see more information about how to register and be a part of one FINE weekend of music from another place and time.

See YOU at Breakin' Up Winter!

[www.nashvilleoldtime.org](http://www.nashvilleoldtime.org)

*-Thanks to Betty Westmoreland for this article. Sounds like fun.*

### GRACE NOTES

*Grace Notes* is the official publication of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. It is published monthly. Like the Society itself, the credo of *Grace Notes* is "to foster education and promote understanding of things Scottish."

If you have something of interest to readers of this newsletter, please submit a typewritten manuscript to the editorial staff. If the article or notice is very brief (30 words or fewer), just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs (preferably black and white; no Polaroids, please).

The deadline for all submissions is the second week of each month preceding the month of publication. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with each submission, if you want the material returned.

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*to foster education  
and promote  
understanding of  
things Scottish*



## SCOTTISH CONNECTION

Have you caught a clever movie called *A Night at the Museum* released recently? It features one of America's longtime favorite actors, Mickey Rooney (sometimes misspelled "Roonie"). Did you know that Rooney has a **Scottish Connection**?

Mickey Rooney was born Joe Yule, Jr. His father Joseph Yule, Sr., a vaudeville actor, had been born in 1892 in Glasgow. Joseph was the son of Ninian and Elizabeth (McKell) Yule. They were married in December 1887 in Maryhill, Lanark.

At 17 months old, Rooney's talent surfaced by accident. His web biography reports, "While hiding underneath a shoeshine stand in a Chicago theatre, fascinated by his father's act, he let out a sneeze. The noise caused a spotlight to find him in the crowd. Not knowing what to do, he stood up and blew on his tiny toy



mouth organ that was hanging on a string around his neck. The audience erupted with laughter." And the rest, as they say, is history.

Rooney visited Glasgow in February, 1996 and, in an interview there, encouraged the Scots to make more movies, which would bring in substantial external revenues.

In 1983, following 60 years as an

actor, he received the "Lifetime Achievement" Oscar.

So, next time you see that familiar nose & cocky grin (& it shouldn't take long, since he has made over 300 movies and a hundred or so TV appearances so far), remember Mickey Rooney's **Scottish Connection**.

*Editor's note: Mickey's life-long friend & fellow actor Judy Garland also had a **Scottish Connection**: her great-grandfather and great grandmother, Charles Milne and Mary Kelso Milne, were both born in Scotland, he in Arbroath and she in Kilmarnock. They married in the Auld Country before immigrating to Canada.*

From the Yule family web site; McKell family website; [drumbeck.co.uk](http://drumbeck.co.uk); Wikipedia; [mickeyrooney.com](http://mickeyrooney.com); and [photobucket.com](http://photobucket.com).

## The Vital Spark 2007

The Vital Spark 2007 is an international conference about heritage interpretation. It will be held in Aviemore, in the Scottish Highlands, September 30th-October 3rd 2007.

The conference leaders welcome proposals for presentations and workshops at this exciting event, but the deadline is Friday 9 March 2007. Proposals should be based on one or more of the conference's four themes:

- The Vital Spark: interpretation as the driver for cultural regeneration
- Creativity and Innovation: interpret-

ing remote and fragile areas

- Voices in Interpretation: languages, cultures and communities
- Authenticity and Re-interpretation: traditional icons in the 21st century

The conference will be a great place to showcase recent work or debate current issues in interpretation. For more information, and to make a proposal for a presentation or a workshop, visit the website [www.thevitalspark2007.org.uk](http://www.thevitalspark2007.org.uk)

Early bird bookings, with dis-

counts on the conference fee, are available until the end of March.

The Vital Spark is a joint venture between Interpret Scotland, a consortium of Scottish agencies interested in interpretation, and the Association for Heritage Interpretation, the United Kingdom body representing the field. It is running as part of Highland 2007, a year-long celebration of Highland culture.

*-Thanks to Betty Westmoreland for this information.*

A piper was sick of the band abusing him, and decided to start his own. He walked into a music shop, planning to buy the first instruments he saw. "Give me the red saxophone and that accordion!" he said. The assistant replied, "You play the pipes, don't you?" "That's right. Why?" "Well, the fire extinguisher I can sell you - but the radiator stays."

## Maybe Those Drunk Jokes Aren't So Funny

The BBC reported last month that “Men and women in Scotland are twice as likely to die an alcohol-related death as people in the UK as a whole, according to new research.” Quoting studies by the Office for National Statistics, the grim data were staggering:

- > Of the 20 areas of highest male alcohol-related death rates, 15 were in Scotland.
- > The highest death-from-alcohol rate was in Glasgow.
- > There was a 72% increase in alcohol-related deaths in Scotland from 1995 to 2005.
- > The overall UK rate for male deaths-from-alcohol was 17.4%; in Scotland, it was 39.1%.

- > The same statistics for such deaths amongst females were 8.1% & 15.7%, respectively.

The report quoted Dr. Nanette Milne, Scottish Conservative health spokeswoman, as saying, “These

behind the figures are real lives that have been destroyed and grieving families devastated.”



stark statistics are the most visible consequence of the damage that excessive drinking can create - but

Though interventions of various forms aiming at different ages and circumstances are currently available in Scotland, the report indicated that those amongst the younger ages are the highest priority. A Glasgow official stated, “We are placing as much emphasis [as possible] upon prevention, to identify and tackle alcohol problems at an early stage.”

*For more information, check out the BBC website for the article entitled “Drink kills twice as many Scots” posted*

*February 22, 2007.*

## Seisuin Etiquette

So many of our members are enjoying attending the seisuin at Celtic Crossing every other Tuesday, Gavin Anderson thought this Wikipedia (the free Internet encyclopedia) article on seisuin (pronounced just like the English word “session”) etiquette would be of interest:

Celtic traditional music sessions are mostly-informal gatherings at which people play traditional Celtic music. The Gaelic word for “session” is seisuin. The general session scheme is that someone starts a tune, and those who know it join in.

The general rules are fairly simple. Seisuin are not places for learning

an instrument. Don't take part unless you have attained competence, unless otherwise invited. Introduce yourself to the other participants before joining in.

Good session etiquette requires not playing if one does not know the tune, and waiting until a tune one knows comes along. Everyone who is able to play Celtic music is welcome, within limits; this can be problematic when non-Celtic musicians encounter a session and imagine that they may “jam” without knowing a single tune or even having a clear idea of what traditional music is, or when some over-enthusiastic neophyte

shows up with a bodhrán, guitar, pair of spoons, or some other instrument chosen because “it's easy to play.”

Most often there are more-or-less recognized session leaders; sometimes there are no leaders. At times a song will be sung or a slow air played by a single musician between sets.

The objective in a session is not to provide music for an audience of passive listeners; although the punters (non-playing attendees) often come for the express purpose of listening, the music is most of all for the musicians themselves. “Audience” requests for a particular song or tune of the players can be

*(cont. on pg.6)*

# Calendar of Events

## Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7:00 p.m.:  
Church of the Holy Communion,  
Walnut Grove at Perkins, 272-7159  
for info.

## Thursdays

Wolf River Pipes & Drums, 6:30-  
9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran; G'town  
Pkwy. 753-9494 for more info.

## Fridays

Dancing: 7:30 til 10:00 p.m. -  
Idlewild Pres.; 1750 Union Ave,  
West entrance.

## 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday

Contra Dancing. 278-1216.

## 2nd & 4th Friday

Scottish Country Dancing. 274-1889

## March 4

Coffee House Concert - Diana  
Jones and the TN Boltsmokers.  
Holy Communion 7 pm. For details  
see [coffeehouseconcerts.org](http://coffeehouseconcerts.org)

## March 12

Regular monthly meeting, Holiday  
Inn Express, Poplar @ I-240.  
Dinner reservations required by  
Thursday, Mar 8<sup>th</sup>; call 725-1879 or  
online at [memphisscots.com](http://memphisscots.com).  
6:00 pm Dinner & 7:00 pm Program:

Robert Hawks on "The Scottish  
Connection of Knights Templar".

## March 17

Chris Bullock Concert @  
Otherlands. See pg 2 for details.

## March 25

Battlefield Band @ Memphis  
College of Art Callicott Auditor-  
ium. See pg 1 for details.

## March 29

Board Meeting at Perkins at  
1340 S.Germantown Rd.5:30 pm.

## April 6

Tartan Day - Wear your tartans!

## Scottish/Celtic TV WKNO Channel 10

"Celtic Women: A New Journey"  
is re-aired Thursday March 1st 8  
pm & midnite; Sunday March 4th  
10 pm; Wednesday March 7th 9  
pm & midnite; Sunday 8 pm and  
midnite.

"Visions of Ireland" airs Sunday  
March 4th 2:30 pm & Tuesday  
March 6th 7 pm & mid-nite.

These are both also aired at  
additional times throughout March.  
Check the newspaper and web  
listings for details.

## Scottish/Celtic RadioMusic

### Sundays, 5-6 pm

"The Thistle and Shamrock"  
WKNO-FM 91.1

### Saturdays, 10 am -1 pm

"Strands of the Celtic Knot"  
Robert Campbell, host  
WEVL-FM 89.9

### Sun and Mon, 6 pm and Fridays, 7 pm

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"  
WMAV-FM 90.3



## **March 1 | Welsh Momentum**

Emerging Welsh roots recordings vary  
from traditional harp music to genre-  
bending blends of Latin, funk, and  
Afrobeat. Hear established and  
emerging artists including Drymbago,  
Mim Twm Llai, Gwenan Gibbard, and  
Crasdant.

## **March 8 | Roots Run Deep**

Musical communities coast-to-coast in  
the United States and Canada show  
their roots with great traditional  
fiddling, expressive singing, and ear-  
catching blends of American and  
Celtic music.

## **March 15 | Cara Dillon**

Her voice has mesmerized audiences  
in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and  
North America, and Cara Dillon has  
won many accolades for her record-  
ings, including two prestigious BBC  
Radio 2 Folk Awards. Meet this great

singer from Co. Derry and share  
her infectious passion for the songs  
of her homeland.

## **March 22 | Harpers**

Hear some of today's most  
innovative and inspirational Celtic  
music on recordings of its most  
ancient instrument. William  
Jackson, Wendy Stewart, Maire  
Brennan, Grainne Hambly,  
Savourna Stevenson, and Alan  
Stivell all feature in this hour  
dedicated to the Celtic harp.

## **March 29 | Pipers**

Does any instrument say "Celtic"  
quite so forcefully as the bag-  
pipes? Decide for yourself as we  
explore the distinctive piping  
voices of Davy Spillane, Iain  
MacInnes, Hamish Moore and  
pipers from across the globe.

Copyright 2006 NPR/Fiona Ritchie

*(cont. from pg. 4)*

considered rude. The session is an experience that's shared, not a performance that's bought and sold.

Some seisuins have a rule that only Americans should sing American songs and so on for the Scots and Irish. Adopting a fake accent (American, Irish, Scottish, English, etc.) for the duration of a song is probably the most embarrassing possible mistake for a singer; it is generally felt that

this shows a lack of taste, discernment, and a distressing pretension, marking the singer out as a poseur. For the instrumentalist there is no such restriction.

The sessions are a key aspect of traditional music; some say it is the main sphere in which the music is formulated and innovated. Further, the sessions enable less advanced musicians to practice in a group.

Socially, sessions have often been compared to an evening of playing card games, where the conversation and camaraderie are an essential component. In many rural communities, sessions are an integral part of community life.

*-Thanks to Gavin Anderson for this reminder. It doesn't apply for our Ceilidh!*

**Next Monthly Meeting -Mar.12th -Dinner Reservations by 03/08, 725-1879 or online  
www.memphisscots.com - Holiday Inn , Poplar and I-240; Dinner at 6:00, Program at 7:00.  
Board Meeting, Thursday, Mar. 29th at 5:30 Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.**

## GRACE NOTES

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