

# GRACE NOTES

Vol. 24. No. 3

March 2008

## Monthly Meeting for March will be held at Jason's Deli.

Jason's Deli is located on the back side of the shopping Center on the SW corner of Poplar and Highland, behind Buster's Liquors, in the space formerly occupied by the Malco Highland Quartet. The Board has decided that we should have a trial of Jason's Deli as a meeting site for the MARCH meeting. Be sure and give feedback to any member of the Board your comments and opinions regarding



## Ceilidh 2008

The Board has asked that I line up the entertainment for the Ceilidh, tentatively set for April 12, at St. John's Episcopal Church. The plan is similar to what was done last year when we used waiters and waitresses to take orders for the main acts to be presented to the group, while at the same time offering tempting appetizers to raise a little bit of monies, for the scholarship fund, all in good fun. We strive to entertain each table as much as we possibly can while showing off our talents. There will be plenty of food, fellowship and now all we need

are some committed participants. If you are willing to be involved, please contact me as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly and place you on the menu! Hmm, tempting thought. Drummers, Pipers, Dancers, Singers, Story Tellers, Gymnasts, Jugglers, whatever you care to share, we would love to hear from you and hopefully, see you there. Please contact Sammy Rich, 272-7159 with your plans. See pg 5 for further info..



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# SCOTTISH CONNECTION

Now, you've got your crocus and snowdrops and tulip magnolias, each of them harbingers of spring, but each also somewhat unreliable in the Mid-South. Crocus & snowdrop can bloom in snow, and tulip trees are frozen in mid-bloom more often than not. No, for our area the most reliable indicator that spring has truly come is the forsythia. Did you know that the forsythia has a **Scottish Connection**?

Forsythia is a genus of flowering plants in the olive family, mostly from the Orient. They are deciduous and usually grow 3-9 feet tall, but can reach the astounding height of 18 feet. Its bright yellow flowers are produced before the leaves in the early spring.

The forsythia is named after William Forsyth (1737 - 1804), the royal gardener to His Majesty King George III. Geordie might have been mad, and he may have lost the American colonies, but he knew a good plant man when he saw one.

William Forsyth was born at Old Meldrum in Aberdeenshire. He trained as a gardener at the Chelsea Physic Garden and in 1779 was named chief superintendent of the Kensington and St. James's palace gardens. He was also a founding member of the Royal Horticultural Society.

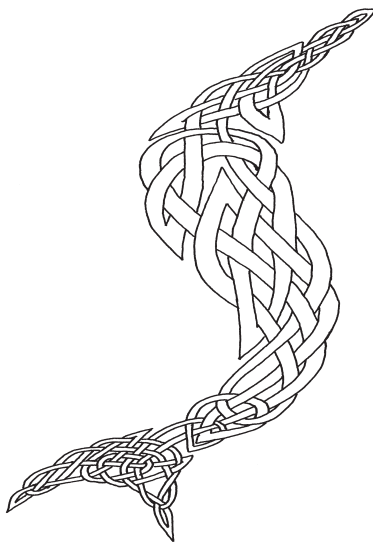
(William's four-time-great grandson is the entertainer Bruce Forsyth, CBE, best known to American audiences as Julie Andrew's leading man in the 1968 movie *Star!*, a bio-pic about Gertrude Lawrence.)

It will come as no surprise that Clan Forsyth's clan plant is the forsythia.

So, the next time you see those

welcome yellow flowers in the spring and know you can now safely put away your woolies, remember William Forsyth & forsythia's **Scottish Connection**.

*(From various websites, including that of Clan Forsyth & Wikipedia.)*



## 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*



# Memphis Acoustic Music Association



*presents*

## SPENCER BOHREN



8pm Saturday  
March 8, 2008  
Café Eclectic  
603 N. McLEAN



Tickets \$15 Available at Café Eclectic & Davis-Kidd

Spencer Bohren, one of MAMA's favorites, returns to Memphis in March at a new venue, Café Eclectic. Come hear Spencer play and sing in the folk and blues traditions, and help us christen midtown's newest coffee shop. You'll recognize Spencer's style, developed through more than a dozen albums and a thirty-five-year career, launched in a Baptist church in Wyoming and coming to fruition in the

musically rich city of New Orleans, with many worldwide stops in between. Hurricane Katrina took its toll, but Spencer was able to put words and music to the devastating emotions and experiences of the people of New Orleans in his latest release, *The Long Black Line*. His rich vocals and rare instrumentation make every concert a satisfying experience. You don't want to miss this.

*Underwritten by Judy Kitts and Betty and Mickey Spence in honor of MAMA's 10th anniversary*



Arts Build Communities grant, a program funded by the Tennessee General Assembly and administered in cooperation with the Tennessee Arts Commission and ArtsMemphis.



# The Best of Order

'One Singer One Song' is a cry which arises in a Glasgow pub or party, club or informal gathering. This is an excerpt from a songster by Ewan McVicar. It makes me think of what a good pub of good Scots should sound like. SRich

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Two perhaps mellow persons have raised their voices in two clashing selections. Usually the dispute is settled in favour of whoever began first. The 'One Singer One Song' cry is raised by the first singer's party, the second comer's friends being responsible for hushing their pal, who is suffering from a kind of alcohol-induced deafness.

On occasion there are two groups of friends, both keen to get or keep the singing going and unable in the hubbub to hear that a song is already happening elsewhere. This situation is handled by the people in the middle raising the shout 'One Singer One Song', which has the effect of stilling the clamour enough so the two soloists become aware of the competition.

The one who gives way may be the more bashful, or perhaps he recognizes that while he is just getting going his rival is well launched into verse two or even verse twelve. In whatever case, the loser's party assure him that the other can 'sing nane' anyway. But in such social situation people are being coaxed to sing in various small groups all round the room, and you have to be nippy to get to sing at all, so there can be a deadheat.

This is tricky. Often volume decides the winner – or – perhaps a third songster strikes up a popular chorus in an attempt to settle the dispute through the strength of massed voices. Or maybe two singing schools contend for a while – good fun for both but hard for the non-partisans in the middle.

Most of the songs and singers in this book have been tested and tempered in such settings.

The songs are not weapons, but cherished ways of sharing enjoyment. At the moment of singing they belong to the singer, who may amend words and tune according to taste and the state of memory. Radically different versions of songs can arise – I have included a couple of examples.

The song may become well known in the changed version of one able singer, so that the writer of the song will eventually be reasonably politely informed that he or she 'sings it wrong'!

'One Singer One Song' does not mean that each song is a solo – the most prized singer of all is the one who leads the whole company in song.

Reprinted with permission of Ewan McVicar from his book entitled 'One Singer One Song'

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## Spring Ceilidh 2008

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The members of the Memphis Scottish Society have many talents and skills that are suitable for a ceilidh and this is where we can shine as an organization to our guests and members alike. What can be better than to be entertained by the finest in the most intimate of settings with people you genuinely enjoy hangin' out wi'. Will we have shouts of 'One Singer One Song' because we have so many trying to lead out? Or will we just be overcome with the joy of living in the spirit of the evening? My hope is that you will be joyful with all around you and partici-



### *Flowers of the Forest*

It is with great sadness that we report that "Doc" Keith died Tuesday Feb 19<sup>th</sup> at his home with his children around him. Doc lost one of his children just the week before. Our concerns and sympathies to the Keith family for their losses.

# Calendar of Events

## Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7 pm  
Church of the Holy Communion,  
Walnut Grove at Perkins,  
272-7159

## Thursdays

Sgt. W.K. Singleton Pipes & Drums  
6:30-8:30 at Bethel Pentecostal  
Church, Stage Road in Bartlett;  
call 386-2052 for info.  
Wolf River Pipes & Drums,  
6:30-9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran;  
Germantown Parkway. 753-9494

## Fridays

Dancing: 7:30-10 pm, Idlewild  
Presbyterian; 1750 Union Ave,  
West Entrance  
1st, 3rd & 5th Friday  
Scottish Country Dancing.  
274-1889

## Monday, March 10

Monthly Meeting Jason's Deli  
at Poplar and Highland. For  
directions call 757-4200 or go to  
[memphisscots.com](http://memphisscots.com).

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Program  
Graduate Student at the Univer-  
sity of Memphis,  
Brooke Caldwell will speak on  
"Scottish novels by  
James Barrie"

## Thursday, 27

Board Meeting: Perkins at  
1340 S. G'town Rd. 5:30 pm.

## Scottish/Celtic RadioMusic

Sundays, 6-7 p.m.

"The Thistle and Shamrock"  
WKNO-FM 91.1

Saturdays, 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

"Strands of the Celtic Knot"

Robert Campbell, host  
WEVL-FM 89.9

Sun and Mon 6 p.m. and

Fridays, 7 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"  
WMAV-FM 90.3



## **March 1 |Welsh Momentum**

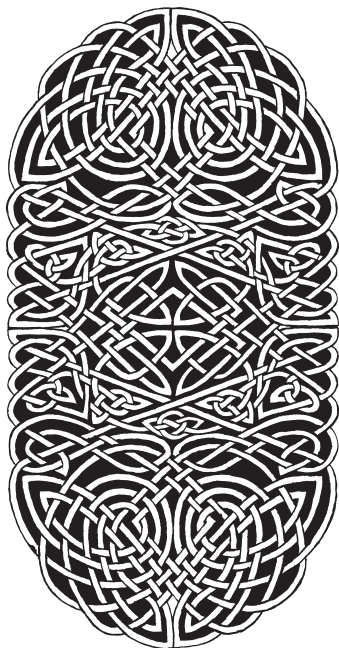
Emerging Welsh roots recordings vary from traditional harp music to genre-bending blends of Latin, funk, and Afrobeat. Hear established and emerging artists including Drymago, Mim Twm Llai, Gwenan Gibbard, and Crasdant. March 8 |Roots Run Deep - Musical communities coast-to-coast in the United States 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 recordings, 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 bagpipes? Decide for yourself as we explore the distinctive piping voices of Davy Spillane, Iain MacInnes, Hamish Moore and pipers from across the globe.

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**Wear your tartans and meet us at Jason's Deli on March 10th. Come in, place your order and head into our meeting room on the North End. Enjoy the huge salad bar, meet some new members, greet some old friends and don't forget to bring to bring the charming quality the Scots are known for the world over. That famous sense of humor that keeps us coming back together for each other's company. See you soon. SR**

Monthly Meeting - March 10<sup>th</sup>

757-4200 or online [www.memphisscots.com](http://www.memphisscots.com) - Jason's Deli at Poplar and Highland  
Dinner at 6:00, Program at 7:00: Brooke Caldwell on "Scottish Novels by James Barrie"

Board Meeting, Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30, Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.

**GRACE NOTES**

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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