

GRACE NOTES

Vol. 23. No. 4

April 2007

Memphis Scottish Society Spring Ceilidh

Saturday night April 14, 2007, 6:00 – 9:00, St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church
2000 North Germantown Parkway, Cordova, TN 38016

Dinner will be potluck (see the suggested food guide on pg. 2). The main menu, however, will feature the skills and talents of several of your fellow MSSSI members, who will be serving up their wares on a specially prepared menu designed to entice you to make a contribution to our scholarship fund. That is correct. We will have a fund raiser to help us organize our ceilidh for the evening. Basically, our waiters and waitresses will come by your table and take your order from our Ceilidh menu, which will consist of appetizers (on-the-spot short entertainments),

entrees (chosen by what raises the most money), desserts (also performed in order of most requested) and even a side dish or two (performed either on the spot or later) as solos, duets, trios and on occasion the entire chorale. You do not have to be a chorale member to perform. Learned some new verses to “Barbara Allan”, or dance a mean highland fling? Let us put you on the menu, or we can even have impromptu specials featuring anyone who wishes to strut his stuff. I believe this can be a lot of fun if you show up with a pocketful of money and a sense of camaraderie. Remember this type of entertainment does take a bit of brass.

You will have a few moments to decide what you are inter-

ested in and then the waiters will come by and take your orders. You can have an appetizer while waiting for the main menu items and/or you could be on the menu yourself. I plan on seeing a bunch of you there with lots of money to throw at us for entertaining you, all for the good cause of our Scholarship fund.

Of course there will be a time for group dancing and singing, so do not fret: all will be accomplished. Please make your plans to come a little early to help set up and or even stay a little late and help put away. That way we can be assured we get our deposit back. Now how Scottish is that? by Sammy Rich

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Lord of the Dance comes to Memphis for one show

If there's anybody left in the world who hasn't seen Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance*, that unique & lonely soul will have a chance to correct that situation on Tuesday, April 10 at 7:30 pm at the Orpheum. Tickets are available at the Orpheum ticket outlets & at all Ticketmaster locations.



Craobh Rua comes to Memphis

The Mid-South Celtic Arts Alliance presents Craobh Rua at 4 pm on Sunday, April 29th in concert at Café Francisco (400 N. Main). Craobh Rua (pronounced “crave ROO-ah”) translates from Irish as “Red Branch” and is a name that is well known in Celtic history from The Red Branch Knights of Ulster in the time of Cuchulainn and Finn McCool. This Belfast based Irish traditional music band has given concert and festival performances in the USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, Austria, Italy, Holland, Belgium Switzerland, Poland, Slovenia, Denmark, England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Their music has delighted audiences and earned them wide acclaim and recognition, and they are now regarded around the world as one of the finest ambassadors of Irish traditional music. Craobh Rua’s impeccable musicians bring their own individual experience to the group and fuse their talents to bring life to a wide array of instruments such as banjo, mandolin, fiddle, uilleann pipes, flute, tin whistle, guitar and vocals. Craobh Rua takes a refreshing, unpretentious but uncommonly skilled run at some of the greatest music in the world.

We believe that tickets to the Craobh Rua are \$18 in advance (at Cafe Francisco, Davis-Kidd, Fiddlers Green, or by mail to MCAA; 801 Park; Earle, AR 72331) and \$20 at the door. For more info, call long-time MSSI friend Robert Campbell at 901-276-1527.



Ceilidh Potluck

The following suggestions are for the MSSI Ceilidh on April 14th at St. Lukes Evangelical Lutheran Church. Last names beginning with A-F, bring entrees; G-L, desserts; M, appetizers; N-R, side dishes; and S-Z, breads.

Celtic Woman Concert

The lovely ladies will be gracing our town on Friday, April 27th at the Orpheum. Rumor has it that tickets are already scarce, if not sold out by the time you get this Grace Notes issue. Contact the Orpheum box office downtown or Davis-Kidd.

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

There are a lot of terms in widespread English-language usage that contain the terms “Scot”, “Scotch”, or “Scottish”. Do any of them have a real **Scottish Connection**?

Butterscotch – Nope. The “scotch” is a homonym meaning “to cut superficially” or “to score”, referring to how the candy is separated into pieces before it cools. Sorry: there’s no whiskey in this butter-and-sugar treat.

Hopscotch – Nope. This “scotch” is the same as in butterscotch, meaning “to score”, in this case, how the diagram is marked into the bare ground, later replaced by chalk on pavement.

Scot free – No, again. A “scot” is a small fee or tax, especially as assessed to the audience for the shared payment of an entertainment. “To go scot free”, then, is to enjoy the show for free or, in a more sinister vein, to commit a crime without paying a fine or receiving any punishment.

Scotland Yard – Oddly enough, yes. According to the London (England) Metro Police website, their original headquarters “had been the site of a residence owned by the Kings of Scotland” prior to 1604 (when the monarchies of Scotland & England

united) and was therefore “known as ‘Scotland’”, just as today the actual land of an embassy is considered the sovereign territory of that nation. The courtyard of this residence, upon which subsequent buildings, including the police headquarters, were constructed, was known as “Scotland Yard”, and the name stuck, even when the HQ was moved to Victoria Street. The building and agency are now officially called “New Scotland Yard”.

There are also some obscure terms which you may wish to know about:

Scotch coffee – Well, yes. It’s an ethnic slur, however, not coffee tipped with Scotch whiskey. This drink is made of hot water in which burnt “military biscuit” (we would call it “hardtack”) was boiled. You can probably guess why.

Scotch woodcock – Yep. Another ethnic slap, this is a dish of scrambled eggs on toast (or crackers) spread with anchovy paste. And the “why” is the same as for Scotch coffee.

Scotch verdict – Yes. This a

verdict permitted in the Scottish legal system (which continues to this day to differ from the English one), meaning “not proven”, rather than “not guilty” when the allegations are not conclusively demonstrated. It has subsequently become applied to any inconclusive pronouncement.

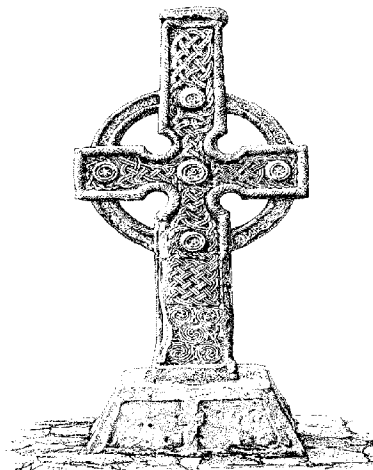
Scotism – No. Thank goodness. This is tenet of the philosopher John Duns Scotus, a detractor of Thomas Aquinas. His followers were originally called “Scotists” until their opponents coined another term for them, “Dunses”, later spelled “dunces”, and although their theology eventually won out, the latter name continues to this day to connote a blockhead.

So, whenever you hear or use any of these terms, be sure to remember those which do, and those which do not, have a **Scottish Connection**.

— from *Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*; *Webster’s New World Dictionary of the American Language, 2nd edition*; *Thereby Hangs a Tale a Tale and Horsefeathers & Other Curious Words* by Charles Earle Funk; and the London Metropolitan Police website.

English Speaking Union

The English Speaking Union has invited The Memphis Scottish Society to a dinner meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2007. The speaker is Brian Monteith, MSP, member of the Scottish Parliament for Mid Scotland and Fife and weekly columnist for The Edinburgh Evening News. Tickets will be \$50.00 for the dinner at The Memphis Country Club. See or call Lore Hisky, 683-3403.



Seldon Murray sends along this cheery note:

A new service is available to those interested in single malt scotch: a live T.V. netcast all about it! On the internet, click on www.singlemalt.tv or www.whiskymag.com (on the sidebar). You have to allow cookies. You can get it on either site. — Seldon (*Editor’s note: Good news travels fast — Dan Irvin sent an email about this also!*)

Scots out and about at The Battlefield Band concert!





The 28th Annual Arkansas Scottish Festival Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, April 20, 2007

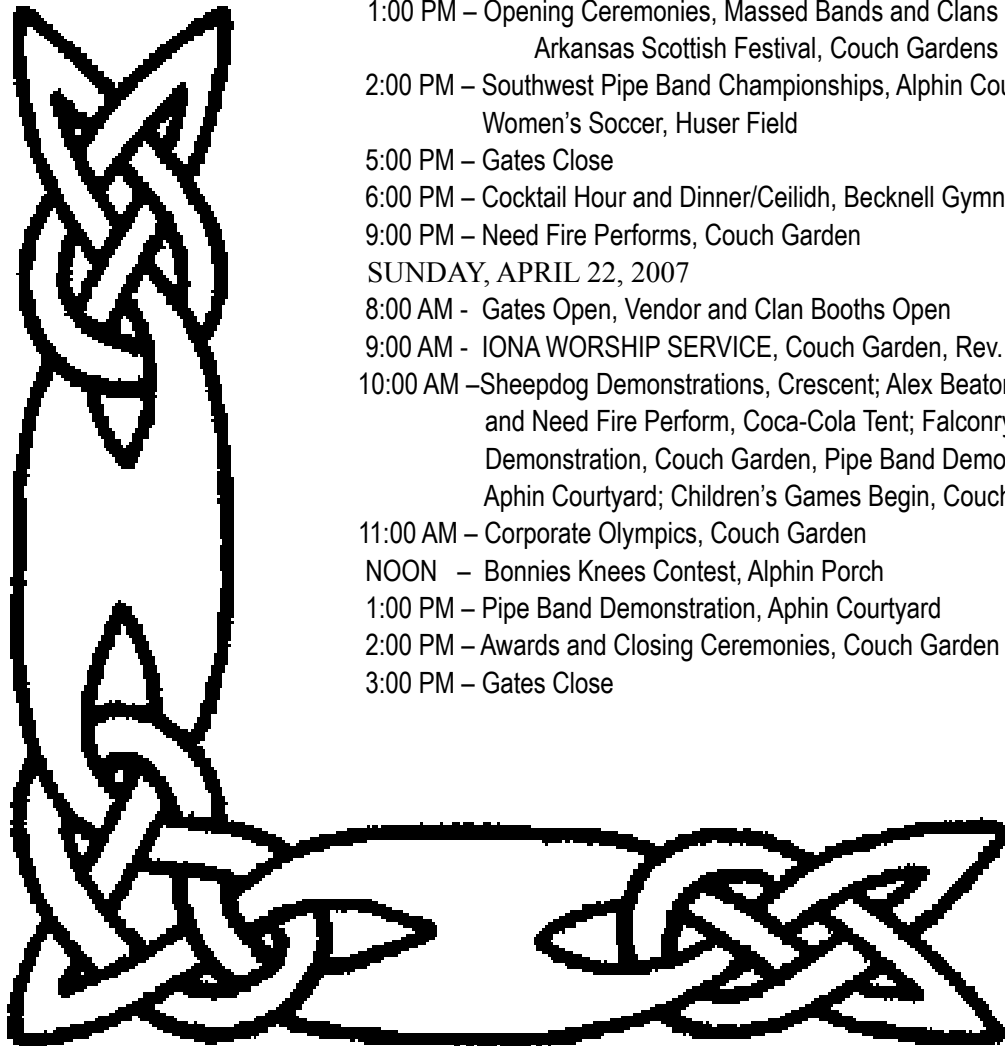
- 1:30 PM – ASF Golf tournament, The Course at Eagle Mountain
- 5:00 PM – Patron Reception, by Invitation Only, Bradley Manor
- 7:00 P M – United States Piping Foundation Qualifier, Lyon Patio
- 8:00 PM – The BIG SHOW, Brown Chapel

SATURDAY, April 21, 2007

- 8:00 AM – Gates Open, Vendor and Clan Booths open.
- 9:00 AM - Solo Piping and Drumming Competiion begins,
Nichols Hill; USPF Amateur Piping Qualifier, Nichols Hill; Athletic
Competition begins, Grassy Knoll; Sheepdog Demonstrations, Crescent
- 10:00 AM – Alex Beaton & Need Fire Perform, Coca-Cola Tent;
Falconry Demonstration, Couch Garden
- 1:00 PM – Opening Ceremonies, Massed Bands and Clans of the
Arkansas Scottish Festival, Couch Gardens
- 2:00 PM – Southwest Pipe Band Championships, Alphin Courtyard;
Women's Soccer, Huser Field
- 5:00 PM – Gates Close
- 6:00 PM – Cocktail Hour and Dinner/Ceilidh, Becknell Gymnasium
- 9:00 PM – Need Fire Performs, Couch Garden

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2007

- 8:00 AM - Gates Open, Vendor and Clan Booths Open
- 9:00 AM - IONA WORSHIP SERVICE, Couch Garden, Rev. Ken Letterman
- 10:00 AM – Sheepdog Demonstrations, Crescent; Alex Beaton
and Need Fire Perform, Coca-Cola Tent; Falconry
Demonstration, Couch Garden, Pipe Band Demonstration,
Aphin Courtyard; Children's Games Begin, Couch Garden
- 11:00 AM – Corporate Olympics, Couch Garden
- NOON – Bonnies Knees Contest, Alphin Porch
- 1:00 PM – Pipe Band Demonstration, Aphin Courtyard
- 2:00 PM – Awards and Closing Ceremonies, Couch Garden
- 3:00 PM – Gates Close



MSCAA Presents Chris Stout and Catriona McKay

Mid-South Celtic Arts Alliance is proud to present Chris Stout and Catriona McKay in concert at 4 pm on Sunday, April 1st in Café Francisco (400 N. Main).

Shetlander Chris Stout is widely-regarded as the leading fiddle player of his generation both in Scotland and beyond. His reviewers claim that “seldom in the scope of traditional music will you witness such a powerful combination of technical expertise and sheer musicianship, steeped in the rich Shetland fiddle tradition but taking it to exciting new levels of innovation.”

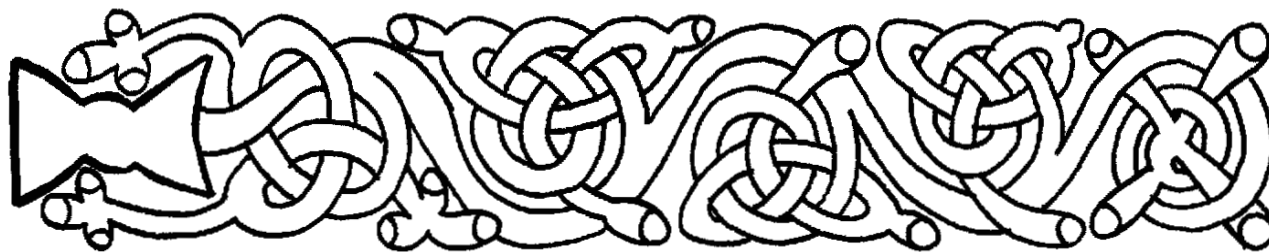


Catriona McKay became harp champion at the O’Carolan International Harp Festival (Keadue, Co. Roscommon) when leaving school.

Their duo partnership of nine years has allowed a very special

development of the fiddle and Scottish harp between Catriona and Chris. Their repertoire consists of traditional Shetland, Scottish and Irish tunes, along with newly penned material. With only two instruments they create a world of sounds and their virtuoso playing leaves audiences energized and calling for more - bold, and at the cutting-edge of traditional music in the 21st century.

Tickets are \$18 in advance (at Cafe Francisco, Davis-Kidd, Fiddlers Green, or by mail to MCAA; 801 Park; Earle, AR 72331) and \$20 at the door. For more info, call 901-276-1527.



The Dougie MacLean Concert

While researching her Celtic roots, this writer attended the Dougie MacLean concert given on February 10, 2007, at the Bartlett Performing Arts & Conference Center (BPACC). The room was literally packed with ardent fans of Scottish music, particularly Dougie MacLean’s style. Performing as a soloist at this particular event, MacLean stood the audience on its collective ear as he wove little stories throughout his music program.

Dougie MacLean stood on the stage with just his guitar and his voice. That was enough, as he introduced himself and began to talk and sing. The following were some of Dougie MacLean’s selections for this performance: “Holding Back”, “Talking with My Father”

(recalling his grandfather, Archibald MacLean), “Seventh Son” (shipwrecked life plans), “She Will Find Me” (MacLean calls it “vaguely a love song”). After a brief intermission, Dougie performed these songs: “Broken Wings”, “Feel So Near”, “Ready for the Storm”, “Garden Valley”, “Eternity” (written in Alice Springs, Australia, for Aborigines watching Europeans race boats in a dry river bed), “Singing Land” (for Aborigines in Australia). The program finished with an encore performance of “Caledonia” (perhaps his best-known composition, now somewhat of an anthem in Scotland, sung at rugby and football matches)

The amazing Dougie MacLean, with his thick brogue and gravelly voice, sings with intensity, with an edge. While there weren’t a lot of songs in his program, the songs were carefully interwoven with wonderful stories about his people and his homeland. A popular performer all over the world, he was invited back to the BPACC right then and there, as he finished his last song. Whether he performs as a soloist, with a 5-piece acoustic Celtic band, with a 7-piece Celtic rock band, or even with a 12-piece classical strings ensemble, Dougie MacLean is a major influence in world music. - Betty Westmoreland

For more information:

www.dougiemaclean.com

Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7 pm
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 info.

Fridays

Dancing: 7:30-10 pm, Idlewild
Pres.; 1750 Union Ave,
West Entrance

1st, 3rd & 5th Friday

Contra Dancing. 278-1216.

2nd & 4th Friday

Scottish Country Dancing. 274-1889

April 1

MCAA presents Chris Stout and
Catriona McKay in concert. 4 pm
at Cafe Francisco (400 N Main).

April 9

Regular monthly meeting, Holi-
day Inn Express, Poplar @ I-240.
Dinner res required by April 5th;
call 725-1879 or online

at memphisscots.com.
6:00 pm Dinner & 7:00 pm
Program: Bill Maguire, "AJourney
With the Ancient Celts".

April 14

MSSI Spring Ceilidh at St
Luke Lutheran on Germantown
Parkway. 6-9 pm. See page 1.

April 26

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

April 29

MCCA presents Craobh Rua
in concert 4:00 pm. at Cafe
Francisco (400 N Main).

Scottish/Celtic RadioMusic

Sundays, 5-6 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



April 5 | For Freedom Alone

In 1320 a landmark document set out the principles of democracy on which the U.S. constitution was later based. The "Declaration of Arbroath" is remembered today in Tartan Day celebrations held throughout the U.S., and in fiddler Laura McGhee's new "Arbroath Suite."

April 12 | Thistlepod - We check into more of the music recently excerpted on our free podcasts and discover all new artists making lasting first impressions with their debut albums.

April 19 | Live from D.C. : Brian McNeill -Exclusive highlights from a live performance by singer songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Brian McNeill, who appeared in the National Mall, Washington, D.C., as part of "Scotland at the Smithsonian."

April 26 | Bass Rock-Contributions by acoustic and electric bass to Celtic music are subtle, imaginative and, as we hear from players like Alain Genty, firmly in the foreground.

May 3 | Loch Shiel - The dramatic and beautiful landscapes around Loch Shiel provide some of the scenic backdrop to the Harry Potter films. The area has also been a hotbed of traditional music for generations, as we learn from Mary Ann Kennedy.

May 10 | All Women - We focus upon music from some of today's leading women artists, including Òran na Mnà (A Woman's Song), original Gaelic compositions by Maggie MacInnes "linking the voices and feelings of women from centuries past to the present day."

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President's Corner

With the support of a great board, we are getting a good start on the year. April will be a busy month with the Multi-cultural festival at the U of Memphis, Spring Ceilidh, and the Ozark Scottish Festival in Batesville.

This will be our second time at the U of M Multi-cultural Festival, with information on Scottish clans and the Scottish Society.

Scottish Society Ceilidh is an enjoyable gathering, made so by those who come. Contact Sammy Rich if you have anything to add to the entertainment. See the article on page 1 for details.

The Memphis Scottish Society has enjoyed a long association with Lyon College and the Ozark Scottish Festival. We'll be there again this year with a tent. Take the time, even if just a day trip, to enjoy the sights and sounds of Highland dance and pipes. And don't forget the opportunity to stock up on Scottish items and CDs you don't find at Best Buy.

Of course, don't forget the regular meeting on the 9th. - John Schultz

Next Monthly Meeting -April 9th -Dinner Reservations by 04/08, 725-1879 or online
www.memphisscots.com - Holiday Inn , Poplar and I-240; Dinner at 6:00, Program at 7:00.

Board Meeting, Thursday, April 26th at 5:30 Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.

GRACE NOTES

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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