



The Clan Currie Society

About The Clan Currie Society

The Clan Currie Society, an American-based, international, non-profit cultural and educational organization, is active in preserving and promoting highland heritage at Scottish Games, ethnic festivals, as well as community groups and classrooms. The Society has over 3,000 members worldwide that gather via the Society's website (www.clancurrie.org) and at special events and clan gatherings.

The Society was originally formed in Glasgow, Scotland in 1959 to further the knowledge and appreciation of the MacMhuirich (pronounced *MacVurich*) bardic dynasty. Today, the organization is a respected producer of outstanding programs and events to honor Scotland's rich culture and ancestry. The Society's signature events include The Pipes of Christmas – a musical celebration of Christmas performed on bagpipes and brass, harp and fiddle, and organ – and the annual observance of Tartan Day on Ellis Island.

The MacMhuirichs served for over 700 years as professional poets to the Lords of the Isles and later to the MacDonalds of Clanranald. *The Red Book of Clanranald*, one of Gaelic Scotland's literary treasures, was penned by successive generations of the MacMhuirich family.

In more contemporary times, MacMhuirich poetry and short stories have been chronicled in Alexander Carmichael's *Carmina Gadelica*, Angus MacLellan's *Stories of South Uist*, Thomas Owen Clancy's *The Triumph Tree (Scotland's Earliest Poetry 550-1350)* and the recently-released *An Laebhar Mor – The Great Book of Gaelic*. The ancient and historic MacMhuirich name and its anglicized equivalent Currie can be found throughout the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

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The Society produces a number of highly successful programs, including The Pipes of Christmas, Tartan Day on Ellis Island, and a Burns Night dinner dance. Clan Currie has also partnered with Sir Sean Connery and Friends of Scotland to help produce their popular “Dressed to Kilt” fashion fundraiser, the “Miracle on Madison” fundraiser for the Children’s Aid Society of New York and the National Theatre of Scotland’s New York premiere of “Black Watch” among others.



The Society’s Alex Currie Memorial Scholarship for Bagpipe is awarded annually to a deserving young piper and plans are now underway to institute several additional scholarships for students wishing to further their studies in music, poetry, and dance. Clan Currie is now venturing into the field of documentary filmmaking and traveling exhibition production with a concentration on Scottish history and the arts. Past exhibitions have included The Life and Legacy of John Muir and Loyalty and Rebellion: The Jacobites and America. The Society received one of its many Telly Awards for production excellence for “The Crafter’s Song”, a documentary film narrated by Cliff Robertson.

The Society has been recognized as the Honored Clan at a number of Highland Games and gatherings, including the Brodick Games on the Isle of Arran, the Bute Games on the Isle of Bute, and the Clanjamfry Scottish Festival in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Arms of the Society were granted by the Court of the Lord Lyon, Edinburgh, Scotland on June 30, 2006. The star, or *mullet*, is a heraldic symbol frequently found on individual Currie family coats of arms in Scotland. The thistle wreath, or *chaplet*, represents the international community the Society has created in “promoting Scottish heritage in general and Clan Currie heritage in particular, involving domestic and international matters.”

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