



PO Box 3713 Bellevue WA 98009 www.masteryofscottisharts.org 206-444-4344

Media Alert

SEATTLE, January 20, 2004

Seattle's Jori Chisholm Wins First US Gold Medal Piping Contest, Added to MSA Concert Bill

Jori Chisholm, professional bagpiper and Seattle resident, won the inaugural United States Gold Medal Piping Championship in Kansas City, KS on Fri. Jan 16. Contestants in the competition were invited based on their eligibility to compete at the world's top piping contests in Inverness and Oban, Scotland.

Jori (pronounced Yoree) Chisholm has emerged as one of the North America's premier young professional pipers. He has made his mark on the international competitive piping scene winning top prizes in Scotland, including the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society Bronze Star for First Place in the 'A' Marches in Oban and Runner-Up in the Silver Medal Piobaireachd in Inverness -- both on his first attempt. In 2003, Jori placed fourth in the Gold Medal competition at Inverness. In addition, Jori plays with the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band and was with the band when it won the 2001 World Pipe Band Championship in Glasgow, Scotland. This will be Jori's first performance at the Masters of Scottish Arts Concert.

For more information on Jori Chisholm, go to www.bagpipelessons.com

OTHER NEWS

Other musicians slated to play at the Masters of Scottish Arts concert at Seattle's Benaroya Hall have been making news in recent weeks:

John Wilson of Scotland has been added to the concert lineup and appears at Benaroya Hall for the first time. Wilson served as Pipe Sergeant of the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band for 9 of its record-breaking 12 World Championships (1979, '81-'86,'88, '89), including six in consecutive years. He has also won virtually every major award in senior solo piping including the coveted Gold Medals at Oban and Inverness Scotland.

Queen Elizabeth honored Drum Major Jim Kilpatrick on December 31, 2004 with the MBE, or Member, The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire medal for his service to music. He not only led the Shotts & Dykehead Pipe Band's drum section to the 2003 World Championship and Champion of Champions titles, but also won his astonishing 14th World Solo Drumming Championship, prompting Piper & Drummer magazine to name him the top Drummer of the Year.

Bruce Gandy, of Canada's 78th Highlanders Pipe Band (Halifax), was awarded Solo Competition Piper of the Year by Piper and Drummer magazine and makes his first appearance at the Masters of Scottish Arts Concert. Gandy, who grew up in Victoria, British Columbia, won the biggest solo piping prizes of the past year, including the North American Solo Championship, Gold Medals at Inverness and Oban, Scotland, the Bratach Gorm medal, and the BC Pipers Indoor.

Solo pipers Willie McCallum of Scotland, Jack Lee of Surrey, British Columbia, and Alasdair Gillies of Pittsburgh, were also considered in P&D's honors, as they all had standout years. McCallum is the most consistent prize winner of the past decade, Lee became the first North American to win Scotland's Glenfiddich title, and Scottish born Gillies, Pipe Major of the Carnegie Mellon University Pipes and Drums, won his record eleventh Silver Star at Inverness, Scotland.

Need we say more??? Anyone not attending the 2004 MSA concert will be missing the living legends in the genre.

WHAT: The World's Best Bagpipers, Drummers, Fiddlers and Dancers
The world's foremost concert of solo Scottish Highland music.
This year, seven new performers make their Northwest debut (either noted above, or noted below with * before his or her name).

WHEN: Friday Feb. 6, 2004
7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Benaroya Hall
S. Mark Taper Foundation Auditorium
3RD Ave. & University St.
Seattle WA 98101
206-215-4800

WHO: Today's preeminent Scottish artists, with superior musical talent, dynamic showmanship, technical skill and stage presence.

The featured performers, in addition to those named above, are:

Michael Cusack, Jr., United States. America's premier bagpiper, an electric presence on the concert stage.

***Alasdair Fraser,** Scotland. One of Scotland's finest fiddle players, a dynamic performer, consummate entertainer, and recording artist.

***Tyler Fry,** Canada. The best tenor drummer in the world, hands down, from Toronto's 78th Fraser Highlanders. A pure phenomenon!

Calum MacKinnon, Edmonds, Washington resident. The Scottish born fiddler is sought after worldwide as a performer and teacher.

Pipe Major Roddy MacLeod, MBE, Scotland. Awarded Member of the British Empire status in 2002 by Queen Elizabeth for his

distinguished service to piping; Principal of Scotland's National Piping Centre. A brilliant player with a witty stage repartee.

Gareth Mitchelson, Scotland. Three time Adult World Champion. Perhaps the best male highland dancer alive today.

***Michelle Nadeau**, Canada. 2003 Canadian Adult Highland Dance Champion, 2nd in the World Championships, 2002 & 2003.

***Coleen Rintamaki**, Canada. Grace, beauty and perfection only begin to describe the reigning and five-time Adult World Highland Dancing Champion. Winner of eight Juvenile World titles.

***Kathryn Tawse**, Canada. Bass drummer from the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band makes her MSA & Seattle debut.

MORE:

Tickets

Tickets, \$20--\$27, can be purchased in advance at all Ticketmaster ticket centers and online at www.Ticketmaster.com. To charge tickets by phone, call 206-292-ARTS. Tickets are also available in person at the Benaroya Hall box office Monday through Friday 10 AM to 6 PM, Saturday 1-6pm.

The Concert

The seventh annual Masters of Scottish Arts Concert returns an all-star lineup of Scottish Highland bagpipers, drummers, fiddlers and dancers to Benaroya Hall. This concert is unique in the world, as it has become the only time the featured performers, acknowledged as the very best in the world, play together as an ensemble. The concert promises a spectacular showcasing of the best solo talent in the world in this genre, hence the title Masters of Scottish Arts. All artists subject to change.

Normally these artists, who are all true living masters in the genre, play as soloists or as leaders of their own world-class pipe bands. It's like having the great Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman on stage together—wearing kilts!

The Music

The addition this year two of the most talented Scottish style fiddlers in the world add a new dimension to the evening. The music will range current popular compositions, to folk favorites, to Scottish Regimental standards, to the classical music of the Scottish bagpipe, the centuries old style called piobaireachd (pronounced pea-brock). The dancers will be accompanied by the other musicians. Ensemble performances will combine the pipers and drummers and other instruments. The drum corps will perform a sensational improv, where the spontaneity and visual humor has consistently brought the house down.

The Winter School

The artists are in the Puget Sound area to teach at the annual Mastery of Scottish Arts Winter School, established in 1996 to provide world-class instruction in the Scottish arts. It is one of the foremost schools of its kind in the world. The school for piping, drumming, fiddling and dancing is being held at the Fort Worden Conference Center in Port Townsend, Washington the week of Feb. 1-6, 2004.

MSA is a registered 501(c)(3) Non Profit Corporation. For further information, call 206-444-4344, or write Masters of Scottish Arts, PO Box 3713, Bellevue, WA 98009. Web site: <http://www.masteryofscottisharts.org/>.

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