



ARMADALE

CASTLE, GARDENS & MUSEUM OF THE ISLES

THE SPIRITUAL HOME OF CLAN DONALD

Clan Donald Lands Trust – Gaelic Performing Arts Competitions

The ancient MacDonald Lords of the Isles saw it as their responsibility to support, encourage, and develop the Gaelic culture in all its forms. For more than thirty years, the Clan Donald Lands Trust (CDLT) has been pleased to carry on this important responsibility. In 2017, we supported piping competitions in Scotland, New Zealand, Australia and North America. In North America we introduced a senior clarsach competition and a prize for male Highland Dance to encourage boys to take up, and men to compete in Highland Dance.

The Clan Donald Lands Trust is fully committed to continuing its support of the Gaelic performing arts, and looks forward to additional opportunities to recognise and support Gaelic artists.

The Trust currently (2018) supports 11 prestigious traditional arts competitions worldwide:

- Harold Mclsaac Memorial Prize for best Grade 3 pipe band, New Zealand (March)
- Kate MacDonald Memorial Prize for Junior Clàrsach, Isle of Skye (March)
- AWR MacDonald Memorial Prize for the best Grade 4 pipe band, Australia (April)
- Donald MacDonald Cuach, Isle of Skye (June)
- Princess Margaret of the Isles Prize for Senior Clàrsach, Isle of Skye (June)
- Princess Margaret of the Isles Prize for Senior Clàrsach, North America (September)
- Deborah Macdonald of Sleat Memorial Poetry Prize, Isle of Skye (October)
- Ellice and Rosa McDonald Memorial Prize for Pipe Band, North America (November)
- Col John McDonnell of Lochgary Prize for Best Male Dancer (November)
- Bishop Faber MacDonald Memorial Prize for best Senior Fiddle (November)
- Col Jock MacDonald Junior Piping Prize, Isle of Skye (November)

Each competition has been named after a late Clan Donald person:

The **Harold Mclsaac Memorial Prize** for best Grade 3 pipe band in New Zealand. Harold was a CDLT Trustee who contributed both time and money to the furtherance of the Trust's goals.

The **Kate MacDonald Memorial Prize** is named after Miss Kate MacDonald, a well-known 19th century clarsach player. Kate MacDonald was a member of the St Columbia Choir in

Glasgow and won the inaugural prize at the 1892 National Mod for Best Gaelic song with self-accompaniment on the clarsach.

The **AWR MacDonald Memorial Prize** for the best Grade 4 pipe band in Australia is named AWR MacDonald, who left the Trust a significant bequest. We know very little about him other than he was an Australian artist who had once visited Armadale. We have erected a plaque for him in the Old Laundry, and we hope the naming of the Prize after him will show appropriate respect and thanks.

The **Donald MacDonald Cuach** has been sponsored by CDLT for over 25 years. Donald MacDonald (1767-1840) is a key figure in the history of piping. He was a Skye man, piper, soldier, bagpipe-maker, music publisher and 'Pipe Maker to the Highland Society of London'. A part of his unique collection of piobaireachd was first published in about 1820 and then republished in 2006.

The **Princess Margaret of the Isles Memorial Prize for Senior Clarsach** is named after Princess Margaret of Scotland, the daughter of King Robert II and the wife of John, Lord of the Isles. Princess Margaret was a great patron of the arts, and the through this prize for senior clarsach playing, CDLT seeks to perpetuate and honour that reputation.

The **Deborah Macdonald of Sleat Memorial Poetry Prize** was created by Sir Ian to honour his late daughter, Deborah, and is awarded in cooperation with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Sir Ian has graciously agreed to allow CDLT to partner with him in the support of this annual prize for best Gaelic poem.

The **Ellice and Rosa McDonald Memorial Prize for Pipe Band** is a North American prize, first presented at the Stone Mountain Highland Games in 2016, then at the Scotland County Highland Games in 2017. In 2018 will be presented at the Charleston Highland Games. Ellie and Rosa McDonald were major benefactors of Clan Donald Lands Trust.

The **Colonel John MacDonell of Lochgarry Prize for Best Male Highland Dancer (North America)** is named after a famous Clan Donald warrior who commanded the 76th Regiment of Foot (MacDonald's Highlanders) of the British army. It was a Scottish Light Infantry regiment raised in 1777 by Clan Donald from clansmen in the west of Scotland and western isles of Scotland. Modern Highland Dancing has its roots in the ritualistic and combative dances of regiments like the 76th that imitated the epic deeds and martial skills of Highland warriors. The Sword Dance, the Dirk Dance, and the Highland Fling were at one time only danced by men. However, since the late 19th century, the number of females participating in the sport has increased until today in excess of 95% of all dancers are female. The purpose of the MacDonell of Lochgarry Prize is to encourage more boys to take up Highland dancing and more men to participate in Highland Dance competitions.

The **Bishop Faber MacDonald Memorial Prize for Best Senior Fiddle (North America)** is named after the late Bishop MacDonald who was ordained a priest in 1963 and served several Catholic parishes around Prince Edward Island, Canada. An accomplished fiddle player, he worried about the death of traditional music and worked hard to revive it, helping found the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival, an important competition in Maritime Canada.

The **Dan R. MacDonald Memorial Prize for Best Junior Fiddle (North America)** is named after Dan Rory MacDonald of Inverness County on Cape Breton Island. He became one of Cape Breton's most prolific composers of fiddle tunes. Usually known as "Dan R.", MacDonald took an early interest in music, encouraged by his fiddle-playing father. He made his first radio appearance in 1935, the next year he composed his first tune - a reel called The Red Shoes. Although Dan R. had a reputation as an outstanding fiddler, people remember him best for his composing. He estimated in the early 1970s that he had written over two thousand tunes. Many of his compositions have become part of the "standard" Cape Breton repertoire. Two published volumes of Dan R.'s compositions exist: The Heather Hill Collection and The Trip to Windsor Collection.

The **Col Jock MacDonald Memorial Prize for Junior Piping** is named after Colonel John Macdonald of Portree, Skye. He was a Scottish rugby cap and served in the army in both World Wars. In WWII he served in the Burma campaign with the Indian Army, commanding a construction unit on the Burma Road, and was in Rangoon for the Japanese surrender. After the war, he stayed in India as a tea planter in Assam until 1948 when he returned to Skye. He became a well-known figure for his involvement with and promotion of piping, shinty, Highland games, and the Gaelic language. CDLT and the Colonel Jock MacDonald Memorial Trust are at present looking for ways to cooperate in the organising and financing of an annual junior piping competition for young people of either sex under the age of eighteen years who are resident in the District of Skye and Lochalsh.