

34<sup>TH</sup> PÌOBÀIREACHD COMPETITION FOR THE

# DONALD MACDONALD CUACH

11th June 2021





## COMPETITORS



**Callum Beaumont**

Cumha Mhic a h-Arasaig (MacKintosh's Lament)



**Glenn Brown**

Failt a Bhodaich (The Duke of Argyll's Salute)



**Andrew Hayes**

Piobaireachd Cheann Deise (The Earl of Ross's March)



**Finlay Johnston**

Cumha an Aona Mhic (The Lament for the only Son)



**Stuart Liddell**

Moladh Morag (In Praise of Morag)

**Opening piper:** Archie Maclean

**Fear an Tighe:** Dr Angus MacDonald

**Adjudicator:** Dr Jack Taylor



## BIOGRAPHIES

### Callum Beaumont

Callum currently resides in Dollar, Clackmannanshire. He is a piping instructor at Dollar Academy. During his time there he has lead the Novice band to two consecutive champion of champions titles. Callum's solo achievements have included winning both Gold Medals, The Silver Chanter, The Bratach Gorm and the Clasp at the Northern Meeting in 2015, 2018 and 2019. Aside from solo piping, Callum is a member of the Inveraray and District Pipe Band.

### Glenn Brown

Glenn Brown is a native of Milton, Ontario, Canada. He began playing at the age of nine and was originally taught by his mother, Gail Brown. He has been taking lessons from Willie MacCallum since 2001. Other instructors have been Michael Grey and Bill Livingstone. Some prizes of note in Piobaireachd are the Canadian Gold Medal, The Dunvegan Medal and The Northern Meeting Gold Medal. In Light Music, Glenn has won the A grade Marches at the Argyllshire Gathering and the A grade MSR at London. Glenn was also heavily involved in the Pipe Band world as the Pipe Sergeant of Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia, with whom he has won three World Pipe Band Championships. In 2017 Glenn placed 4th in the Clasp at the Northern Meeting, 2nd in the Masters Piobaireachd and 1st in the Senior Piobaireachd at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban and in 2018 Glenn won the Bratach Gorm in London.

### Andrew Hayes

Andrew Hayes was born and raised in Ottawa, Ontario and his initial instruction came from his father, the late Pipe Major Patrick Hayes. He also received instruction from Scott MacAulay, Pipe Major William Livingstone and Murray Henderson. Andrew has won the Gold Medal for piobaireachd at Oban and Inverness along with the Canadian Gold Medal among many other prizes. He is married with two children and is currently the Deputy Auditor General of Canada.



## **Finlay Johnston**

Finlay Johnston was born and raised in Glasgow. He has piping in his family. His mother, Anne Johnston, was a very successful solo piper. She was the first female winner of the Silver Medal. His father, Thomas Johnston, was also a very successful snare drummer, and the inventor of Ezeedrone reeds. Finlay's tuition started via his grandfather, Alasdair Sinclair from Tiree. He then began receiving tuition from Ronnie McShannon and has continued to do so for 27 years. Finlay resides in Milngavie, Glasgow. He previously worked at the National Piping Centre as a Piping Instructor and now works at Pipe Dreams as a reedmaker.

## **Stuart Liddell**

From Inveraray, Stuart Liddell started piping at the age of nine. He was originally taught by his grandfather, the late Pipe Major Ronald McCallum MBE and later, Arthur Gillies. He has also had tuition from Jim Henderson and Hugh McCallum. He has won three Clasps at Inverness, the Senior Piobaireachd at Oban five times, both Gold Medals and is a three-time Glenfiddich Piping Champion.

Stuart is founder and Pipe Major of the Inveraray & District Pipe Band, winners of the World Pipe Band Championship in 2017 and 2019 in Grade 1. Previously he was a member of the Scottish Power Pipe Band for seven years, thereafter joining the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band from Vancouver, Canada with whom he played for eleven years. A piano tuner by trade, he is also piping instructor at Mid Argyll Primary and Lochgilphead High Schools.



## **Dr Jack Taylor, Adjudicator**

Jack Taylor was taught piping in school in St Andrews, Scotland, by Bert Barron, and later while a medical student in Aberdeen by RB Nicol and RU Brown. He won the Gold Medal in Inverness in 1973 and the Silver Chanter in 1984. He played with Buchan Pipe Band as part of their grade 2 Worlds winning team in 2010. He is past president of the Piobaireachd Society, and, in collaboration with Patrick Molard produced the collection *Pipers Meeting New Tunes from the Campbell Canntaireachd* in 2017. This puts 45 tunes from Colin Campbell's Manuscript (Nether Lorn Canntaireachd) onto the stave, most for the first time. He teaches and judges regularly.

## **Archie Maclean, opening piper**

Archie Maclean is a local piper from Edinbane and a pupil of Ian Ruari Finlayson and Dr Angus MacDonald. He is also a member of the Skye Pipe Band. In 2018 he won the Clan Donald Lands Trust prize for best overall junior piper at the Colonel Jock Macdonald Memorial Trust Music Festival.



# DONALD MACDONALD

## ARCHITECT OF CHANGE

Donald MacDonald (1767-1840), Skyeman, piper, soldier, bagpipe-maker, music publisher and 'Pipe Maker to the Highland Society of London' is a key figure in the history of piping. He was the first person to make a comprehensive collection of Highland bagpipe music in staff notation. A part of his unique collection of piobaireachd was first published in about 1820 and then republished in 2006. The balance of his collection remained in manuscript until 2011 when 50 tunes were published for the first time in a scholarly edition prepared by Roderick Cannon and Keith Sanger for the Piobaireachd Society. This was made possible through the generosity of the Highland Society of London, William Grant and Sons Distillers, the MacRobert Trust and the Clan Donald Lands Trust.

Besides the music, in a concise form which is readable by present-day pipers, Donald MacDonald's Collection of Piobaireachd Volume 2 (1826) has chapters on the history of the original author, on the making of the manuscript and on the styles of music which were current when it was written.

## THE CRAFTSMAN

Donald MacDonald was one of the first of the emerging class of professional bagpipe makers in Edinburgh and London. Although his products were overtaken by the work of other makers in the course of the busy 19th century, it was his distinctive design and workmanship that came to define the Great Highland Bagpipe as we know it today. Donald MacDonald marks the point of entry into the known history of the Highland bagpipe.

Donald was born in Glenhinnisdale, Trotternish, Skye, in 1767. His father was a carpenter and it is noticeable that his sons and other younger relatives took up work in various handicrafts – cabinet-making, metalwork, printing and basket-weaving. He began his pipe-making business in Edinburgh possibly as early as 1802 and his legacy has become apparent in recent studies of sets of pipes of his workmanship, still surviving in museums. The 'finish' and decoration of the Donald MacDonald bagpipe reflects the new styles of the 19th century while dimensions and acoustic properties seem to reflect older Gaelic styles. Hugh Robertson was the Edinburgh bagpipe maker chosen by the Highland Society of London in 1781 to make the first prize bagpipe for the piping competition staged at Falkirk and for the subsequent Edinburgh competitions. The succession of the honorary commission of 'Pipe Maker to the Highland Society of London' passed in 1812 briefly to Malcolm MacGregor of London, back to Hugh Robertson in 1816 and to Donald MacDonald in 1822.



## DONALD MACDONALD THE PIPER

As already mentioned, Donald MacDonald was born in 1767 in Glenhinnisdale in Skye. It has been said that he was taught by the MacArthurs – at least he himself dated his own early piping experience to the late 1770s. He first comes to our notice when he joins the armed forces – the Rothesay and Caithness Fencibles – in 1795. Donald served until about 1802 and then, as he settled in Edinburgh, he began to make his mark in the annual pìobaireachd competitions of the Highland Society of London. Both Donald and his three sons took many prizes, and Donald himself (after another break for military service) won the top award in 1817. But still more significant for us, he learned to write pipe music in modern notation, and, as early as 1806, he won a substantial prize for producing the largest collection seen up till that time. In 1820, he finally published his first collection of pìobaireachd. This publication prefigures an important pattern whereby the most significant published works were produced by the bagpipe makers themselves, Donald MacDonald thus being the pioneer of such enterprises. In many ways, the notation set the standard for all the books we have today. Donald's 1820 book contained 23 pieces noted in complete detail, and the quality of the music and sophistication of his style of ornamentation show clearly what a strong tradition he had inherited. Many of our most famous tunes first saw the light in that book – 'The Prince's Salute', 'The Finger Lock', 'Craigellachie', 'Glengarry's March' and so on. They are still favourites today, and although styles of playing are now different, the basic melodies remain as he gave them.

In order to broaden the market – for his book was generally beyond the financial reach of the piper community – Donald designed his notation to be readable by other musicians as well, especially pianists. In this, he was unsuccessful and he lost money; yet he went on to prepare a second larger collection of 50 pieces of music, which he completed in 1826 but was unable to publish. The story of how he gifted the manuscript to a young pupil, who by that time was in India, and how it was preserved in the family, is a romance in itself. The tunes in the second volume again include a large number of classics and the names tell their own story – 'MacDonald's Warning', 'The Massacre of Glencoe', 'Cnocan Ailean Mac Iain'. Together with a fascinating collection of historical and traditional stories they add up to a distinctive Clan Donald view of the turbulent period of Highland history in which they were created.

Compared with the modern way of playing, Donald MacDonald's style seems flexible and ornate, with introductory grace-notes and 'reflexive shakes' which are no longer in use. Some pipers see these negatively, as if to say that if Donald differed from the ways we have today, he must have been wrong. Other pipers are experimenting to rediscover the old ways. The leading venue for this innovative approach to piping is the annual competition for the Donald MacDonald Cuach.



## 2019 Winner Glenn Brown



2019 winner Glenn Brown is presented with the Donald MacDonald Cuach by clan chief and CDLT trustee Godfrey, Lord Macdonald

## The Winners

1987	Hugh MacCallum	2004	Ross Cowan
1988	Iain MacFadyen	2005	Stuart Shedden
1989	Robert Wallace	2006	Niall Stewart
1990	Roderick MacLeod	2007	James Murray
1991	William McCallum	2008	Pipe Major Brian Donaldson
1992	Allan MacDonald	2009	Iain Speirs
1993	William McCallum	2010	Stuart Liddell
1994	Alfred P Morrison	2011	Angus MacColl
1995	Dr Angus MacDonald	2012	Murray Henderson
1996	Angus McColl	2013	Cameron Drummond
1997	William McCallum	2014	Roddy MacLeod
1998	William J Morrison	2015	Bruce Gandy
1999	James Murray	2016	Iain Speirs
2000	Niall Matheson	2017	Callum Beaumont
2001	Donald MacPhee	2018	Iain Speirs
2002	Colin MacLellan	2019	Glenn Brown
2003	Robert Watt	2020	Competition not held due to Covid-19





## Programme

The event is taking place online this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Welcome and opening remarks by Dr Angus MacDonald,  
live at the Museum of the Isles, Armadale Castle

The evening will commence with local piper Archie Maclean,  
filmed at Armadale Castle

Dr Angus MacDonald will then introduce filmed  
performances by each competitor

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Clan Donald Lands Trust would like to thank Dr Angus MacDonald for his assistance in organising this competition. We also offer a special welcome to adjudicator Dr Jack Taylor.



# ARMADALE

CASTLE, GARDENS & MUSEUM OF THE ISLES

ISLE OF SKYE

The Clan Donald Lands Trust was formed in 1971 to save the last remaining remnants of the once vast clan lands as a focal point for clan history and activity worldwide.

The Trust, a non profit making charitable organisation, holds the lands and properties, not only for MacDonalDs and associated names, but also for all who are interested in the conservation of our Highland heritage.

The Trust is proud to support a worldwide programme of competitions to promote the traditional performing arts. To find out more about the programme visit the Cultural Heritage page of our website.

Visit [www.armadalecastle.com/support](http://www.armadalecastle.com/support) to find out how you can support the work of our charitable trust.