



Pipe Major Corner

In the June PCPB Newsletter, I expressed cautious but excited optimism about getting back to in-person band practices, gathering for the Pleasanton Games and the debut of our Junior Band in competition. The crystal ball did not disappoint. In fact, what transpired exceeded our expectations!



Not only did our Junior Band continue to practice and grow and improve over the summer, but in their very first band contest in Pleasanton they achieved a #1 ranking in all categories: piping, drumming and ensemble (the overall presentation)! A clean sweep. And, in the band contest the next day, they earned a remarkably close second place overall, proving that the first win was no fluke.

In fact, it was the result of hard work and practice, with each band member committing to the group and committing to their own individual growth. Throw in the key catalyst of *having fun*, and you have the formula for success not only on the competition field but, more importantly, in the bigger picture of what the Prince Charles Pipe Band strives to achieve. Kathleen Smith, Brian Cooper, and I are honored to be instructing such a great group of individuals, and we genuinely enjoy watching the group gel, both musically and socially.

Our sincere thanks go to the parents and families of all the Band members. Without your support of your kids and the organization, we could not do what we do.

Those of us who grew up in the Band cannot help but be reminded of the past versions of the Junior Band that we played in – the same positive attitude, the camaraderie, and the sheer delight in making music together. So, I'll repeat what I said in June: There are good times ahead!

Warmest wishes of the Season to you all,

Ken Sutherland

Pipe-Major and Board President

Pleasanton Productive for PCPB!

The Prince Charles Pipe Band was well-represented in the prize lists at this year's Caledonian Club Highland Games on Labor Day Weekend. Kudos to all who competed and gave it their best!

For a detailed accounting of the Band and Solo contests at Pleasanton, as well as other contests held during the year, go to <https://wuspba.org/results-2/>

Grade 5 Band Contest Results (Overall Placings)

Saturday - Quick March Medley

- 1st – Prince Charles Junior Pipe Band
- 2nd – City of Sacramento Pipe Band
- 3rd – Utah Pipe Band
- 4th – Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Pipe Band
- 5th – Jefferson Pipe Band

Sunday – March/Slow Air/March

- 1st – City of Sacramento Pipe Band
- 2nd – Prince Charles Junior Pipe Band
- 3rd – Utah Pipe Band
- 4th – Jefferson Pipe Band
- 5th – Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Pipe Band

Solo Piping and Drumming Contest Results

Our soloists competed in up to four different contests during the weekend, depending on their Solo Grade and Instrument. Here is a tally of PCPB members' Top-6 placings in the various events. What a haul!

Grade 5 Practice Chanter

- Augusta Chen: 1st
- Davey Drobshoff: 2nd

Grade 4 Piping

- Katya Teodorovich: 1st, 1st, 1st, 2nd
- Alex Bloom: 2nd, 2nd, 3rd,
- Lara Thomsen: 6th
- Rupert Chen: 4th, 4th

Grade 4 Snare Drumming

- Will Cooper: 2nd, 2nd
- Stuart Cornelius: 3rd, 3rd
- Henry Stockett: 4th, 5th
- Shaelyn Mosbaugh: 6th



Grade 3 Piping

Colin Thurber: 3rd, 3rd, 3rd, 4th
Chelsea Wells: 1st, 3rd, 3rd
Andrew Murphey: 5th, 6th

Grade 2 Snare Drumming

Andrew Koupal: 1st, 1st

Grade 1 Piping

Steven McElhaney: 1st, 1st, 3rd, 5th
Brian Cooper: 1st, 3rd, 6th

Pipe Bands Visit the COP26

When we think of Scotland, typically golf, tartan, whisky, highland cattle, Nessie, and of course pipes and drums spring to mind. However, in 2021, the world looked to Glasgow, Scotland for global leadership to find policy solutions to climate change at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26). Glasgow's Scottish Events Campus (SEC) housed the United Nations, and the other main venue was at the Glasgow Science Centre. From the pictures and video transmitted back to the world, the action in Glasgow was in the streets and pipe bands were everywhere.

The Robert Gordon's College Pipe Band took the invitation to play "Highland Cathedral" at COP26 as an honor. Their Pipe Major said: "It was really great to pipe at COP26 and be part of such a significant movement in Scotland. We were even lucky enough to attend some of the sessions that took place with Nicola Sturgeon and Al Gore." (Source: Robert Gordon's College website)

St. Columba's School pipers in Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire were selected to play for India's prime minister, Narendra Modi. It being a global climate conference, the Scottish Power Pipe Band got center stage. Scottish Power Pipe Band represents the Scottish Power Company and there's a lot of progress to celebrate. Scottish Power's domestic green power delivery is backed by 100% green electricity, generated in their UK windfarms.



Scottish Power Pipe Band

So, the next time you think of Scotland, add saving the planet to your list. And when you are freezing in a cold wind in competition on the Glasgow Green at the Worlds, remember the value of Scotland's wind for their green wind energy production!

In Memoriam

Sheila Byrne – PCPB Piper early 1970s. Sheila was one of the first members of the PCPB Ladies' Band.

Mike Reynolds – PCPB Piper 1970s. Mike was a member of the Band that made the first trip to Scotland in 1973.

Patrick Perez – PCPB Piper late 1970s - 1980s. Pat went to Scotland with the Band in 1978.



Thank You for Your Support!

As you know, the band is a non-profit organization. Comprised of men, women, and young people interested in Scottish culture, the band continues to provide unique musical experiences literally around the world.

We are very lucky to have the uncompromising dedication and leadership from the likes of Ken Sutherland, Kathleen Smith, and Brian Cooper.

We depend on revenues we receive from prize money, performances, and donations from our supporters. Due to the ongoing pandemic, our prize money and performance revenue has dropped significantly over the last two years.

On the other hand, our youth ranks are expanding, and we need uniforms to fit our new Junior Band members. We also need replacement uniforms for our older members. Finally, instructors are still actively providing individual tutoring and band Zoom practices. Accordingly, we depend, more than ever, on donations from alumni and friends of the band.

We especially want to thank those of you that provide consistent financial support each year. It really helps to be able to forecast donation revenue as part of our overall budgeting process.

Please help us continue to provide exceptional cultural experiences with your generous donations. Enclosed is a remittance envelope for your convenience, or you may donate at www.pcpb.org. Thank you for being part of our community and our story. We hope you have a wonderful 2022!

New Faces



Name: Kieran English

Hometown: El Granada, CA

Instrument: Bagpipes

Fun Facts: I started learning bagpipes because of my Scottish heritage, and because my grandpa plays bagpipes. I also play piano. I read a lot, and like creating things from LEGOs and clay.



Name: Felix Chen

Hometown: Stanford, CA

Instrument: Bagpipes

Fun Facts: I am in 9th grade and enjoy reading and love books. I also play the cello and study Latin. In second grade, I moved from New York City to California.



Name: Davy Drobshoff

Hometown: Livermore, CA

Instrument: Bagpipes

Fun Facts: I became interested in bagpipes from a 4th grade school history project about Vikings. I liked the sound and wanted to learn how to play them. I also play piano and my favorite sport is fencing.

The Viking Connection

New piping student Davey Drobshoff shared with us a bit of “alternative history” of the bagpipes, from his 4th Grade history project. The cheeky editors of this Newsletter have added to his findings, with our comments in *italics*.

“During the course of my research, I learned that the Vikings would invade Scotland, and the Scottish developed instruments called bagpipes to scare off the Vikings.”

(Editors: Perhaps not quite accurate as to the origin of the pipes, as the Romans likely lay claim to developing the first bagpipe. But more importantly, Davey proposes an excellent rationale for why pipers and drummers tend to play late into the evening when others are trying to sleep!)

“The bagpipes made a very eerie noise that the Vikings had never heard before.”

(Editors: We imagine the look on a Viking’s face resembling that of our tone expert Scott Ruscoe’s grimace when he hears the agonizing sound of a collapsed chanter reed...)

“They thought that the pipes sticking up into the air looked like dragons.”

(Editors: Nice visual. Really.)

“I researched further to find out if bagpipes still existed, and they did! So, I looked them up to hear what they sounded like. I liked the sound and wanted to learn how to play them.”

(Editors: Indeed, Davey, they still exist and the music is thriving. And we’re glad to have you on board to keep the tradition going!)

A Look Back at Summer & Fall 2021...

