

PRINCE CHARLES PIPE BAND NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022



Pipe Major Corner

It's been a year since our last newsletter – hey, I guess we were busy! – but I think you'll enjoy our recap of the year on the following pages. Our Junior Band continued to grow and thrive, winning every event in which they competed, culminating in a decision by the Western US Pipe Band Association to upgrade the Band to Grade 4 for next season.



The combined Junior and Senior Bands returned to the Festival Interceltique in Lorient, France, making many memories and wowing the festival organizers and audiences with our music and professional demeanor. Our piping and drumming soloists grew in numbers and were regularly in the prize lists at the Games. And the people who hired us to perform at banquets, parties and parades universally gave us rave reviews and were especially impressed with our younger pipers and drummers.

This is not the first time, nor the last, that so many stars are aligning for the Band. Nor is our current situation a random occurrence. PCPB has a rich tradition – over half a century – of great instruction, hard work and a social environment that builds lasting friendships. These elements form the foundation that will continue to sustain the Band.

Many thanks to our Band members, instructors, parents, and Board members for their dedication to the mission of the Band; to the Caledonian Club for their long-standing generosity in sponsoring the Band and providing us with practice facilities; and to our loyal supporters whose donations provide us with the additional resources we need to make it all happen!

Happiest tidings of the Season to you and yours,

Ken Sutherland, *Pipe-Major and Board President*

More College-Bound Charlies

Adding to the ranks of Prince Charles Junior Band pipers and drummers off to college this fall:

Amelia Bloom – Stanford University

Ethen Cubberly – Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Henry Stockett – City College of SF

Katya Teodorovich – Purdue University

Good luck and learn a lot...including the music sets for next year, OK?

Festival Interceltique Lorient

In August, the Prince Charles Pipe Band was a featured guest band at the 51st Festival Interceltique de Lorient in Brittany, France. This was our third time being invited to the Festival and it was every bit as magical and fun as the previous visits. We brought 31 performing members and 19 family guests; most of the group had not been on our earlier trips.

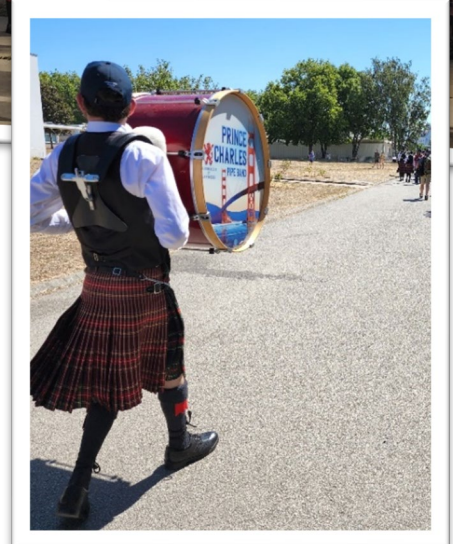
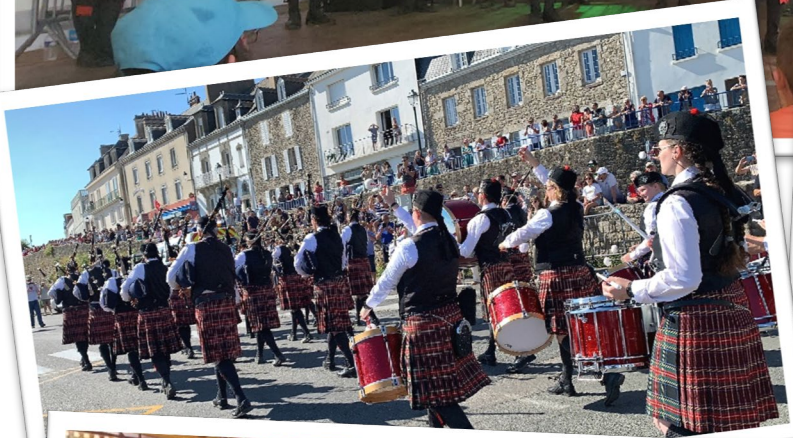
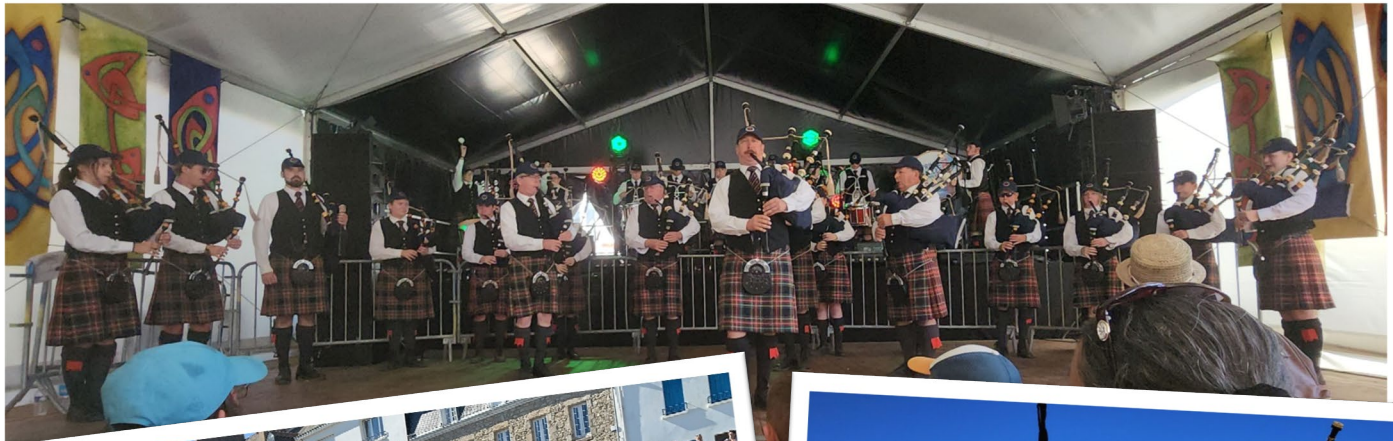
Over the Festival's ten days, the Band played in 5 Stadium shows, 4 parades, 3 staged concerts, a "Battle of the Bands" field show (vs. the Galician pipe band!), countless rehearsals and everyone's favorite, the epic Bumper Car Derby.

It was an amazing adventure, far exceeding our admittedly high expectations. We created shared memories that will last a lifetime: immersing ourselves in new experiences and cultures (with music and dance being common to all!), meeting new friends, performing for incredible audiences, playing pipes and drums day in and day out. The bonds forged as a result of the trip without a doubt will pay future dividends for the Band.

We hope you enjoy a glimpse of the fun we had at the Festival on the following pages!

Photos by Kimmie Mosbaugh and Julia Thomsen





Prince Charles Junior Pipe Band Sweep!

The band contests at Monterey (Jul 16 - 17) and Pleasanton (Sep 3 - 4) provided our Junior Band with a chance to test their mettle against other Western US pipe bands, and the results were clear wins in four out of four events! While the Monterey contests were tight – PCJrPB edged out the second-place bands by only 1 and 2 points – the Pleasanton contests were a run-away, with a consensus 1st place ranking by all the judges on each day. Way to start and finish strong!

The Band's consistent results and the contest judges' recommendations after hearing the Band play led the Western US Pipe Band Association (WUSPBA) to upgrade PCJrPB to Grade 4 for next year...the only Grade 5 band to be moved up.

MONTEREY – Grade 5 Results

Quick March Medley (5 bands competing)

1st - Prince Charles Junior Pipe Band

2nd - Pipes and Drums of Cal Fire

3rd - Humboldt Highlanders Pipe Band

March/Slow Air/March (5 bands competing)

1st - Prince Charles Junior Pipe Band

2nd - Humboldt Highlanders Pipe Band

3rd - Pipes and Drums of Cal Fire

PLEASANTON – Grade 5 Results

Quick March Medley (8 bands competing)

1st - Prince Charles Junior Pipe Band (1st place ranking by all four judges)

2nd - Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Pipe Band

3rd - University of California Riverside Pipe Band

March/Slow Air/March (7 bands competing)

1st - Prince Charles Junior Pipe Band (1st place ranking by all four judges)

2nd - Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Pipe Band

3rd - University of California Riverside Pipe Band

Soloists Add to Their Medal Collections!

Eleven pipers and six drummers from the Band competed in solo contests this year, with consistently brilliant results. The accolades are too lengthy to list here; the full results can be found on-line at <https://wuspba.org/results-2/>. PCPB was represented at the Pipes & Pubs and the Redding Indoor solo contests; the NorCal Spring, NorCal Fall and YEC On-line contests; and the Monterey and Pleasanton Highland Games.

Due to their consistent, superior performances, WUSPBA upgraded the following individuals for 2023. (Higher grades have lower numbers.)

Grade 3 to Grade 2 piping: Colin Thurber and Katya Teodorovich

Grade 4 to Grade 3 piping: Lara Thomsen and Henry Cooper

Grade 4 to Grade 3 snare: Will Cooper and Ethen Cubberly

Congratulations to all our soloists for their hard work and achievements, and for continuing the PCPB tradition of solo excellence!

Thank You for Your Support!

The band is a non-profit organization that supports and promotes Scottish culture, providing unique musical experiences literally around the world. We depend on revenues we receive from prize money, performance fees, and, most importantly, donations from our supporters.

We especially want to thank those of you that provide consistent financial support each year with a special thank you to the Caledonian Club of San Francisco. It really helps to be able to forecast donation revenue as part of our budgeting process.

Please help us continue to provide exceptional cultural experiences with your generous donations. Thank you for being part of our community and our story. Happy Holidays and have a wonderful 2023!