

# Words and Music

## Summer 2016

### The Mini-MSR: Your Questions Answered

*Lise Nelson, Music Board  
Joyfulnoises33@gmail.com*



Many members, especially Grade 4 bands, have asked about the rationale for the WUSPBA instituting a mini-MSR in 2016, wondering where the idea came from and why the Music Board

felt it was a good idea.

W&M interviewed Music Board member Lise Nelson (with input from Tom Foley) to answer your questions.

**W&M:** *What was the discussion as the Music Board considered requiring a mini-MSR for Grade 4 bands instead of the old Quick March Medley?*

**Lise:** It was pretty simple, as I recall. The change seemed necessary mostly to get in line with the requirements of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association.

Several years ago, the RSPBA started what they termed the Musical Appreciation and Presentation (MAP) program. The concept was to solve a problem that RSPBA felt

needed to be fixed: to ensure that competing Grade 4 bands understood and adhered to the proper idiom in the tunes they played. The program included a prescribed list of tunes to be played and there were guidelines such as, the music was to be presented in a "bright and lively" manner, with due attention to rhythm, phrasing, embellishments, note values, etc. Judging focused on basics and ensemble.

The program has worked so well that their bands were ready for the increased challenge of strathspeys and reels, so the mini-MSR was born. "Mini" means that the tunes can be two-parted, rather than at least four parts as with a standard MSR. In addition, a number of Grade 4 WUSPBA bands had been complaining about the simplicity of the Quick March Medley, so were also ready for the increased challenge.

**W&M:** *Was there thought of helping WUSPBA bands who want to go to Scotland?*

**Lise:** Certainly helping bands by aligning our requirements more closely with Scotland's was an important consideration. The decision to make the change was actually pretty simple because of that.

Much of the discussion focused on which tunes would be appropriate and how to communicate the change to membership,

and when to institute it in order to give bands time to prepare.

**W&M:** *What was the recommendation of the Alliance of North American Pipe Band Associations?*

**Lise:** Alliance members, who represent all the pipe band associations in North America, favored the change.

**W&M:** *So what lies ahead?*

**Lise:** Depending on how well our Grade IV bands deal with the mini-MSR (or MMSR, as I like to write it), eventually it is possible we will move to requiring four parts of each type of tune, as they do in Scotland. Bands could still play two-parted tunes. The QMM of course is now played by Grade V bands. There are no plans to change the Time Limit Medley.

## When Problems Arise

*Andrew Morrill, President*  
[piperadmorrill@gmail.com](mailto:piperadmorrill@gmail.com)



I hope all of you are finding your summers busy with performances. It can be hard at times to keep up with family, band, Highland games, performances and

parades, not to mention trying to hold down a job.

I have had the opportunity to attend several Highland games and I have been impressed with how organized and well-run I have found them to be. I am also very impressed

with how well the mini- MSR's are going in the inaugural season. The Grade 4 bands are to be commended for their preparation and the work put in the off season—well done.

## Summer 2016

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## Contacts for Problems

I have found recently that I am becoming a middleman for all of the problems going on in the Association.

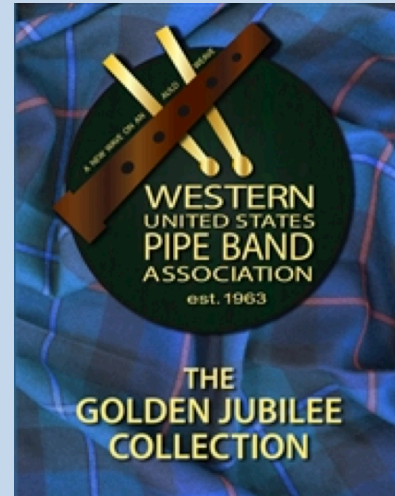
In an effort to try and get many of these problems solved quicker and more efficiently I would like to let you know whom you should contact in cases of problems.

- Anyone with problem dealing with solo events or registration should contact Lezlie Mann at [solo-registrar@wuspba.org](mailto:solo-registrar@wuspba.org).
- For band issues and registration, contact Nancy Theriault at [band-registrar@wuspba.org](mailto:band-registrar@wuspba.org).
- Games organizers can contact Todd Brown at [sanctioning@wuspba.org](mailto:sanctioning@wuspba.org).
- For questions about the R2 system, please contact Drew McPheeters at [vice-pres@wuspba.org](mailto:vice-pres@wuspba.org).
- Questions that involve financial issues should be referred to Nate Lorenz at [treas@wuspba.org](mailto:treas@wuspba.org).
- Any general questions can go to Erin Gunn at [exec-secretary@wuspba.org](mailto:exec-secretary@wuspba.org).

I hope that by sending problems to the people that handle your specific issues can help speed up the process without first going through a middleman—me.

## Good Luck with Competition!

If any of you soloists are planning on applying for an upgrade for next season, get your application in by the due date. I look forward to hearing you play.



**First-ever publication of music from  
the WUSPBA !**

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**The Western United States Pipe Band Association's *Golden Jubilee Collection* of new tunes by WUSPBA composers is now available! You'll definitely want this publication in your permanent collection!**

**Developed to celebrate the WUSPBA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013, the publication includes 90 original tunes selected by the Association's Music Board.**

**Just \$25 from  
[www.thebookpatch.com](http://www.thebookpatch.com).**

**Simply search for WUSPBA. All proceeds after production expenses will go towards promoting the art of piping and drum-ming among young people within the WSUPBA.**

# Tweaking the R2 System for the Future

*Drew McPheeters, Vice President*  
[Vice-pres@wuspba.org](mailto:Vice-pres@wuspba.org)



I have been spending a good bit of time helping out on the WUSPBA website, and with the membership management and event registration system that WUSPBA has

contracted with to provide this service to games, bands and soloists.

More games are using the system now, and for the most part, the system is working well. That said, we know there are challenges that remain, and these are being worked as resources allow.

## More Than an Event Registration System

One common misconception is that the system is only and event registrations system. This is far from the case. The R2 system provides a lot of features we hope to be able to use in the future.

We are focusing most of our effort at this time on improving the system's capability to automate the process of scheduling and de-conflicting solo and band contests. This is not a trivial matter, especially for events with larger numbers of entries.

Also we have spent some effort to make it easier to create, customize and manage contests. This involves adapting the new

system to the way piping and drumming contests run.

We are hoping to use features in the future that allow us to input contest results and compile aggregate standings.

## Contact Me with Ideas/Concerns

I encourage anyone with specific ideas and concerns to communicate these to me via email at [vice-pres@wuspba.org](mailto:vice-pres@wuspba.org)

## Plan Now for the WUSPBA AGM in October!

*Erin Gunn, Executive Secretary*  
[Egunn.ec@gmail.com](mailto:Egunn.ec@gmail.com)



I hope you are having a great 2016 competition season! The Executive Committee is gearing up for the WUSPBA's 2016 Annual General Meeting; we hope to see all of you there.

Leading up to the AGM weekend I wanted to share some important dates to keep in mind:

## Wednesday September 7 - Bylaw and Contest Rule Proposals Due

Please include the following items when submitting a proposal:

- The correct article and paragraph numbering,

- The wording as it currently appears in the Bylaws or Contest rules,
- The proposed new wording,
- An explanation or rationale for the change,
- Please also note if any other Pipe Band Association has a similar Bylaw or Contest Rule.

All proposals must be electronically submitted to me at [egunn.ec@gmail.com](mailto:egunn.ec@gmail.com). Proposals will be accepted from now until September 7<sup>th</sup>. If you need assistance writing a proposal, or would like to have the EC review a draft proposal prior to submitting the final version, please contact me.

#### **Thursday September 22 - All Proposals Will Be Posted**

Check the WUSPBA website, AGM page [www.wuspba.org/agm-index](http://www.wuspba.org/agm-index) for a complete listing of the Bylaw and Contest rule proposals that will be discussed during the general membership meeting.

#### **Sunday September 18 – All Re-Grade Applications Due**

All band and solo re-grade applications are due. Applications can be found on the WUSPBA website under the music tab, on the music board page, [www.wuspba.org/music-board](http://www.wuspba.org/music-board) under the Grading Committee heading. In addition to the application, you may provide supporting materials such as a letter of recommendation or a video/audio recording.

All applications and supporting items should be submitted to me no later than this date. *Note that late applications will not be accepted.* If you are interested in playing in

a different grade next year, please submit an application.

#### **Saturday October 22 - General Membership Meeting**

During this meeting, we will hold officer elections (Vice-president, Sanctioning Secretary, and Solo Registrar). Bylaw and Contest Rule proposals will be discussed and voted on.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Marriott hotel in Park City, Utah. As we get closer to the event, a guide detailing transportation and the full schedule of events for the weekend will be sent out.

We hope you will take the opportunity to attend the AGM if you are a soloist, a band, or a contest organizer. Let your voice be heard and your vote counted!

## **Reminder for Games Organizers and Solo Competitors**

*By Lezlie Mann, Solo Registrar*  
[mannlezlie@gmail.com](mailto:mannlezlie@gmail.com)



A quick reminder to game organizers: you can send solo results to me at the following address: 2559 South 400 East, Bountiful, UT 84010.

I am trying to be better about getting these results entered and posted to the WUSPBA website in a timely manner, so if you could send them to



me as soon as possible, it will really help. Please make sure that the soloist names are legible, and if at all possible it would be extremely helpful to have the soloist's WUSPBA membership number written on the main results page as well.

Soloists, remember that you may contact me if you lose access to your login information and are not able to get into the system for any reason. This is usually easily fixed; once I am made aware I can just reset your password and/or give you your username ID.

Most times it is best to reach me via email at [mannlezie@gmail.com](mailto:mannlezie@gmail.com).

## Late-Breaking News!

The WUSPBA is pleased to announce two new members of the WUSPBA Executive Committee.

### Intermountain Branch

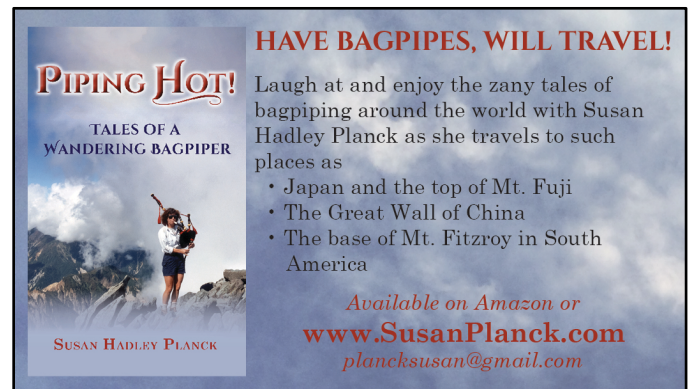
Christina Marshall has been elected as chair by the Intermountain Branch. Christina has served as the amazingly competent branch representative to games in the Intermountain area, organizing pipe bands and solo piping and drumming with aplomb while also managing a full-time job, four children and a talented drumming husband and son.

### Southern Branch

Kevin Conquest has been appointed as the interim president of the Southern Branch. Kevin is a skilled competition drum major and the long-term head of the Drum Major Committee for the Association.

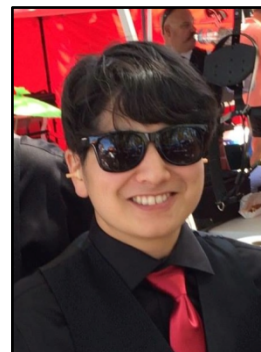
The Executive Committee welcomes these new members and looks forward to the new energy and ideas they may bring to the committee.

Never hesitate to contact *your* branch president with ideas or suggestions to improve the WUSPBA!



## Northern Branch

*Suzan Karayel, Northern Branch President*  
[wuspbanb@wuspbanb.org](mailto:wuspbanb@wuspbanb.org)



Happy summer!

Here in the Northern Branch, our competition season takes a bit of mid-season siesta from late June to early August.

But after that, we've got a lot in store for the second half of the season:

- August 6 & 7 – Monterey Scottish Games
- September 3 & 4 – Caledonian Club of San Francisco Games (Pleasanton)

- September 24 – Dixon Scottish Games
- October 1 & 2 – Reno Celtic Celebration

### **WUSPBA Reps at Every Contest**

I've made it my personal goal to ensure that there is an onsite WUSPBA Representative at every contest in the Northern Branch. The WUSPBA Reps assist the contest organizers to help them run their piping and drumming contests smoothly and according to WUSPBA rules.

So far this year, I've gotten nothing but positive feedback on our WUSPBA Reps from contest organizers and competitors alike. I hope that their continued presence will have a positive effect on everyone's competition day experience!

### **Stay in Touch with the Branch!**

As always, I welcome your feedback and ideas about how we can better serve the members of the Northern Branch. Please email me at [wuspbanb@wuspbanb.org](mailto:wuspbanb@wuspbanb.org).

For regular Northern Branch updates, see:

- Branch Website – [www.wuspbanb.org](http://www.wuspbanb.org)
- Facebook – [www.facebook.com/WUSPBANorthernBranch](https://www.facebook.com/WUSPBANorthernBranch)

## **Pipe Major Archie Cairns, MMM, CD – 1928-2016: A Significant Friend of Piping in the Intermountain Branch**

*The following information is drawn from an obituary in The National Piping Centre, from conversations with Fiona Cairns, and from the editor's personal memories of Pipe Major Archie Cairns.*

Pipe Major Archie Cairns, one of the great piping personalities and contributors to the instrument and its playing in Canada, died at home in the afternoon of April 1, 2016, at the age of 87, with his loving daughter, Fiona, at his side.

PM Cairns was one of Canada's most accomplished military pipe majors. He enrolled as a boy piper in his father's regiment in 1941 and served continuously in the Canadian Forces for 52 years. He rose to the rank of Major, and established many of the Canadian military's piping and drumming programs.

Originally taught by his father, Pipe-Major John Knox Cairns, he received tuition from John Wilson (Edinburgh and Toronto), and Captain John MacLellan, MBE. PM Cairns and Captain MacLellan established a life-long friendship, stemming from their time together when PM Cairns went through the Pipe-Major's Course at Edinburgh Castle, graduating first in his class and with distinction.

PM Cairns was a successful competitor at the top levels in Canada and North Eastern U.S.A. for more than 30 years. He was the force behind the Piobaireachd Society Gold Medal (Canada), coming up with the concept, presenting it to John MacLellan, and designing the medal. He was the first North American-born piper to be appointed to the Piobaireachd Society's adjudication panel, and to be named an examiner for the Institute of Piping in Scotland.

He played for royalty on many occasions, including at Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation Ball, and played the lament at three state funerals. He was a solo piper at the



Major Archie Cairns, MMM, CD (4)  
London, Ontario

Edinburgh Military Tattoo and devised pipe band acts performed at the Tattoo. PM Cairns was a published composer, well-established adjudicator of solo piping and pipe bands, and a lecturer and piping teacher. He was appointed Senior Pipe-Major of the Canadian Forces in 1968, holding the position until 1981, during

which time he compiled and published the *Canadian Forces Pipe Band Manual*.

Following his retirement, PM Cairns wrote a five-volume *Cadet Instruction Manual for Pipes & Drums*, which became a National Training Program in the Canadian military. He was appointed the first Commanding Officer of the new Central Region Cadet School of Pipes and Drums in London, Ontario, building the program from nothing and running it for 12 years until it was handed over to his highly accomplished son, John.

After leaving the military, PM Cairns authored and published several other manuals and piping books, and composed 80 to 100 new tunes. "Pipe-Major J.K. Cairns," named for his father, has been called one of the most original march compositions of its day, and the slow air "Mrs. Joy Cairns" (named for his wife, Joy, who predeceased him) continues as a poignant and popular composition often played by bands and soloists.

He was an adjudicator with the Pipers & Pipe Band Society of Ontario for several decades.

PM Cairns' contributions to piping and drumming in North America and, in reality, worldwide, were significant and far too numerous to be listed here.

In later years, PM Cairns led the London Police Pipes and Drums from 1983, joined by his daughter and piper, Fiona Cairns. Another member of the band was his son, Michael Cairns, who had Down syndrome. PM Cairns devised a system of teaching Michael to play a "goose," and one of Michael's proudest accomplishments was



to play with the band. It was a great sadness to PM Cairns, Fiona and the band when Michael passed away in 2014.

To see Pipe Major Cairns as solo piper at the 1959 Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Scotland, see:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bS99-iag7-c>

PM Cairns' last book of music, which came out just a few months before his death, is titled *The "Expanded" Edition of Book Two of the "How To" Manual*. It includes more than 70 light music tunes, 45 of which PM Cairns composed and named for special people who have been a meaningful part of his family's life. To purchase a copy, visit [www.archiecairnsmusic.com](http://www.archiecairnsmusic.com).

### **An Additional Note from the IMB**

In addition to his many significant musical achievements, PM Cairns had a large influence in the development of piobaireachd in the Intermountain Branch of the WUSPBA, introducing many to an art form they had never before experienced. He taught workshops in the IMB for a number of years, encouraging beginning piobaireachd players with his beautiful singing voice and in-depth knowledge of the genre.

He also judged for a number of years at IMB competitions, and was a warm, generous and supportive friend to many in the IMB. The Colorado Scottish Festival has a Young Piper's Award initially funded by him and now dedicated in perpetuity in his name to the best young piper at the Festival. Archie, you are missed by many!

## **The Epic Project**

*By Susan Rose and Richard King*  
[Susan.clan.rose@hotmail.com](mailto:Susan.clan.rose@hotmail.com) ,  
[richard@silvercap.co.uk](mailto:richard@silvercap.co.uk)

The Epic Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that seeks to encourage promising young pipers and drummers who might not be able to afford Highland attire or high-quality Instruments to continue their Celtic musical careers.

Promising young pipers or drummers must be recommended as a worthy recipient by a drum major, pipe major, bagpipe Instructor or drum instructor. Recommendations may be sent to Richard King at [richard@silvercap.co.uk](mailto:richard@silvercap.co.uk)

The Epic Project's 2015 recipient was Austin Diepenhorst of Santee, California (pictured with Richard King at Winter Storm 2016, where Austin won Grade 1 piping).

### **Linda Snoddy, 2016 Recipient**

The Epic Project's 2016 recipient will be Linda Snoddy of Bakersfield College in Bakersfield, California. Linda not only has had numerous piping awards and maintains a high GPA, but gives generously of her talents in representing of the Scottish the community at large.

Linda pipes at Garden of Innocence Unclaimed Baby Funerals of Kern County, at the Wounded Heroes Fund of Kern County, and at The National Cemetery. This is above and beyond piping at numerous police and fire events plus Highland Game competitions.

Clan Campbell USA was the first major donor to the 2016 Epic Project.



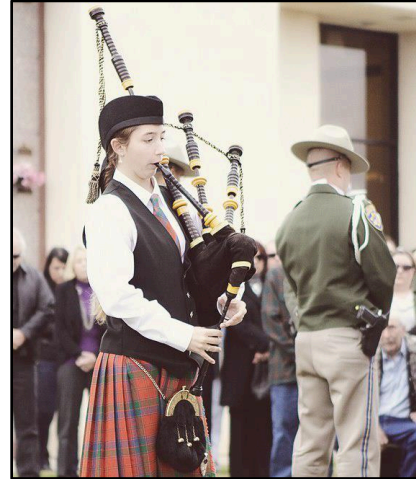
Austin Diepenhorst and Richard King

The Epic Project's announcement of the 2016 Recipient says, "Linda Snoddy truly honors the Scottish community through these acts, and in turn we wish to honor her dedication by making her this year's The Epic Project Recipient."

#### **Presentation at the Seaside Highland Games**

Linda will be outfitted by Susan Rose, owner of My Kiltmaker in Clan Campbell Tartan, the same Tartan worn by the Duke of Argyll; The Epic Project has been joined by Murray Huggins, owner of Colin Kyo Bagpipes, who will provide bagpipes for Linda and future recipients. The Leather Tinker, owner Billy Lang, will be providing custom sporrans as well.

The presentation of Highland dress and set of pipes will take place at the Seaside Highland Games in Ventura, California, the second weekend of October 2016.



Linda Snoddy

For more information, visit The Epic Project's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/The-Epic-Project-816393675145521/>, or to help encourage our youth with Scottish music, go to [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com). We need help, please donate to The Epic Project.

### **Newsletter Deadlines**

**Fall 2016 issue: September 10**

**Winter 2017 issue: January 10**

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