



Barry Shears was born in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia in 1956. His first bagpipe lessons at age twelve were from Angus MacIntyre, a piper, retired coal miner and direct descendant of Clanranald's 18th family piper, Duncan MacIntyre. He has been playing the bagpipe for 53 years, and at an early age began collecting and composing music for the Highland bagpipe. He is an acknowledged expert on the history of traditional piping in Nova Scotia and its intrinsic connection to the Gaelic language, music and culture of the province.

Barry is an award-winning musician and has performed at festivals and concerts throughout North America and Europe. Highlights of his career include a 1981 musical tour of Scotland and Nova Scotia with folk singers Stan Rogers and John Allan Cameron; a 1990 performance of Cape Breton music on a live to air broadcast for Radio France in Paris with the late Jerry Holland, Dave MacIsaac, and the late John Morris Rankin; and arranging and performing pipe music for the critically acclaimed Canadian movie "Margaret's Museum". Other movie credits include an appearance in the made for TV movie "Baby" with Jean Stapleton, Farrah Fawcett and Keith Carradine.

Barry holds the Canadian Armed Forces (Reserve) Pipe Major's Certificate, the Senior Pipers Certificate and Teachers Certificate from the Institute of Piping in Scotland, and has won the Champion Supreme trophy for professional piping in Nova Scotia six times. For over forty years he was an adjudicator with the Nova Scotia Pipers and Pipe Band association later the ACPBA. His pibroch influences include Captain Andrew Pitkeathly, Donald MacLeod, Donald MacPherson and Sandy Boyd, who was a pupil of John MacColl and Robert Reid, and who immigrated to Nova Scotia during World War Two.

In addition to numerous articles (a partial listing can be found here) dealing with Highland culture in Nova Scotia and abroad his list of publications include *The Gathering of the Clans Collection, Volume One*; *The Gathering of the Clans Collection, Volume Two*; *The Cape Breton Collection of Bagpipe Music*; and most recently *Dance to the Piper: The Highland Bagpipe in Nova Scotia*, a book of history based on his Master of Arts thesis from Saint Mary's University in Halifax and published by Cape Breton University Press in 2008. A fifth collection of history, photos, Puirt a Beul and 249 tunes entitled *Play It Like You Sing It Volume One and Two* was published in 2018.

Since retiring from competitive piping in 1986, Barry spends much of his spare time researching Nova Scotia's extensive piping history, collecting traditional pipe music and piping related paraphernalia, composing and arranging, performing at concerts and dances, and teaching and lecturing on Cape Breton dance music both at home and abroad.

Barry Shears is a native of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. He has been playing the bagpipe for 50 years, and at an early age began collecting and composing music for the Highland bagpipe. He is an acknowledged expert on the history of traditional piping in Nova Scotia and its intrinsic connection to the Gaelic language, music and culture of the province. Barry is an award-winning musician and has performed at festivals and concerts throughout North America and Europe. He has published several books of bagpipe music and history, performed and appeared in two movies, and appeared on several recordings of traditional music.