



Barry Shears is a native of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. He has been playing the Highland bagpipes for over 50 years, and the Scottish small pipes for 25 years. At an early age, Barry began collecting and composing bagpipe music. 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 has been featured on several recordings of traditional music.

He was member of the piping judges panel in Nova Scotia for over 40 years, a successful open competitor, pipe sergeant of a grade 2 competition band, and in 1980 was awarded his Pipe Major's certificate in the Canadian Armed Forces (Reserve).

Over the decades he has performed and /or taught at such festivals as the Pipers Gathering, Vermont, and later Connecticut; the Florida Smallpiping School; The Way of the Gael school, and *Feis Shiattal*, Seattle, Washington; as well as music classes in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, and Spanish Peaks, Colorado. He has also conducted traditional pipe bagpipe music seminars for the Western United States Pipe Band Association and the B.C. Pipers Association.

Barry is currently retired from competition and spends much of his spare time researching Atlantic Canada's extensive piping history and collecting traditional pipe music and piping-related paraphernalia. He continues to compose and arrange pipe music, performing at concerts and, when time permits, teaching and lecturing on Cape Breton dance music.

His list of publications include:

The Gathering of the Clans Collection, Volume One (1991) and Two (2001)

The Cape Breton Collection of Bagpipe Music (1995)

The Florida Smallpipe Collection (2014)

Dance to the Piper: The Highland Bagpipe in Nova Scotia (2008)

Play it Like You Sing It: The Shears Collection of Bagpipe Music and Culture from Nova Scotia VOL. 1&2 (2018)

Legacy: A Collection of Photographs and Music, 2022 _____

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