

## **Rona Macdonald Lightfoot**

Born and raised on the island of South Uist amidst a wealth of gaelic music and culture, Rona learned piping at an early age from her father whilst at the same time absorbing traditional gaelic songs from her mother (bean earsaidh ragnail) who has been recognised as a fountain of knowledge as well as a particularly gifted exponent of gaelic music in the oral tradition.

As a consequence Rona became an accomplished piper as well as a fine singer of traditional gaelic song, with a wide repertoire and a full knowledge and understanding of the connections and interaction between the two.

Rona now lives in Inverness and is much in demand at Feisan and Ceolas, and has taught her music throughout the Highlands of Scotland as well as in the United States of America and Canada.

## **Piobaireachd agus Canntaireachd**

A native of South Uist, Rona grew up in a family of MacDonalds noted for gaelic songs, pipe music and storytelling. Steeped in the traditions of the Gael, Rona is a piper of note, an authority on all aspects of the music, and can demonstrate with ease the close connection between the language, the songs and the pipe music. Traditionally both tunes and techniques of piping were taught using canntaireachd, the complex syllabic notation used by piping instructors for generations. While the piper sings canntaireachd, the learner not only acquires the tune but also the fingering on the chanter.

Rona learned her piping entirely in the oral tradition. Not only has Rona enjoyed a long and rich career, as one of Scotland's acclaimed pipers, but she is also a piping judge and a renowned traditional gaelic singer who understands perfectly the relationship between piobaireachd and gaelic song.

