



**St. Andrews**  
PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE  

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Premier Scottish Musician and Guests in Concert on March 21**

*(Laurinburg, NC)*--Traditional music from the Highlands of Scotland will be featured in a special concert titled "Music of the Gaels," to be held in the Belk Student Center of St. Andrews Presbyterian College on Friday evening, March 21. The event is part of the Scottish Heritage Weekend hosted by the Scottish Heritage Center of St. Andrews. The public is invited to attend this gala musical event which will feature performances on Scottish harp, fiddle, and pipes, as well as Gaelic song. "The idea behind this concert is to expose the public to the vast and varied traditions of Gaelic music which would have been known to Scottish emigrants to the Carolinas in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries," stated concert organizer Bill Caudill. "Many people associate the bagpipe with Scottish music, but the rich musical traditions of harping, fiddling, and Gaelic song are lesser known. This concert will be an excellent opportunity to hear some of the best exponents of these traditions."

The keynote performer for this concert will be William Jackson. Jackson is a multi-instrumentalist and founding member of the top Scottish folk band "Ossian." He has been described by the Boston Globe as "a gem in the same league as Ireland's Chieftains." Jackson's primary instrument is the Scottish harp, or clarsach, which he also teaches. He also plays wire-strung harp, flute, whistles, uilleann pipes, and piano.

Jackson is highly regarded as both an interpreter of traditional music, but also an excellent composer. In 1985 he was commissioned to compose "The Wellpark Suite" to commemorate the centennial of the Tennant's Caledonian Brewery of Glasgow which was performed with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. In 1996 he also worked with the same orchestra to record his commissioned work "A Scottish Island" which featured both traditional Gaelic as well as classical influences. In January of 1999 Jackson was announced winner of the popular "Song for Scotland" competition which was organized to find an anthem for the new millennium in Scotland. His composition "Land of Light" was released in March of 1999 to much acclaim and was performed especially for

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the Queen Mother to mark her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The melody was also featured by the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2000. Regarded as a composer of sensitive music as well as an excellent producer, his more recent works include music for the History Channel's documentary "Battle of the Clans" as well as production of the soundtrack for an upcoming major motion picture filmed in Scotland starring Michael Keaton and Robert Duval. When not touring as a solo artist or with the folk band "Ossian" Jackson produces recordings for the Greentrax label as well as his own record company Mill Records. He also specializes as a music therapist, working with children with cerebral palsy and autism both in Scotland and at various hospitals in western North Carolina where he resides for part of each year.

In addition to Jackson's harp music, the music of the Scottish fiddle will also be featured. Pat Talbert, a champion Scottish fiddler who currently resides in Belmont, North Carolina will present a variety of Scottish airs and dance tunes on fiddle. Pat has released two solo albums of music for Scottish fiddle and harp, and is in great demand as a lecturer on Scottish music and literature, as well as a judge of Scottish fiddle competitions. She is regarded as one of the top scholars of Robert Burns in the United States.

Gaelic song will also be featured in this concert. Gaelic was the predominant language of most of the emigrant Highland Scots who settled in the Carolinas, and was still known in some areas as late as the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Gaelic songs, including several from the Kintail bard John MacRae who settled in Moore County, North Carolina in 1774, will be presented by Dr. Michael Newton, of Richmond, Virginia. Newton is a fluent Gaelic speaker and has won a number of awards for his Gaelic singing. He is a graduate of the Department of Celtic Studies at the University of Edinburgh and is currently employed as a teacher of the Gaelic language and coordinator of the new Celtic Studies program at the University of Richmond. In 2001 Newton released his first recording of Gaelic songs, all of which were composed in North America by emigrant Scots.

A concert of Scottish music would not be complete without the music of the Scottish pipes. Bill Caudill, Director of the Scottish Heritage Center at St. Andrews and Instructor of the St. Andrews College Pipe Band will present pipe tunes on both the Scottish Highland pipes as well as the lesser-known Lowland small pipes. Caudill is recognized as one of the top professional-class pipers in the Eastern United States and is a recognized teacher and adjudicator of piping competitions throughout the country.

"Music of the Gaels" will be held in the Main Lounge of the William Henry Belk Student Center at 8:00 p.m. on the evening of Friday, March 21, 2003. The concert is one event of the

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Scottish Heritage Weekend sponsored by the Scottish Heritage Center of St. Andrews Presbyterian College. Admission for the concert is \$5 for adults and free for children under age 12. For further information on the concert or registration materials for the Scottish Heritage Weekend, please contact Bill Caudill, Director of the Scottish Heritage Center at (910)277-5236 or via e-mail at: [bill@sapc.edu](mailto:bill@sapc.edu).

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Photo Caption:

William Jackson, multi-instrumentalist and founding member of the top Scottish folk band “Ossian,” will perform at St. Andrews Presbyterian College March 21 as a part of the Scottish Heritage Weekend celebration sponsored by the Scottish Heritage Center.