

# MID-WINTER CELTIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, February 3rd, 2024

## THE EXCHANGE

2431 - 8th Avenue



### MID-WINTER CEILIDH

Door - 7:30 • Show - 8:00

**JOCELYN PETTIT & ELLEN GIRA**

2024 Canadian Folk Music Award

nominees for

“Traditional Album of the Year.”

The City of Regina Pipe Band  
and friends.

TICKETS \$25 at the website  
and \$30 at the door.

### FESTIVAL AFTERNOON

Free performances and workshops  
12 noon until 4:30 with displays and  
information from local Celtic groups.

[www.reginacelticfestival.org](http://www.reginacelticfestival.org)



## Welcome to the MWCF!

The Mid-Winter Ceilidh began in about 1990 as a winter fundraiser and volunteer warm-up for the Regina Folk Festival. The Regina Folk Festival had pipers involved early on, and it wasn't long before the newly formed City of Regina Pipe Band was playing. Then, the Regina Folk Festival decided to drop the event, and the pipe band took over and has been running it continuously ever since.

Over the years, we've had some brilliant musical performances, and it has been a showcase for the City of Regina Pipe Band in the community. When able, we've always tried to include as much of the wider Celtic community as we could, and you'll see that tradition continues. This has been reflected in the "festival" part of the event. When you visit the Festival during the day, you see and hear diverse and excellent performers from Regina, and have the chance to learn about groups in the community, other events, volunteer opportunities, and we'll even have a few vendors selling Celtic wares.

All proceeds from the Festival go to supporting the City of Regina Pipe Band and the Conservatory Pipe Band, our youth band. As part of our partnership with the Conservatory at the University of Regina, the CRPB supplies all instruments and uniforms for the youth band. It's a costly undertaking.

We are grateful for The Regina Warehouse District and FROST Regina for their support, and to sponsors such as SaskTel, SaskEnergy and many others for their contributions, including the great people at The Exchange.

Our thanks to the volunteers, including the many excellent community groups who have agreed to participate. We hope you'll enjoy the day of activity, and we look forward to seeing you all out on the dance floor at the Mid-Winter Ceilidh!



2024 SPONSORS



Festival Hosts: City of Regina Pipe Band

2024 Mid-Winter Celtic Festival

## Afternoon Stage Performances at the MWCF

The free afternoon stage performances feature many of the excellent Celtic groups in Regina. Looking after the stage is Master of Ceremonies **Vincent Murphy**, well known to stages across Saskatchewan and on the airwaves via his excellent broadcasts on CJTR Community Radio, 91.3 FM.

### 12:30 pm - The Boys Of Barr Na Sraide

Featuring guitar, whistles and pipes from Alex Rasmussen and Justin Easton, members of the well-loved Celtic ensemble “West of Mabou.”

### 1:00 pm - RCMP Pipes & Drums

The Regina RCMP Pipe Band is comprised of RCMP members and community performers. They represent the RCMP at events such as the famous Sunset Ceremony at RCMP Depot, and members of the band have performed around the world as part of a Canadian RCMP pipe band. <https://www.facebook.com/rcmppipebanddepot>

### 1:30 pm - Flatland Fiddling Studio

The Flatland Fiddling Studio is a lesson space for all ages of learning, and for all types fiddle music! The studio focuses on private lessons building community through group lessons, jams, workshops, and perhaps even concerts!  
<https://flatlandfiddling.com/>

### 2:00 pm - Regina Police Service P&D

The Regina Police Service Pipes and Drums are a competition and performance group representing the RPS at many functions in Regina, and shown here enjoying a post-performance dram!  
<https://www.facebook.com/rpspd.ca/>



### **2:30 pm - Living Skies Irish Dance**

Living Skies offers classes for dance enthusiasts age three and up.

Whether one is looking for traditional or contemporary Irish dance, or dance fitness, Living Skies Irish Dance has something to offer everyone  
<https://livingskiesirishdance.com/>.

### **3:00 pm - Conservatory of Performing Arts Pipe Band**

The Conservatory of Performing Arts Pipe Band is a youth pipe band, welcoming new learners on pipes or drums throughout the year. The goal is to teach music skills in a fun environment for children and youth, with new learners starting as young as eight years.  
<https://www.conservatorypipeband.org/>



### **3:30 pm - Prairie Gael Irish Dancers**

We offer a variety of classes at every level, from a dancer's first time stepping on to a dance floor, to training international and world level competitors. Whether the aim is to learn the basics and focus on fitness and fun, or pursue a championship, our classes offer training and support for every goal.

<https://www.prairiegaeldance.com/>



### **4:00 pm - Regina Highland Dancing Association**

The Regina Highland Dance Association is a youth-focused organization that provides opportunities for young people to develop physical fitness through participation in Highland Dance at both competitions and performances.

<http://rhda.ca/wp/our-team/who-we-are/>



## Free Workshops at the MWCF

One of the ways we try to give back to the community is by providing free learning opportunities. These are for either jumping in to try something, or just sitting back to enjoy!

### **12:00 pm - Fiddle & Cello Workshop with Jocelyn Pettit & Ellen Gira.**

Calling all string instrument players! Other instrumentalists interested in Celtic music are also most welcome.

Participants will dive into a fun tune, learning the melody, and harmony and accompaniment ideas. Ornamentation and bowing tips will be provided.

By the end of the workshop, the group will enjoy playing this together in an exciting ensemble arrangement.



### **1:30 pm - Learn a simple song in Scots Gaelic with Fraser Gandy!**

Fraser will have a simple Gaelic song, with lyrics and pronunciation guide, and you can raise your voices together! If there's enough interest, singers with a ticket to the ceilidh can perform the song that evening!

**2:45 pm - Learning Your First Scottish Country Dance** - The Regina Scottish Country Dancers will introduce to this fun and social form of dance! No experience needed.

**3:30 pm - Uilleann Bagpipes 101** - Join host Iain MacDonald for tunes, chat and Q&A about the uilleann (ill-un) bagpipes. The iconic Irish bagpipe (Leo Rowsome, Willie Clancy, Planxty, The Chieftains, Bothy Band) might not have the history you expect! He'll talk about how they are made, how they work and about the traditions and history associated with them.

## **Displays and Shops at the Festival**

A number of community organizations are taking the opportunity to display at the afternoon, and we encourage you to check them out. There will be information and conversation about many great activities in Regina, a chance to volunteer for things such as the Highland Games, and maybe it's time to finally try Scottish Country Dancing?

### **The Saskatchewan Highland Gathering & Celtic Festival**

<https://www.saskhighland.ca/>

### **The Conservatory Pipe Band**

<https://www.conservatorypipeband.org/>

### **The Scottish Heritage Society of Regina**

<https://www.facebook.com/ScottishHeritageSocietyRegina/>

### **Regina Scottish Country Dancers**

<https://reginascottishcountrydancers.org/>

### **The Prairie Gael School of Irish Dance**

<https://www.prairiegaeldance.com/>

### **The Living Skies School of Irish Dance**

<https://livingskiesirishdance.com/>

### **Madroot Creations**

Madroot Creations is nature-inspired jewelry.

### **Fairys Glen**

Celtic-inspired jewelry and gifts.

### **Connie McLeod**

Artisan porridge spurtles, made in Saskatchewan.

# Stay Classy in the BAXTER ROOM

From meetings to meet-ups and birthdays to bachelorette parties, the Baxter Room is the perfect venue to host your event.

= Book Now! =



  
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— PUB —



# **LEARN TO PLAY BAGPIPES or DRUMS**

**CONSERVATORY of PERFORMING ARTS  
YOUTH PIPE BAND**

**Ages 8+**

**Lessons are Wednesdays at 7pm**

**REGISTER NOW FOR A LIFETIME OF MUSIC,  
FRIENDSHIP AND FUN!**



**2024 Mid-Winter Celtic Festival**

# Music for the Gaelic Song Workshop

Words by Darren Maclean

Tune based on 'The Jig Runrig' by Fergie Macdonald

Chaidh sinn su - as suas gu Beinn Ea-darr-a Suas dhan a' bheinn air son uis-ge ri òl

5 Chaidh sinn su - as suas gu Beinn Ea-darr-a Suas dhan a' bheinn air son uis-ge ri òl

9 Ea-darr a Ea-darr a suas gu Beinn Ea-darr a Suas dhan a' bheinn air-son uis ge ri òl

13 1. Ea-darr-a Ea-darr-a suas gu Beinn Ead-darr-a Suas dhan a' bheinn air-son uis-ge ri òl

17 2. Chaidh sinn su - as suas gu Beinn Ea-darr-a Suas dhan a' bheinn air son uis-ge ri òl

Chaidh sinn suas, suas gu Beinn Eadarra  
*hi shin soo-as soo-as goo byne aidera*  
Suas dhan a' bheinn airson uisge ri òl x 4  
*soo-as ghan a byne er-son oosh-ge ree ol*

We went up, up to Ben Eadarra  
Up to the Ben, for water to drink

Eadarra, Eadarra suas gu Beinn Eadarra  
*aidera aidera soo-as goo byne aidera*  
Suas dhan a' bheinn airson uisge ri òl x 3  
*soo-as ghan a byne er-son oosh-ge ree ol*

Eadarra, Eadarra, up to Ben Eadarra  
Up to the Ben for water to drink

Chaidh sinn suas, suas gu Beinn Eadarra  
*hi shin soo-as soo-as goo byne aidera*  
Suas dhan a' bheinn airson uisge ri òl x 1  
*soo-as ghan a byne er-son oosh-ge ree ol*

We went up, up to Ben Eadarra  
Up to the Ben, for water to drink

A song about going up a hill (Ben Edra) on the Isle of Skye for a drink of water.

## Mid-Winter Ceilidh Performances

The doors open at 7:30pm for an amazing evening of music and dance, managed by Master of Ceremonies **Andrew Gallagher** who brings his Scottish sensibilities and humour to the stage each year.

**8:00 pm - The City of Regina Pipe Band** - Saskatchewan Champions continuously since 1993, band strives to maintain a Grade 2 competitive standard, while at the same time providing a training ground for young players, and a springboard for musicians who want to go on the highest level bands. Led by Pipe-Major Paul Laforge and Lead-Drummer Cyrus Felstrom-Stenka.

**8:30 pm - Highland Dance Choreography with Reese Taylor and Courtney Horejda** - Reese and Courtney have both represented Saskatchewan at the Canadian Championships and they are performing a choreography with which they will compete in the 2024 season.

**8:45 pm - Irish Dance solo with Jenna Healy** - Jenna is an award-winning Irish dancer and snare drummer with the Conservatory Pipe Band!

**9:00 pm - Jocelyn Pettit and Ellen Gira** - We are extremely excited to present Jocelyn and Ellen for the first time in Regina. They are 2024 nominees for Canadian Folk Album of the Year, and will be demonstrating why they have garnered such great revues at festivals across Canada, USA and Celtic Connections in Glasgow. They will have two sets, including music, songs, step dance and a ceilidh



*I Piped, That She Might Dance* by Iain MacDonald, with a foreword by Hugh Cheape, is an historical novel based on the life of Angus MacKay (1813-1859), first Piper to the Sovereign, appointed by Queen Victoria. Mackay, who is one of the most significant figures in the history of Scottish music, died after a long battle with physical and mental illness, though he left behind collections of pipe music still played today. This account of his life traces his long journey, from humble origins on the isle of Raasay to the height of fame in Her Majesty's service and beyond. His story is one that has long deserved to be told, and Iain MacDonald has obliged in style.

**Praise for the work:**

*Revealing, sensitively written and eminently readable. It is an imagined autobiography of Angus MacKay, piper to Queen Victoria, but it is well-informed and thoroughly researched and convincing. Besides piping, it provides insights into the social life of the time, from croft to palace, as well as into the treatment of mental illness. Iain MacDonald is to be warmly congratulated.*

John Purser, author of *Scotland's Music*,  
researcher at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

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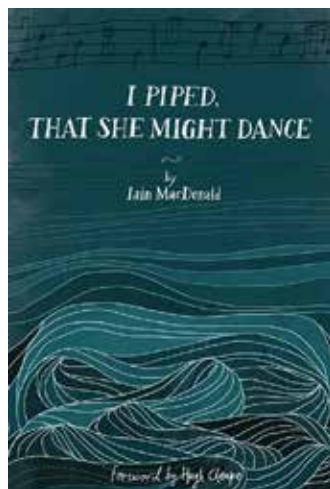
*A sympathetic view of a driven and complex man ... Above all, a tale told with verve, flair, a fine eye for detail, and a sensitive depiction of the ultimate tragedy of the central character.*

James Beaton, former librarian at the National Piping Centre

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*The fascinating story of a controversial, flawed, but musically talented Scottish Gael who put the notes of the Highland bagpipe on the page.*

Ellen Beard (PhD in Celtic, University of Edinburgh)



*I loved this book ... It empathetically captures the triumphs and tribulations of MacKay's life – from Raasay croft, via Balmoral and Buckingham Palace, and ultimately to the asylum. It is true to the facts, deeply researched and easy to read. Victorian life is described with pathos, humour and colour. A deservedly positive light is shone on MacKay's lasting contribution to the music of the Highland Bagpipe, especially the classical Pìobaireachd. Iain MacDonald is to be congratulated. MacKay might have written this himself.*

Jack Taylor, former president of the Pìobaireachd Society

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**Available to order from any bookstore and also from [www.reelpipes.com](http://www.reelpipes.com), [www.blackwaterpress.com](http://www.blackwaterpress.com) or The National Piping Centre.**

ISBN: 978-1-7357747-0-1  
Paperback, \$24.99 CDN

**Copies available for sale today at Conservatory Pipe Band Table.**

**2024 Mid-Winter Celtic Festival**

# HORIZONS



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2024 Mid-Winter Celtic Festival



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2024 Mid-Winter Celtic Festival



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# **SASKATCHEWAN HIGHLAND GATHERING AND CELTIC FESTIVAL**

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CELTIC MUSIC & DANCE, ON-SITE FOOD,  
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**Volunteer and be a part of the action!**

**[www.saskhighland.ca](http://www.saskhighland.ca)**



**2024 Mid-Winter Celtic Festival**



## **Maria Dunn and Joe Jencks**



***GrassRoots Regina is pleased to present multiple-award-winning singer-songwriters Maria Dunn and Joe Jencks in a double-bill concert.***

Maria (Alberta) and Joe (Illinois) have teamed up for a select number of concerts featuring songs of hope, courage, love and triumph. These singer-songwriters represent the finest traditions in music that is socially aware, musically engaged, and filled with heart and purpose. Spanning numerous musical styles and multiple generations, they bring together diverse perspectives into a unified presentation that invites people to sing, laugh, heal, and be inspired to joyfully celebrate their own journey and convictions.

**Sunday, February 11, 2024**

**The Exchange, 2431 8th Avenue, Regina**

**Doors at 7:30 p.m. • Show starts at 8:00 p.m.**

**Admission: \$25 advance / \$27.96 online / \$30 at the door**

**Online tickets available at Eventbrite searching for "Grassroots".**

**In person tickets (cash only) available at:**

**Traditions Handcraft Gallery • Vintage Vinyl**

**2024 Mid-Winter Celtic Festival**