

Bagpipe Solutions by John Cairns Newsletter

July 2007

What's New?

We have been very busy at Bagpipe Solutions by John Cairns during the past few months. As you know, in December, we introduced our new website at www.bagpipesolutions.com. We have been working diligently to promote our new site.

In addition to promoting, we have added many informative articles for purchase in the stores section of the website. To date, we have listed over 100 articles on a wide variety of subjects relating to piping. We will be adding hundreds of more articles in the future, so keep checking back to our website. Our articles will assist pipers, teachers and retailers of all levels of proficiency.

Volume 7 of the tutor series is in the final stages of completion and will be going to the printer very shortly. Keep checking back for updates on a release date!

A New CD!

John is currently working in the recording studio with Doug Stronach on a new CD of his music and it is entitled All Through the Ages. All the music on this new CD has been written and arranged by John. His goal with the music on this CD is to have it appeal to everyone, not just the piping community. Having heard the recordings, I have no doubt he will achieve this goal. The music is phenomenal! The Scottish Lion is sponsoring this CD and once finished, it will be available for purchase on our own website store. Advanced orders will be accepted as well. Keep watching for news on the release date! This is one CD you won't want to miss!

Student Highlights

Johnny Basset placed 1st in the Piobaireachd and he also placed 4th in the MSR at the Metro Cup. This resulted in him winning 2nd place overall.

Jon Maffett placed 3rd in the MSR at the Metro Cup.

Ian Lyons got the 2nd place in up prize in the Gold Medal competitions in New Zealand. He also got 2nd in the Strathspey and Reel.

Our heartfelt congratulations go out to both of these students for their amazing achievements!

If you are a student and have done well in a contest or event, please let us know and we will be happy to include the information in our next newsletter. You can submit the information to info@bagpipesolutions.com.

We wish all of our students the best of luck during the upcoming season!

Tips and Tricks

In bagpipe music, we use various technical movements (i.e. gracenotes, doublings, throws, grips, etc.), which are used in some instances to separate and accent the melody. We will also use these technical movements to embellish the melodic line.

We refer to all of the technical movements that we use as “embellishments” and in keeping with the definitions of the word “embellish”, these movements are designed to enhance the music, and make the music more colorful, etc.

When playing through a piece of bagpipe music, you must ensure that you play all of the technical movements with the correct number of sounds, so that you are correctly embellishing the music (as the composer intended) – making sure that all of the sounds from each embellishment can be heard when played.

Additionally, the number of sounds that each technical movement produces will create a distinct rhythm that will factor into (and enhance) the overall melody itself.

If you would like more information on this subject, or any other piping related subject, please be sure to visit our website at www.bagpipesolutions.com.

Testimonials and Submissions

We are always looking for testimonials from students, retailers and teachers to add to our website. If you would like to submit either a written or video testimonial, we would be more than happy to add it to our site. We also encourage you to submit your photos or website links.

Also, if you are interested in submitting an article, joke or tip, or have a suggestion for future newsletters, we welcome your submissions. All submissions will be credited to the author.

Have you done well at a contest or at an event recently?

Let us know!

Do you have a tip that you would like to share with other pipers?

Let us know!

Do you have an upcoming piping event that you would like others

to know about?

Let us know!

Are you a retailer/teacher who has been promoting our books and CDs or who has a student who is doing well because of our tutor materials? ***Let us know!***

Do you know a good piping joke or story? ***Let us know!***

All submissions can be made to info@bagpipesolutions.com. We reserve the right to edit or change any submission to fit our format.

Jokes

Q. How can you tell a bagpiper with perfect pitch?

A. He can throw a set into the middle of a pond and not hit any of the ducks.

Q. How many bagpipers does it take to change a light bulb?

A. Five, one to handle the bulb and the other four to contemplate how McCrimmon would have done it.

Interesting Facts

Scotland does not claim to have invented the bagpipes, but it does claim to have developed them into an art. Roman legions once marched to the pipes, and even the Indian snake charmer today uses a pipe, which, although it has no bag, is basically the same as the Highland one. Most countries in the world have tried their hand at the bagpipes (even England, where there was a pipe band at court in 1327), but only in Scotland have they survived long enough to become a great musical instrument.

Upcoming Newsletter

Keep watching for the next newsletter!

Spring

We know that many of you suffered a long and snowy winter this past year, so we hope that everyone enjoys a wonderful summer this year. Best wishes for all students who are competing in any highland games this summer as well.

Leading the World in Bagpipe Education