

SPAE QUARTERLY

Good fortune, good future through arts and education

Summer 2021

Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education

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SPAE Mission Statement

Scottish Partnership for Arts and Education, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, believes that the historic connections between Scotland, countries of West Africa, and the United States provide an educational foundation which broadens perspectives and understanding, creating mutual respect and unity.

Announcements

President's Message

by Michael Herron

Welcome back to our quarterly newsletter.

We are beginning our 16th season and our second done completely virtual. Our thanks to Brian McNeill who created content for his workshops, filmed that content (with the help of Jacqueline France) and will be participating in Zoom meetings from overseas with the students. Our thanks also goes to MK Stallings who both last year and again this year will be zooming with his classes this year. MK also made an introductory video, which the students and teacher, Laurie Evans found very meaningful and will use again this year. You can read some of the poetry created last year at St. Gabriel the Archangel in the margins on the left.

One of our favorite artists is Jim Malcolm. We have brought him in to St. Louis multiple times to perform a benefit for the Focal Point, where our artists perform when they are in town. Jim will be returning in a year to perform again (this is the postponed concert from this past Spring). You can also find information about an online concert that Jim and his wife Susie are doing online on page 6. Susie and Jim have been doing concerts on Zoom throughout this pandemic. You can sign up on his website to receive updates (www.jim-malcolm.com).

Please visit our website at www.stlspae.org for more information. We also have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/STLSPAE>.

Finally, thanks to those that donated on giveSTLday on May 6th. We raised over \$2,500!

Michael Herron
President & Treasurer, SPAE

Notes from the Artistic Director

by Diane McCullough

The SPAE QUARTERLY is back, thanks to our newest board member, Jamie McGeechan. Jamie is a singer-songwriter and poet from Ayreshire and we are thrilled to have him, and his native understanding of Scotland, in our SPAE family.

The pandemic has expanded the technical skills of even the most non-technical of us in the arts and education community. That means that for last Fall's workshops we went completely virtual. Nevertheless, our Scottish Fiddle workshop and our poetry workshop, "Connections: Robert Burns and Paul Laurence Dunbar – Voices of the People" ran at McCluer and Ritenour High Schools and St. Gabriel the Archangel (7th grade) respectively.

This fall we will continue both of those workshops at those schools and will add Holman Middle School and Pattonville Heights Middle School (both in the Pattonville School

Poems from St. Gabriel the Archangel, Fall 2020 Poetry Burns/Dunbar Poetry Workshop

Summer breeze,
on ancient trees,
the buzz of working bumble-
bees,
the sounds, the smells, and all
the sights,
The signature of summer
nights.

Drew H

Leaf

What is its life's meaning,
To have the wind push it to
flee,
So it can finally be free,
What about to show off,
To give you color when you
have a fall cough,
Maybe to be the same as a
marshmallow to become that
golden brown,
Laying on the prickly, green
grass, you can see as the leaf
falls down, down, down,

Andrew A

America

The flag, it screams do you
hear?
The flag, screams of freedom
all throughout.
The flag, a sign of hope
throughout.
The flag, it screams of fairness
throughout.
The flag, a sign of patriotism
throughout.
The flag, it flies so high vividly.
The flag, it screams do you
hear?

JP A

District) to the fiddle workshop sites.

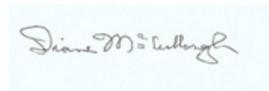
Our artists, Brian McNeill (Scottish Fiddle) and MK Stallings (poetry) both created introductory videos for their respective groups. MK was able to do live zoom classes as well because the Archdiocese schools stayed open for students. They had very strict protocols and all outside artists had to work virtually. This Fall, Brian will be able to do live zoom classes with the orchestra schools as well.

A very big event that was also a live zoom session was for the Missouri Art Educators Association where we presented "The Art and Science of Felting", a STEAM project that has received great support from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and both past and present supervisors for the arts.

We are very grateful for our private donors who have stayed with us, and for our grant funders: The Regional Arts Commission, The Missouri Arts Council, a State Agency, the Dunvegan Foundation, and returning this year, The Des Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative.

Peace and Stay Well!!

Diane



Notes from the Editor

by Jamie McGeechan

Hello and kind regards to all, my name is Jamie McGeechan, and it's an honor and a privilege to be the new Editor of the SPAE Quarterly.

I relocated from Ayr in Scotland to St. Louis just under two years ago, right before everything started getting, well, a wee bit strange. Though I am nearly 4000 miles from home, it has been and continues to be a highly positive experience in making a new home for myself here in St. Louis.

Although there are, of course, distinct differences between St. Louis and Scotland, there are many commonalities. I have been and continue to be very grateful for the kindness of strangers, the willingness of a community to welcome newcomers and, a passion for all things Scottish.

I first came to St. Louis in January of 2019 to sing at The Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis Burns Supper. It was a great introduction to St. Louis and where I met Diane McCullough, Artistic Director of SPAE. As an Ayrshire man myself, I grew up in the land of Robert Burns and, his influence was thankfully, inescapable. I have much to be thankful to Burns for, his works have inspired me since I was a lad, and it continues to be a great honor to travel around the world performing his works. The legacy of Burns will of course be immortal and a universal conduit for kindness, humanity, and for Scotland itself. I've been fortunate enough to perform at Burns Suppers in all sorts of places...from Ayr to Australia, Mauchline to Miami, and Stran-

Basketball

A place to show your anger,
Express your feelings,
And show your compassion
towards the game.
It's a chance to score a point
in life
No matter what's going on
outside of the game.
Making a mistake isn't a prob-
lem here,
It's a chance to learn and grow.
It's a soft spot,
A safe place to land.
It's eventful,
Something to keep you on
your toes in life.
This game is like a roller
coaster,
Full of twists and turns,
And you never know what's
going to happen next.

Lauren O

Life

Life is like a roller coaster,
It goes faster and faster as you
grow up,
There are some twists and
turns,
And some highs and lows,
Some roller coasters are fun
and some are hard,
Some feel scary and some
might be fun,
But you never knows what
gonna happen in life,
That's the part where it's no
fun,
Life goes faster and faster every
minute of your life,
So live the best you can,
Go hang with friends, and
don't always be mad,

So live the best of it,

So you don't be sad

Joey G

raer to St. Louis. As a Scot there is just something so powerfully potent, powerful, and humanitarian about much of the work of Robert Burns.

These have of course been extremely challenging, testing, strange, and of course very sad times. We have all lost loved ones or know people who have, and the residual effects of these times will be felt for a long time to come. We have though been weathering the storm together, joined in our struggles, and facing forward as a human race. It's been a time of reflection for many of us as we have been forced to question our ways of living, our practices, our very values in life. It's become even more apparent that culture and care are two things that our society cannot do without. Culture, the arts, music, film, literature, dance, architecture, and sculpture - all things that celebrate our humanity and frankly much of the reason I have managed to keep a sense of connection over the past two years. Care is central to our society, without it nothing matters, and nothing works. I have an incredible deal of respect and admiration for everyone who works in care. Nurses, doctors, social workers, care assistants, our EMS, are heroes and we owe a great deal to them all. It is to my distinct relief that we are now slowly but surely seeing the return of in-person performances, where we can access culture again in the first person.

I've been keeping myself busy over the past wee while by creating podcasts and online programs for the American-Scottish Foundation in NYC. As the ASF's Music Ambassador I have the privilege of helping to champion Scottish music here in the US and to assist with the organization of the upcoming New York City Tartan Week celebrations in April.

I've met so many passionate and positive people here in St. Louis in my short time already and I look forward to connecting with many more. If you would like to connect with me, I'd be delighted to hear from you, please don't hesitate to get in touch! I'm keen to hear from anyone with an interest in Scotland, the arts and culture and anyone with a story to tell.

I'm excited about the future and looking forward to SPAE's future engagement with the local community of St. Louis. I know that there are a lot of people in St. Louis who are passionate about Scotland, the arts, and culture and it's a privilege to be part of SPAE. There is much to look forward to and a great deal to be grateful for. I'd like to say a sincere thank you to everyone in the St. Louis community who has extended a warm welcome to me as a newcomer to the community. I look forward to giving that same warm and human welcome to all those who will come to make St. Louis their new home.

All the very best,

Jamie McGeechan

Acorns

From the ground grows a tree
and from the tree grows a
family
a family like no other
because they grow together
why can't one of them be me
with a family oh so close
bound by a tree of my own;
I want to be an acorn.

Molly S

Nature

when you walk outside
you feel alive, free
you breath fresh air
you see beautiful creatures
you enjoy it with everyone you
know
and when it's time to come in
you don't want to leave, you
don't want to leave

Nature

Tony A

Scotland to host the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference

by Jamie McGeechan

Scotland is a country often much admired for its approach to sustainability, protecting the environment and use of renewable energy.

Glasgow, Scotland will host the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, between 31 October and 12 November 2021.

Delegates from across the world will gather in Glasgow to share ideas, discuss, and debate the best way forward to tackle climate change, reduce carbon footprint and move towards a more environmentally conscious effort globally.

In 2015, the UN Climate Change Conference took place in Paris, which is where the Paris Agreement was born. For the first time ever, something momentous happened: every country agreed to work together to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees and aim for 1.5 degrees, to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and to make money available to deliver on these aims. A lot has happened on Planet Earth since 2015 and although global warming and the environment haven't been forgotten about there is no doubt that the world has had to prioritize other matters that we are all quite aware of. COP26 will see the world come together again to discuss how to meet essential climate targets, work together to protect natural habitats and work together to tackle this very important crisis together. It is vital that we do work together as a united world, our very survival depends on it. If we have learned anything from the COVID-19 pandemic it is that there are certain issues, problems, and challenges that no country can escape from and that global issues require a global response.

The Scottish Government, currently with an SNP and Scottish Greens administration are passionate about an environment friendly agenda and their formation of the Scottish Government together bodes well for progressive approaches to sustainability and investment in the renewables sector. It's a huge positive to see an international conference and meeting of minds of the stature of the United Nations Climate Conference take place in Glasgow. Scotland has had a progressive attitude towards renewable energy for many years now, investing heavily in renewables from wind and wave power. As you can imagine solar power doesn't generate a great deal of Scotland's renewable energy but it's an area that is growing.

In 2020, over 95% of gross electricity consumption came from renewable sources according to statistics from the Scottish Government. As we look towards the future in Scotland and throughout the world there is a growing recognition of the need to invest more heavily in renewable energy sources. There will of course be a significant transition from fossil fuels to renewables, a great many people are of course employed by fossil fuel industries. There's an awful lot of money wrapped up in fossil fuels. Fossil fuel companies and shareholders are of course keen to make as much capital as they can but at the end of the day, we must put

our environment, our very existence, before profit. Will it catch on? We'll soon see...

To learn more about the United Nations Climate Change Conference please visit www.ukcop26.org

Scottish Album of the Year Award

by Jamie McGeechan

As a Scot now living here in the US, it's always wonderful to hear about the passion for Scottish music. With Scottish festivals, Highland Games and Burns Suppers throughout the US there are certainly plenty of opportunities to sample a wee bit of Scottish music. As a music lover, a musician, and a Scot myself I'm always very keen to know what Scottish music people listen to and love. It's always of great interest to me how people access their Scottish music and how and when they discovered it. Scotland of course has a rich cultural history with many great artists, performers, and talents whose creative genius is appreciated all over the world. One thing that always seems apparent to me is the great respect and admiration for traditional Scottish music. Indeed, in many ways it's almost central to our culture. Folk music, the music of the people from the highlands and islands is as Scottish as it gets and remains to be celebrated throughout the world. There is however a great deal of new music emanating from Scotland, of every genre and that's something I'd like to share with you. The notion of the 'Scottish identity' is a constantly moving one, taking in the traditional inspirations, moving with the times and finding itself in the present. Most of the music that I listened to when I was growing up originated in the US and it wasn't until my thirties that I really started to appreciate Scottish homegrown talent in a wee bit more detail. Most people that I meet at Scottish festivals here in the US are very familiar with The Battlefield Band, Tannahill Weavers, The Proclaimers, Dougie MacLean, and a few of you might even remember the Bay City Rollers whose front man Les McKeown sadly passed away this year.

Many of you might be familiar with Simple Minds, Deacon Blue, Runrig or The Sensational Alex Harvey Band. In more recent years Scottish acts such as Franz Ferdinand, CHVRCHES, Biffy Clyro and The Fratellis have enjoyed significant success. Lewis Capaldi's single 'Someone You Loved' hit number 1 on the US and UK charts and was seemingly inescapable everywhere for over a year. Scottish music is as diverse as the Scots who make modern Scotland.

Recently the Scottish Music Industry Association revealed the 20 hot new Scottish acts who have made the longlist for Scottish Album of The Year. I would recommend anyone with an interest in Scottish culture to check it out. With artists representing a wide variety of genres including traditional, folk, rock, pop, hip hop, alternative rock and experimental there is an interesting cross section of modern music in Scotland today. I would recommend anyone check it out, you might just find something inspiring or something that challenges your perception of what Scottish music is or can be.

www.sayaward.com

My Heart's in the Highlands



Jim & Susie Malcolm
present (via Zoom) a concert of
songs from the wilds of Scotland

Over hundreds of years, the drama and romance of the mountains have inspired a wealth of poetry and music. From great battles to poignant declarations of love and the tragedy of the Clearances, the Highlands have been the backdrop for many of Scotland's best-loved songs.

Saturday October 2, 2021
(4pm PDT; 5pm MDT; 6pm CDT; 7pm EDT)
Sunday October 3, 2021
(4pm PDT; 5pm MDT; 6pm CDT; 7pm EDT)

Suggested donation \$15

To sign up and receive donation and Zoom links, please email susie@jimmalcolm.com Remember to tell her which concert you would like to attend.

She will send the Zoom links two days prior, and the lyrics on the day of the concert. We hope to see you there!

SPAЕ Board of Directors

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SPAЕ
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Concerts

[Jim Malcolm](#)

Friday, October 7, 2021
8:00 PM

SPAЕ Benefit for Focal Point

Artists in Residence
Workshops

Scottish Traditional Fiddle
with Brian McNeill

September 28-October 9, 2021
McCluer & Ritenour High Schools,
Pattonville Heights & Holman Middle
Schools

Interdisciplinary Project—
Connections: Robert Burns
and Paul Laurence Dunbar—
Voices of the People—poetry,
Scots song, history, art -[MK Stallings](#),
[Thomasina Clarke](#),
[William Ray](#) and [Diane McCullough](#)

August 24-October 16, 2021
St. Gabriel the Archangel (7th grade)

Other St. Louis Scottish Organizations

St. Andrew Society of St. Louis

<http://www.stlstandrews.org/>

A not-for-profit organization dedicated to cultural interchange between Scotland and the St. Louis area.

The Focal Point

<http://www.thefocalpoint.org/>

Focal Point is a not-for-profit educational corporation dedicated to the promotion of folk music and other musical forms which have come from folk music, as well as other associated traditional art forms like dance, storytelling, etc...

St. Louis Scottish Games

<http://www.stlouis-scottishgames.com/>

The purposes of SLSG are educational, cultural, charitable, and philanthropic. The organizational objectives are to foster and encourage open exchange of cultural, educational, and recreational concepts and pursuits between those with an interest in the culture and heritage of Scotland and others in the Greater St. Louis area.

Highland Mist Scottish Country Dancers

<http://www.highlandmistdancers.org/>

Highland Mist welcomes beginners at every class - no prior dance experience is needed - and you may come with or without a partner. And you don't need to have a Scottish background. Just wear comfortable clothing, and dance or athletic shoes.

Dance Caledonia of St. Louis

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

Visit the facebook page of Dance Caledonia, which specializes in Highland dancing.

Scan the QR code below to visit our website.



Fife

