

PART TWO

KODA

Robert Black

Tribute

Ian Muir

The Alexander Brothers

Finale

Compere: Robbie Shepherd MBE

NAAFC HONOURS



1979
Sir Jimmy Shand
(1908 - 2000)

It goes without saying that the Association's first recipient was the legend himself, Sir Jimmy Shand. Jimmy, the sixth of nine children, was born in the Fife mining town of East Wemyss. His big break came when he was introduced to Charles S. Forbes of Dundee who offered him a job as a

demonstrator and sales rep. This in turn led to his first recording contracts and allowed him to deal directly with Hohner to design the first Hohner Special, later the Shand Morino. Jimmy joined the Fire Service during the war years and his band gradually developed. Instead of another solo radio performance, Jimmy persuaded producer Howard Lockhart to allow his "wee combination" to broadcast for the first time on New Year's Day 1945 in *Scottish Half Hour* from Glasgow. Jimmy made his first foreign tour to Canada in September 1955 and then to Australia and New Zealand in April 1961. He was awarded the MBE in 1962 and became Sir Jimmy Shand in the New Year Honours List 1998.



1981
Angus Fitchet
(1910 - 1998)

Angus, the "Dapper Dundonian", was one of Scotland's best known fiddlers and bandleaders. He was also a remarkably versatile musician whose experience ranged from village dances to network television shows accompanying high profile international guest artistes. Angus's father

worked on a small farm outside Dundee and Angus recalled being wakened in the morning to the sound of his father's fiddle. Soon after the family uprooted and moved to Dundee in search of a better living and it was there that Angus started fiddle lessons. His first playing jobs were as part of a trio accompanying silent movies in Dundee's Britannia Cinema. In 1945 Angus joined Jimmy Shand's Band and followed this in later years by spells on stage with Andy Stewart and with Bobby MacLeod and Jimmy Blue, as well as running his own very successful band. His latter playing years were spent performing as a duo in the company of his old friend, Bobby Crowe from Balmullo.



1982
Bobby MacLeod
(1925 - 1991)

Bobby's first instrument, the bagpipes, taught to him from the age of 5 by his father, was to have a lasting effect on him. He also became proficient on the mouth-organ before taking up the melodeon at the age of 10. This in turn gave way to a variety of piano keyed accordions which gave the range, on

two keyboards, which he was looking for. It was as a result of his combined musical experiences in the early years that Bobby was to become such a significant figure in Scottish Dance Music. After wartime service with the RAF Bobby started broadcasting with the BBC in 1948 and such was his success and popularity that he was able to form a full time band the following year. He was proficient on both Continental Chromatic and piano keyed accordions and alternated between them periodically during his long career. Regular Monday night dances at The Highlanders' Institute in Glasgow, where the band was staying for a time in the 50s, will be remembered by many as the band at its very best.



1983
Ian Powrie
(1923 - 2011)

Born at Whitehouse Farm, Strathardle, Bridge of Cally, Ian began playing violin at the age of 5. Classical studies gave Ian a complete command of his instrument and resulted in him making his first broadcast, playing solo violin on BBC Radio's *Children's Hour* at the age of 12. The pull of

traditional music proved too much though and before long he was playing with his father's band. After war service with the RAF training as a pilot Ian returned to his father's farm at Bankhead. Presently, Ian took over the band, with his brother Bill on button box and sister Mary on piano, and made his first broadcast as a bandleader in April 1949. The Ian Powrie Band, with Jimmy Blue replacing Bill, became a popular attraction, travelling all over the UK. When the band turned professional in 1960 it became one of the mainstays on BBC Television's iconic *White Heather Club*, appearing on eighty-six of its one hundred show run. Ian also became Musical Director for entertainer Andy Stewart.

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1984
Andy Stewart MBE
(1933 - 1993)

Andy was born in Glasgow in 1933, the son of a teacher. He moved to Arbroath as a child and was to be associated with the town for the rest of his life. He trained initially as an actor at the RSAMD in Glasgow but it was as a singer, lyricist, comedian, impersonator and all round entertainer

that he is best remembered. His career took off when he replaced Robert Wilson as the host of the *White Heather Club*, a role to which he was perfectly suited and will be long remembered. Using popular old pipe tunes he penned the words for a string of successful hits including *"Come in, Come in"*, *"Donald Where's Yer Troosers?"*, *"A Scottish Soldier"*, *"Campbeltown Loch"*, *"Take Me Back"* and *"Tunes of Glory"*. He travelled extensively abroad to Canada, Australia and New Zealand and was enthusiastically received by audiences numbered in their thousands. Dogged throughout his career by ill health he is still remembered as "the face" of traditional Scottish entertainment in its heyday.



1990
Jimmy Blue
(1929 - 1999)

Born in Newton Mearns, Jimmy was second in a family of four and the only boy. After dabbling with the piano accordion, Jimmy acquired his first 2-row accordion in 1946. In 1950, Jimmy bought a brand new accordion, a Casali 3-row, 48 bass instrument. He worked hard on converting from 2

to 3-rows to such effect that in the autumn of that year he became the first winner of The Jimmy Shand Shield at Bill Wilkie's Perth Festival. When the family moved to Rossie Farm, near Dunning, Jimmy joined Hamish McLaren's Quartet. At this time he met 19 year old Mickie Ainsworth and they decided to work on some duets together and after auditioning were accepted by the BBC. December 1952 was a big month for Jimmy – he joined Ian Powrie's Band and he also became engaged to Joan McNeill. When Ian emigrated in December 1966 Jimmy successfully took over the full-time band and this lasted till 1977 when he decided to go part-time again and became head gardener at Kilgraston School.



1992
Robbie Shepherd

Robbie was born in Dunecht, Aberdeenshire and his early years revolved round the moothie, the Doric language and accountancy. Already presenting local radio shows in Aberdeenshire, he came to national prominence after the tragic death of David Findlay in 1981. His

weekly column for The Aberdeen Press & Journal, in which he reflects with wry humour on current affairs, books and films, has long enjoyed an enthusiastic following. Written in Doric – hence the published collection, *Doric Columns* – they find their way all over the world to appreciative readers, and Robbie's acknowledged expertise in his mother tongue resulted in him being awarded the M.Univ (Master of the University) by Aberdeen University in 2001. As presenter of *Take the Floor* as well as providing live commentary on the Highland Games circuit, including the famous *Braemar Gathering*, Robbie has accumulated an unparalleled knowledge of Scotland's traditional music scene.



1994
Alex MacArthur
(1930 - 1989)

Third youngest of a family of ten, Alex was born in the small Perthshire village of Kinbuck. After his National Service Alex teamed up with Jim MacLeod and Willie Tervit in 1950 to form The Arthur MacLeod Trio firstly to fulfil bookings Jim had obtained at The Forest Hotel, Aberfoyle

which in turn led to regular appearances on *Down at the Mains* for 6 years. From 1955-58 Alex was second accordionist in The Ian Powrie Band and introduced Ian to Arthur Easson. As a Van den Bergh (Unilever) sales rep, (e.g. Stork margarine which Alex joked about a lot), he was based in Elgin from 1959 and in Balerno from 1970, where he played with The Jim Johnstone SDB, before moving to Biggar in 1974 where he founded the local Accordion & Fiddle Club in The Clydesdale Hotel. During those years he ran his own very successful dance band and appeared as guest artiste at almost every Accordion & Fiddle Club. In 1985 Alex moved to The Farmers Arms public house in Thornhill.

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1994

Andrew Rankine

(1932 - 1985)

Born in Aberdeen but brought up in Menstrie, at 16 years of age Andrew was a late starter on the accordion but made up for it by practising 4 hours every evening and 8 hours a day at weekends. Such was his progress that he did his first broadcast in 1951 but it was his line up of 1955, namely, Bob

Christie, Jack Delaney, Jimmy Scott, Stan Saunders and Andy Hamilton which is perhaps best remembered. Andrew had a knack of putting together great sets of tunes and making the band swing. He was renowned as a hard task master (and for arriving late) but the band was immensely popular. In 1960 he gave up the band and moved to Whitley Bay then, in 1963, to Leicester where he had a prolonged solo career at The Bierkeller, playing all types of music on his Cordovox. His final move was to California in 1984 to establish The Scottish Heritage Centre near The Queen Mary at Long Beach. Andrew died of a heart attack the following year at Huntington Beach aged only 53.



1995

Max Houliston

Max deserves a special place amongst our recipients since he was the founder, in 1965, of the very first Accordion & Fiddle Club at his licensed premises The Hole in the Wa' in Dumfries. Max himself is a fine accordionist and his band broadcasts were noted not just for the lift and swing of their Scottish music but

for the innovative band arrangements of non-Scottish pieces such as "Cavatina", "Miss Melanie", "Washington Post" and the "Doctor Finlay's Casebook" theme. Taught accordion initially by Alex Carter of Dumfries then, after his National Service in The Royal Signals, by Ron Hodgson of Carlisle, Max and his band did their first broadcast in 1963 – the same year that he took the lease on the The Hole in the Wa'. Aware that Concert Parties were dying out and that young players were not getting the opportunity to play in front of a live audience Max came up with the idea of an Accordion & Fiddle Club. After about six meetings a "guest artiste" was added and the formula was complete.



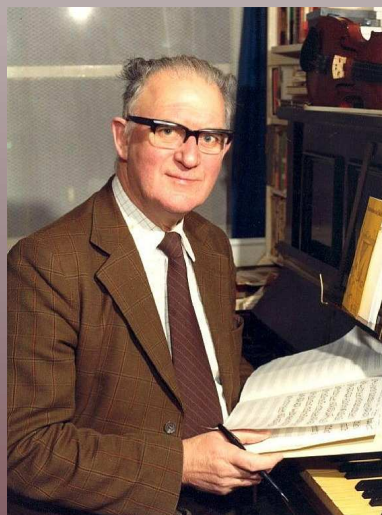
1996

Jim MacLeod MBE

(1928 - 2004)

"Gentleman Jim's" musical career began at the age of 16 as the organist in Braco Church. He also found outlets for his musical abilities during his National Service with the RAF but it was in the company of Alex MacArthur and Willie Tervit in The Arthur MacLeod Trio that he first

came to prominence in *Down at the Mains*. In the early 60s when Reo Stakis acquired The Dunblane Hydro Jim began an association which would last for over 40 years. Initially as resident pianist, then bandleader and later combining this with the role of Entertainment Manager, Jim and the band were equally at home with modern ballroom dancing as with traditional Scottish and the hotel became a haven for coach parties from all over the UK looking for a weekend of dancing. The band line up with Tommy Ford on lead accordion remained remarkably consistent over the years and they did extensive radio work including *Friday Night is Music Night* and *Take the Floor*.



1997

Musicians of Shetland

In a departure from the norm the Association decided to honour all of the Shetland musicians collectively for their tremendous contribution to Scottish Dance Music and also in recognition of the outstanding work done to encourage and promote young musicians on the Islands. Dr Tom Anderson (1910 - 1991)

(pictured above) is generally accepted as having begun the revival of fiddle playing in Shetland after WW2. He campaigned to have fiddle taught in Shetland schools – and became the first fiddle tutor when his campaign finally succeeded. In 1980 he formed "Shetland's Young Heritage" from among his young pupils, and took a summer school in traditional Shetland fiddling at Stirling University for over a decade. He was awarded his MBE, and an honorary doctorate from Stirling University, for his outstanding services to traditional music in Scotland. 20 years or so after his death, several fiddle tutors in schools around Shetland continue the work he began.

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1998

Ian Holmes

Ian, from Dumfries, first came to prominence during his National Service in 1957 when he won the Jimmy Shand Shield in Perth City Halls. In 1959 he and Margaret moved to Stenhousemuir and he started playing with The Andrew Rankine Band, then one of the most popular and busy in the country. In

1961 he was asked by Bobby MacLeod to join his band for the TV show *White Heather Club*, including two shows recorded in the Roundhouse in Horne, Germany. In 1962 Ian started his own band and they did their first (live) broadcast from Edinburgh on 7th May. Ian returned to Dumfries in 1970 and from 1973 ran his own successful music shop in the town for the next 27 years. He is renowned for his ability to play many different accordion keyboard systems. In 2007, when performing at Button-Key (Windygates) Accordion & Fiddle Club, he played no fewer than eight different accordions. Ian has composed well over four hundred tunes and has made dozens of recordings.



1999

Bill Black

Born on a farm at Muthill, near Crieff in 1935, it was at 7 years of age that Bill showed an interest in a melodeon brought along by a visiting neighbour. His first public appearance was at the age of 13 in Strathyre Village Hall and his first paid engagement 3 years later – but this time as a fiddler. Bill didn't feel the

way he played the fiddle lent itself to "leading" a band so when he formed a band in 1962 he led with a 3-row Shand Morino. The band found themselves in the surprising position of failing their BBC audition but the producer changed and the new incumbent gave them the green light. Bill's was one of the busiest bands on the scene for many years, travelling the length and breadth of the country and always fostering new talent in their line-up. Noted as a "workaholic" Bill owned an animal health business with branches in Aberfeldy, Oban and Inverness. Sons, Robert and Duncan, were both All Scotland Accordion Champions and daughter Kathleen is a fine pianist and singer.



2000

Bobby Crowe

It was Bobby, from Balmullo in Fife, together with Dougie Maxwell Jnr who formed The Olympians Dance Band. The band passed an audition at the BBC at the first attempt and made its first broadcast in May 1952. It was to be one of the last survivors in a long tradition of using brass in a Scottish Dance Band.

After National Service Bobby formed his own band which passed its audition in 1961 but throughout his playing career he was a member of various bands including Cameron Kerr, Angus Fitchet and the Cavendish Band – in all of which, unusually, he played lead. In 1970 Jimmy Shand was unable to appear through illness and fiddler Angus Fitchet asked Bobby to play at a dance at The Argyll Gathering Hall in Oban. Bobby, who had a real appreciation of the value of a good fiddler, discovered that they had a natural affinity and for many years they appeared as a duo at Accordion & Fiddle Clubs. Bobby played lead accordion on Angus's LP *Fitchet's Fancy*.



2000

Alex Little

(1927 - 2001)

As a close friend of Max Houliston, Alex was involved in Accordion & Fiddle Clubs from almost the very start at The Hole in the Wa' in April 1965. The honorary "MC" which Max attached to his name, in the jig he wrote for him, was in recognition of his outstanding abilities as a

"Master of Ceremonies". He was also closely involved with Gretna, Langholm and Lockerbie Clubs which started shortly after Dumfries, and with the formation of the NAAFC. After the business at NAAFC Executive Committee meetings had been attended to, when the tea and sandwiches were being passed round, Alex would regale his colleagues with an endless stream of jokes and stories. Alex was also the founder Chairman of our "NAAFC Festival Committee" combining his talents for organising, compering and encouraging youngsters to give of their best. He and his Sub Committee created a solid foundation which continues to this day with the 38th Annual Festival having been held recently.

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2000

Jim Ritchie

(1925 - 2001)

Jim hailed originally from Cranley Farm at Meikleour. At the age of 8 he started fiddle lessons under James Ogilvie of Blairgowrie, walking 10 miles every Saturday with his fiddle, and later he travelled to Dundee by bus for lessons from Harry Ogilvie. Involvement in competition playing didn't

take long and at 11½ years of age he was Junior Fiddle Champion at Perth out of 16 competitors. On leaving the army in 1947, Jim became involved with The Hawthorn Scottish Dance Band – 2 fiddles, 3 accordions, piano and drums. In 1951 he was invited to join The Bobby MacLeod Band where he learned to interpret pipe music in a new way. By 1956 the pressure of travelling was beginning to tell and he left the band for a rest but was immediately snapped up by The Jimmy Shand Band. This lasted until 1962 when he left and moved to Manchester. From 1967 - 1973 he stayed at Bonar Bridge and was taught the pipes. Jim also has a number of very good compositions to his credit.



2000

Stan Saunders

(1929 - 2011)

As a young man Stan worked in the DCL laboratories in Menstrie beside Andrew Rankine. When Andrew decided to form a band he lacked a local bass player and asked Stan if he was interested in getting a double bass and "learning on the job". Stan obliged and was to become one of Scotland's

foremost bass players. Although right handed it didn't feel comfortable to pluck the bass with that hand hence he became a musical "south-paw" playing with his left. In 1960, when Andrew decided to play full time, Stan moved firstly to The Hamish Menzies Band and then to The Jimmy Shand Band with whom he played and travelled extensively. After the Shand Band days Stan continued to play and record with many other Scottish bands as diverse as Jimmy Shand Jr., Angus Fitchet, Ian Holmes, Colin Finlayson, Iain MacPhail, Alex MacArthur, Robin Brock, Sandy Nixon, and Jim MacLeod. All of these top dance band leaders held him in high regard.



2000

Bill Thom

(1937 - 2010)

Bill started his drumming career with Dunblane City Pipe Band in 1945 but a promising career in that idiom was circumvented when he started attending the dances organised by his dad in the local Victoria Hall where he was captivated by the sound and swing of Scottish and

modern ballroom dancing. In 1952, at the age of only 15, he made his first radio broadcast with The Arthur MacLeod Trio to which he had earlier been recruited by Jim MacLeod. In 1957 he was called up to do his National Service with the RAF and found himself amongst professional "big band" musicians. Recognising his potential the RAF sent him for kit drum lessons with Les Thomas in Cardiff, which opened up a whole new world of drumming. In 1960 Bill joined Andrew Rankine's full time band for a couple of years, after which he left to join a "swing outfit". In 1968 he joined The Jim Johnstone Band full time then later The John Carmichael Band. During his long career Bill appeared on some 200 LPs.



2000

Pam Wilkie

Pam, born, raised and still resident in Perth, was taught piano by a Miss Pratt in the Fair City back in the 1930s. Her first foray into the male-dominated world of the band scene happened immediately after the war, when she joined Bob MacKay's small dance band, which gigged in and around Perth, for a couple

of years. But word of her abilities got round and at the age of barely 20 she was approached by Ian Powrie in 1947 and asked to join his up-and-coming band. In later years in the company of Dave Barclay on string bass and Arthur Easson on drums they were to be widely regarded as one of the finest rhythm sections on the scene. When Ian emigrated in late 1966 Pam continued with his successor Jimmy Blue. Spells with other top bands such as Jim Johnstone and John Ellis were to follow. Pam's skills as an accompanist to either song or fiddle are also legendary and she is still sought out by young bandleaders to bring her special magic to their bands for recordings.

NAAFC HONOURS



2001

Mickie Ainsworth

Mickie Ainsworth raised the bar for accordion players by bringing his amazing technique and musicality into a genre which could previously have been described as a little dated. He teamed up with Jimmy Blue in the late 1940s and they played duet pieces which stunned their audiences with slick arrangements and

wonderfully confident playing. Mickie joined The Ian Powrie Band in 1956 when the lure of live television became a real possibility. The band toured Australia, New Zealand and North America at a time when international travel was something completely new. Being exposed to singing acts in the *Andy Stewart Show* meant his talents as a backing musician and arranger were put to full use. Soon his love of harmony meant that he invented what is known today as second accordion. This was pioneering stuff and Mickie led the way by taking old fashioned dance music and bringing it right up to date. His accordion teaching and playing career has spanned nearly 70 years.



2001

Addie Harper (1927 - 2002)

Addie was born the youngest of four at Stirkoke, near Wick, his dad being a single-row melodeon player who performed many West Coast melodies picked up from Lewis and Harris men who had worked alongside him in Argentina. Addie was gifted an old fiddle at the

age of 5 but he was 12 before he started 4 years of lessons with Margaret Henderson of Wick. He played initially with the newly formed Bilbster Band but, in 1950, with dance band work spiralling, decided to form his own band and teamed up with accordionist Billy Dowler, pianist Sandy Meiklejohn and drummer Jimmy Bain to form The Wick Scottish Dance Band. In 1953 the band reorganised with Eann Nicholson on accordion, David Smith on piano, Jimmy moving to bass and Chris Duncan on drums. This band did many broadcasts but eventually, due to the cost of travel, it was reduced to a trio with Addie Snr on fiddle, banjo and Hawaiian guitar, wife Isobel on keyboard and Addie Jnr on



2001

Jim Johnstone

Jim, from the East Lothian town of Tranent, was born into one of the most musical families in the country with his dad and three uncles all playing 5-row Continental Chromatics. After a year's tuition from Bobby Anderson he moved to Chrissie Leatham which was also to lead to a lifelong friendship. Jim's

broadcasting career started in May 1950 on *Children's Hour*. Two years later his pal Bobby Colgan bought a drum kit and they started playing at wee dances together. After National Service with the REME Jim firstly joined the "family band" then in 1962 The Andrew Rankine Band. In 1963 Andrew announced that he was emigrating to Australia so Jim left to form his own band. After a successful audition they did their first broadcast in August 1963. Around 1965 this band split up and Jim joined The Jimmy Shand Band. In 1967 he started an 18 month spell with Jimmy Blue's Band and in 1968 Iain McFadyen approached Jim and asked him to form a band to carry on the *White Heather Club* in theatres and on TV.



2001

Bill Wilkie

Bill, the youngest of four, was born at 21 King Street in Perth in 1922. His father, a self-employed tailor, played traditional fiddle and, while working in Aberdeen for a time, got to know Scott Skinner, attending several of his concerts. When he was about 4 years old, his mum brought home his first mouth-organ and the

musical urge and talent showed even at that tender age. It wasn't long before he had mastered most of his father's repertoire and his first musical experience was on this instrument with The Bridgend Melody Boys. Bill progressed to the piano accordion and was tutored by Mr Moonie and later Dr Sarafin in Perth. He practised like fury and in 1938 entered the first Festival in Dundee, taking top place in his class. During his wartime service he toured India and Europe with the *Ralph Reader Gang Show* latterly in the company of Peter Sellers. It was on 30th September 1950 that Bill ran the first of sixty Perth Festivals and in time his variety concerts were to become legendary.

NAAFC HONOURS



2002

**Dave Barclay
(1927 - 2010)**

Born in Brechin Dave was one of a family of five, two girls and three boys. As the family grew up, it was a home where music was played all the time. When Dave left school, he worked as a clerk in an insurance office. The call of music, however, was strong and he decided to study the

subject more seriously. He obtained a place in Dundee, at an off-shoot of the London Trinity College of Music. The College had premises in Reform Street, where Dave attended classes two nights per week for a number of years, travelling from Brechin to Dundee and back by bus. During this period, he decided he really wanted to play the double bass, with a view to becoming a professional musician. Around 1950, he joined the up-and-coming Lindsay Ross Scottish Dance Band, which was broadcasting sometimes every two weeks. He moved from there to The Ian Powrie Band and then The Jimmy Blue Band, making him one of the most prominent and respected bass players on the scene.



2002

John Crawford

John was born into a musical family in Kinross, Fife. His father was a fine piper and could also play the fiddle and melodeon and his mother played the piano. John initially learned the fiddle before teaching himself the melodeon. When he started an engineering apprenticeship at a garage in Ladybank he was able

to buy his first 48 bass piano accordion. John was called up to the REME near the end of the war and in the post war era, whilst stationed in the Black Forest, he added to his knowledge of the mechanics and maintenance of accordions. In the late 50s he bought a Ranco Supervox, a manufacturer he has always held in the highest regard. He also won the All Scotland Accordion Championship in 1960 and broadcast as part of The East Neuk Band and his own band The Highlandaires. He is known to many musicians throughout the country as the first person to turn to when an accordion needs repair or tuning, having built up a huge amount of experience and expertise in this field over the last 50 years.



2002

David Cunningham

David Cunningham started playing the accordion at 4 years old and made his first radio broadcast for the BBC on *Children's Hour* at the tender age of 13. Following a spell working the variety circuit he joined The Olympians Dance Band in the early 60s, playing with them for over 17 years. At one time

David broadcast with five different groups including his own popular trio and The Cameron Kerr Band. As other commitments took over his time, David made his final recording with his own band in 1983 on Radio Forth's *Folks Around Robin* programme presented by fellow accordionist Robin Brock. David established Thane Records in 1964 and he has been behind the controls recording many of the greats of our music such as Will Starr, Bobby MacLeod and John Ellis. Known within the Scottish Dance Music scene as a true gentleman and an extremely talented accordionist, David, a very modest individual, thoroughly deserves the accolade he received from the NAAFC.



2002

Gus Millar

Gus started his drumming career aged 10 with the Boys' Brigade Pipe Band and competed for the first time at The Cowal Highland Gathering whilst he was still at primary school. His pipe band drumming style is still every bit to the fore today, his tight rolls and immaculate phrasing have been copied but never

equalled by most if not all of today's dance band drummers. Gus's playing style is immediately recognisable no matter which band he is gracing. His credits to date include recordings with many familiar names including Jimmy Shand, Andrew Rankine, Colin Finlayson, Hamish Menzies, Lex Keith, Grace MacCleave, John Carmichael, Ronnie Easton, Colin Dewar, Jimmy Shand Jnr, John Renton, Bill Black, Ian Holmes, Max Houliston, John Huband, Frank Thompson and Donald MacLeod. Gus is probably best known for his collaboration with Freeland Barbour over 35 years including The Occasionals and of course the unforgettable Wallochmor Ceilidh Band.