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**We at Pan Records congratulate Brandon McPhee on winning Scottish Junior Accordion Champion at Perth on 29 October 2011 and first place in Button Box Open Competition at the NAAFC Festival on 3 March 2012.**

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# TONIGHT'S PERFORMERS



## THE ALEXANDER BROTHERS

It is now more than 50 years since The Alexander Brothers made their first appearance as professional entertainers. On leaving school “The Boys”, as they were affectionately known, gained valuable experience in front of live audiences by entering talent contests all over Central Scotland. In 1958 they decided to turn professional and soon developed a repertoire of Scottish material. In 1962 came a major break when songwriter Tony Hatch heard them and took them down to London to record their first album *Highland Fling* on the PYE label which was a massive seller. In 1964 they recorded *Nobody's Child* as a single – it was an instant hit outselling the Beatles in Scotland! They co-starred with Shirley Bassey in 1967 on the legendary *Sunday Night at The London Palladium* show and hosted their own series on STV which topped the ratings for many years. Around this time they made their first trip to Canada and the States with Andy Stewart, playing all the major venues. Next they went to Australia and New Zealand. In Sydney they starred in their own show at The Sydney Opera House with special guest Jimmy Shand, an enormous success, and a highlight of an incredible career. In recognition of their contributions to the world of music, they received MBEs from the Queen in 2005.

## ROBERT BLACK

Robert Black has been playing the accordion now for over 40 years and during his illustrious career has amassed a wealth of diverse musical knowledge and experience. He has won the All Scotland Senior Accordion Championship three times (1979, 1988 and 2011) and his accompanying and directing skills have been employed by most of Scotland's top artistes including Andy Stewart, Kenneth McKellar, Jimmy Logan, Bill McCue, Moira Anderson, Peter Morrison, Johnny Beattie, Valerie Dunbar, Allan Stewart and Andy Gray. He moved to London in 1987 to develop his craft, not only in the classical field but in other styles of accordion music: French Musette, Cajun and Jazz. This ultimately led him on to play and tour in such musicals as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Irma Le Deuce*, *Oliver*, *Bitter-Sweet* and *Le Cage aux Folles*. Circumstance dictated he should move back to Scotland in 1990 and, using Edinburgh as his base, continue to work in London and all over the UK as well as performing farther afield in France, Belgium, Germany, USA, Canada, South Korea and Hong Kong. He is currently in his 16<sup>th</sup> year as producer/musical director in the long established *World Famous Taste of Scotland Cabaret Show* at Prestonfield House Hotel in Edinburgh.



## TONIGHT'S PERFORMERS



### JOHN CARMICHAEL'S CEILIDH BAND

John Carmichael continues to be one of the busiest and most popular band leaders and entertainers in the country for all things Scottish. For many years John has compered and played in theatre shows, performed Burns' Night addresses and music, and provided music for ceilidh and country dances all over the world. He has produced, presented and performed many times on STV, BBC Radio and Television, CBC Canada and many others (over two hundred TV shows) with his band and as a solo artiste. Former Scottish accordion champion, John has been Musical Director for many of Scotland's top artistes including Jimmy Shand, Andy Stewart, Kenneth McKellar and Calum Kennedy. He has made extensive tours of USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Middle and Far East. As well as hotel seasons in Bermuda, Iceland and Holland, John has been a regular at The New Hampshire Highland Games. John has released numerous CDs including *Carmichael's Ceilidh Ball*. The band tonight consists of John (accordion), Marie Fielding (fiddle), Alan Kitchen (piano), John Sinton (bass) and Scott Gordon (drums). John is recognised for his wide-ranging expertise as a musician, performer, bandleader, compere, television producer, accordion teacher and competition adjudicator.

### CHARLIE KIRKPATRICK

Originally from the island of Iona, Charlie is now resident in Giffnock. While at secondary school in Oban, he taught himself to play the accordion on a 2-row Hohner Double Ray Black Dot melodeon and later progressed to a Hohner Gaelic IV 3-row button key accordion. On joining the City of Glasgow Police in 1965, Charlie moved to the Glasgow area where he still resides. After a career in the Police Service, Charlie retired in 1995 and took up a position in retail as Security Controller. Now completely retired, he passes his time on the golf course, in his garden and also playing at gigs. Charlie plays a black Hohner Shand Morino (dated at around 1956/1957) formerly owned by Willie Wyllie who was the accordion tuner/repairer with McCormicks Music Shop in Glasgow. Charlie has appeared as guest artiste at most Accordion & Fiddle Clubs around Scotland with his trio. He passed the audition for BBC Radio Scotland's *Take the Floor* in 1981 and has since taken part in over twenty broadcasts with his band. The band on the most recent broadcast consisted of Charlie on button key accordion, John Carmichael on second accordion, Alasdair White on fiddle, Derek Hamilton on piano, Bill Buchan on drums and Neil MacMillan on double bass.



## TONIGHT'S PERFORMERS



### KODA

**K**ODA, or the Keith Dickson Accordion Orchestra as it was formerly known, was formed in 1987 to provide an opportunity for young accordionists to meet regularly and play music together. The band, whose membership changes regularly, rehearses in the village of Symington in South Lanarkshire and has now recorded four CDs – *Mist in the Glen*, *Tight Squeeze*, *Alternative Frequency* and *Keepin' it Reel*. KODA tonight consists of Roy Anderson (accordion), Megan Bell (accordion), Claire Black (accordion), Emma Dickson (piano), Hannah Dickson (fiddle & backing vocals), James Dickson (drums), Adam Gibb (bass & keyboards), Amie Kirkpatrick (vocals), Erin McGinley (accordion), Duncan Muir (accordion), Robbie Paterson (accordion) and Steven Todd (accordion). The band has performed its lively contemporary traditional music in venues across Europe including performances in France, Czech Republic and several visits to Germany. KODA has featured on *BBC TV* and *BBC Radio* and has appeared several times at Scotland's largest music festival *T in the Park*. Musical Director Keith Dickson is delighted that the band is celebrating its own Silver Anniversary in 2012.

### IAIN MACPHAIL & BRIAN GRIFFIN



**I**ain MacPhail performed from 1974 until 1992 in the *Larry Marshall Show* at The King James Hotel in Edinburgh, during which time he met and backed many of the then biggest names in UK show-business including Rolf Harris, Matt Monro, The Bachelors, Kathie Kay and Dickie Henderson. Iain's band has made numerous visits to South America to play for various Caledonian Societies and other functions (taking in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile). Iain is currently involved as an accordion examiner at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and has written many excellent musical compositions.

Lockerbie accordionist Brian Griffin is perhaps best known for his role as "harmony accordionist" in The Iain MacPhail Band. Brian's association with the band spans around 40 years, recording their first LP in the mid 1970s. The interesting arrangements have long been a feature of the band, but it is not always recognised that most of the harmony accordion parts which he plays so well were, in fact, written by Brian himself. Brian, originally from Ayrshire, is a talented, self-taught accordionist, who performs regularly as a solo player using electronics to maximum effect.

## TONIGHT'S PERFORMERS



**IAN MUIR**

Ian was born in Irvine and lived in Doonbank Crescent, Patna for the next 25 years. Music has always been a big part of his life, although neither Mum nor Dad played an instrument, their love of music, and particularly Scottish traditional music, influenced him greatly. It was in fact his grandpa who bought him his first wee accordion – a 32 bass Royal Standard, and from the age of 8, Ian was hooked. His accordion playing career, which has taken him all over the UK, Europe, United States and the Middle East, began in The Gaiety Theatre, Ayr at the age of 14. Under the guidance of the then Theatre Manager, Bernard Cotton, Iain appeared in nine Gaiety Whirls, countless Spring Seasons and even a couple of Pantomimes. Ian has appeared with many of the stalwarts of the Scottish Variety Theatre including Johnnie Beattie, Jack Milroy, Rikki Fulton, Kenneth McKellar, Andy Stewart, Denny Willis, Calum Kennedy and Peter Morrison to mention only a few. His many TV appearances include *Thingummyjig*, *Shindig*, *Welcome to the Ceilidh* and *Northern Nights*. For the past few years Ian has featured on *GMTV* live at Hogmanay from the shores of Loch Lomond.

### **GORDON PATTULLO & ANGELA MACEACHERN**



Based in Perthshire, Gordon Pattullo is one of the most renowned accordionists in Scotland. He is always in demand at Accordion & Fiddle Clubs as Guest Artiste and was voted the NAAFC 2007 Guest Artiste of the Year. Gordon has worked with Andy Stewart, Moira Anderson, Kenneth McKellar, Dana, Lulu and George Hamilton IV. His greatest influence was the late great Will Starr. He has broadcast many times on BBC Radio, Radio Forth and Radio Clyde. Television work includes *The Jim MacLeod Show*, *Andy's Party*, *Northern Nights* (all for Grampian TV) and *Thingummyjig* (STV).

Angela MacEachern was born in Torphins and was brought up on a farm outside Tarland, Aberdeenshire. Angela began lessons at Tarland Primary School in classical violin with Andy Linklater from Aboyne when she was 10 years old. At the age of 13 she joined the Banchory Strathspey and Reel Society. Angela presently lives near Stirling and works part-time as a hydrologist in Edinburgh. She also teaches on the Traditional Music course at Perth College which is part of The University of the Highlands and Islands. Angela's husband, Neil, plays accordion, and has his own dance band which Angela plays in.

## TONIGHT'S PERFORMERS



### ROBBIE SHEPHERD MBE

Robbie was born in Dunecht, 12 miles outside Aberdeen, and when he was growing up his father used to go into the city once a month to buy records. The young Robbie could hardly wait to hear the latest Jimmy Shand, Robert Wilson and Kenneth McKellar offerings, and his enthusiasm for Scottish music has never diminished. His own instrument is the moothie. In his younger days he played with a band and once supported Calum Kennedy. But it was language that was to bring him to the public attention. He has commented on the Highland Games circuit, including the famous Braemar Gathering, since the 1960s and as a popular concert compere he travelled the length and breadth of Scotland and down to The Royal Albert Hall with the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra. When the original host of *Take the Floor*, David Findlay, died in 1981, Robbie was given the opportunity to take over. Despite the initial opposition from some who found his broad Doric accent unsuitable, Robbie soon made the programme his own. His warm welcome and genuine love of the music he presents immediately puts an audience at ease. Robbie was honoured by HM Queen Elizabeth II in the New Year Honours List 2001 – being awarded the MBE for his services to Scottish Dance Music and Culture.

### TRIBUTE

Tribute is a talented trio of very well known Scottish musicians who have performed as Guest Artistes at Accordion & Fiddle Clubs during the past few years. The small ensemble, consisting of Duncan Black (accordion), Marie Fielding (fiddle) and Owen Fielding (piano), was formed after an informal session at The Stanley Ceilidh in November 2003 as the three musicians wanted to preserve and develop the special “acoustic” sound which they had created. The group performs old and new tunes with “tributes” to many people including Scott Skinner, Jim Johnstone, Jimmy Blue, John Gibson, Willie Hunter, Ronnie Cooper, The Hamefarers, Ian Powrie, Manus McGuire and Rabbie Burns. Their debut CD *Tribute* was released in 2005 with legendary drummer Billy Thom endorsing it as “FANTASTIC!”. Tribute performed a full session of dance music in January 2011 on BBC Radio Scotland’s *Take the Floor* which featured Marie’s excellent compositions “Princess Polka”, “Inverardle” and “Ian Burgess, A Reel 21<sup>st</sup> Bash”. Duncan, Marie and Owen blend their sounds in a remarkably sympathetic and structured manner, producing wonderful expressive music that really is a tribute to the skills of all involved.





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# PART ONE

John Carmichael's Ceilidh Band

Iain MacPhail  
& Brian Griffin

Charlie Kirkpatrick

Gordon Pattullo  
& Angela MacEachern

The Alexander Brothers

# INTERVAL