# Thursday, August 3

The band arrived without event to Glasgow International Airport from Amsterdam via Minneapolis on Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> and was met by a chartered tour bus. It was a short ride from the airport to the campus of Glasgow Caledonia University (GCU).



GCU is one of three universities in Glasgow; Glasgow University and the University of Strathclyde being the other two.



GCU was formed in 1993 by the merger of The Queen's College, Glasgow (founded in 1875) and Glasgow Polytechnic (founded in 1971).

It is one of Scotland's largest universities with nearly 20,000 students. GCU is regularly ranked among the UK's top 10 modern universities.

The University traces its origin from *The Queen's College, Glasgow* (founded 1875) and the *Glasgow Polytechnic* (founded 1971). The Queen's College received the Royal accolade of being named after Queen Elizabeth II in its centenary celebrations in 1975. Queen Elizabeth II was herself, Patron of the College since 1944.

A number of bands competing in the World Pipe Band Championships stay at GCU and we had the pleasure of listening to all grades of bands practice.

The dorms were sparse but adequate with individual and double occupancy ensuite rooms with a common kitchen on each floor. When we checked in, I had been given a double room. Another couple had been given a single so we swapped.

Another couple had also been given a single room so the husband went to ask for a cot or extra bed. They dorm manager just stared at him, "You know, a cot.

Like an Army cot." Apparently, a "cot" in Scotland refers to a baby crib. They got it all sorted out and moved to a larger room.

We practiced that afternoon just to see where the instruments were tuned – Scotland is considerably cooler and wetter than what we are accustomed to in the Midwest.

To help fill in the ranks, we invited four drummers (including our drumming instructor) and two pipers (including our piping instructor) from Canada to join us. The band covered all of the travel and lodging expenses for the competition members.

# Friday, August 4

We had two practices on Friday – one at 9 AM and one at 4 PM. Between rehearsals, people could do whatever they wanted. I walked to downtown Glasgow to get a feeling for the layout and to locate amenities and the train and bus stations I would need for later that week.

Downtown Glasgow is a mixture of old – really old – and new. I spent most of my time walking and looking up. The older buildings – built during the reign of Queen Victoria – were adorned with carvings and statuary.



St. George's Tron in the center

Pictures really cannot do it justice and I only had my cell phone for photos.





Glasgow City Chambers



Interior of City Chambers



Glasgow Royal Concert Hall



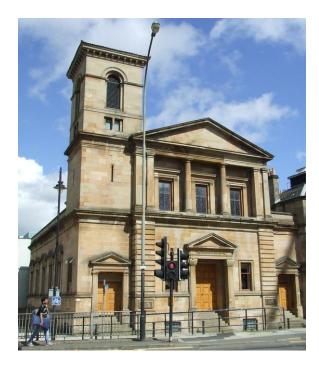
Glasgow Central Train Station



Interior of Glasgow Central

Following the afternoon practice, Joe and Joni Fuchs and I went to the National Piping Center.





The National Piping Center and Museum exists to promote the study of the music and history of the Highland Bagpipe. The Museum of Piping hosts three hundred years of piping heritage and consisting of artifacts from the rich collections of National Museums of Scotland. It is the most authoritative display of its kind anywhere in the world. Amongst this stunning collection is the lain Dall MacKay Chanter, the oldest piece of bagpipe in the world, and a piping relic that belonged to Robert Burns.





The Center also has a small shop for piping supplies.



Tours are given regularly and include a piper providing instruction on how to play the bagpipes. Each visitor is handed a practice chanter and shown how to play the 9-note scale. They then learn to play Mary Had a Little Lamb – using only the top hand.



Those willing are given the opportunity to try to play a full set of pipes.

That evening, the three of us dined at a local pub.

Let me note early on that I didn't pay much attention to where I ate, what I ate, or when. But, a couple of locations of note include the following.



How could I <u>not</u> go into a place called the Piper Bar? The bar is located across the street from the City Chambers and boasts – and rightfully so – the largest selection of Scotch.



I imbibed there on a number of occasions and ate there once. On most occasions, the tables were reserved or the kitchen was closed, but the food was excellent.



I tried on several occasions to dine at Waxy O'Connor's and ended up only having drinks; tables were usually reserved and people did not give up their places quickly.

The interior is a maze of rooms.





One of the more unusual features is the men's restroom:



Gives a whole new meaning to the phrase, drop in the bucket doesn't it?

Saturday, August 5



Our charter bus picked us up at the university at 7 AM. Our driver – Robert – was a character. A former soldier of the King's Own Highlanders, Robert was our driver for the games in North Berwick and Bridge of Allan. He had a GREAT sense of humor!

North Berwick is about an hour and a half from Glasgow. North Berwick is a seaside town and former royal burgh in East Lothian.. It is situated on the south shore of the Firth of Forth. The name North Berwick means North "barley farmstead". The word North was applied to distinguish this Berwick from Berwick-upon-Tweed.



Bass Rock is easily visible from North Berwick. The 330 foot volcanic plug sits in the Firth.



The rock is uninhabited, but historically has been settled by an early Christian hermit, and later was the site of an important castle, which after the

Commonwealth period was used as a prison. The island belongs to Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, whose family acquired it in 1706, and before to the Lauder family for almost six centuries. The Bass Rock Lighthouse was constructed on the rock in 1902, and the remains of an ancient chapel survive.

The North Berwick International Highland Games attract over 15,000 visitors and bands from all over the world. This was their 22<sup>nd</sup> games. The Omaha Pipes and Drums competed in Grade 4B against 16 other bands.



A recording of the performance may still be found at: https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=JiJHCOT64ik

We placed 9th in our grade.

Band	Actual Grade	Piping 1 Place	Piping 2 Place	Drumming Place	Ensemble Place	Total	Final Position
Stockbridge	4B	2	2	6	2	12	1
Davidson's Mains and District	4B	4	7	1	1	13	2
The College of Piping (Summerside) - Canada	4B	6	4	3	4	17	3 EP
Stow Borders	4B	1	1	9	6	17	4
Camelon and District	4B	5	6	5	3	19	5
Vienna Pipes and Drums - Austria	4B	3	3	10	8	24	6
Preston Lodge High School Pipe Band	Nov B	8	5	12	5	30	7
Peoples Ford - Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia	Nov B	10	11	4	9	34	8
Omaha Pipes and Drums- U.S.A.	4B	7	12	2	14	35	9
West Lothian Schools	Nov B	9	8	13	7	37	10
Hamilton Police Pipe Band - Canada	4B	12	9	7	11	39	11
Jefferson - USA	4B	11	10	11	15	47	12
Fredericton Society of St andrew - Canada	4B	13	17	8	10	48	13
Peebles Ex-Servicemen's	4B	15	13	16	12	56	14
Houghton-Le-Spring	4B	14	16	14	13	57	15
City of Edinburgh Schools Pipe Band	4B	17	15	15	16	63	16
Davidson's Mains and District Junior	Nov B	16	14	17	17	64	17

The morning was overcast and we drew an early time so it didn't rain on our performance, but later that afternoon the skies opened up and it poured; so much so that several of the higher grade bands withdrew, the massed bands ceremony was cancelled, and the parade through town was also cancelled.

# Sunday, August 6 BRIDGE OF ALLAN HIGHLAND GAMES

Bridge of Allan is a town just north of the city of Stirling. It lies on the Allan Water, a northern tributary of the River Forth.



The Sunday following the first Saturday in August is usually the date for the Strathallan Games. Founded in 1852 by Major Henderson, the games attract hundreds of athletes, pipe bands and highland dancers.

The day was again overcast in the morning and again we competed early.



A recording of the performance may still be found at: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-iSlBoFRbM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-iSlBoFRbM</a>

We placed 8th in our grade:

Band	Actual Grade	Piping 1 Place	Piping 2 Place	Drumming Place	Ensemble Place	Total	Final Position
The College of Piping (Summerside) - Canada	4B	1	1	3	3	8	1
Oban High School	Nov B	2	2	5	2	11	2
Culter and District	48	5	4	1	4	14	3
Vienna Pipes and Drums - Austria	48	3	3	9	1	16	4
The Highland Thistle - Argentina	48	7	7	4	5	23	5
Grampian District Pipes and Drums	48	6	6	6	7	25	6
Fredericton Society of St andrew - Canada	4B	9	5	8	6	28	7 EP
Omaha Pipes and Drums- U.S.A.	48	4	8	7	9	28	8
Camelon and District	48	8	12	2	8	30	9
City of St. Andrews	48	11	9	12	10	42	10
Burntisland and District	48	10	14	11	14	49	11
Tulliallan	48	12	13	14	12	51	12
Jefferson - USA	48	16	10	15	11	52	13
Stirling and District Schools Junior	Nov B	13	15	13	13	54	14
St Francis	48	14	11	16	15	56	15
Jersey	48	15	16	10	16	57	16

It started to rain in the afternoon but not to the extent of the day before. Nonetheless, there was no massed band performance at the end of the day.

# Monday, August 7

The band was given Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning off before preparing for the World Pipe Band Championships. Groups of people made travel arrangements to Germany, England, Ireland, and other parts of Scotland. I had planned to visit three Templar sites.

There are five sites in Scotland recognized by the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (SMOTJ – or Templars): Rosslyn Chapel in Roslin, Templars Park in Aberdeen, Temple in Midlothian, Orphir Church, and Bannockburn Battle Site – I planned to visit Rosslyn Chapel, Temple, and Bannockburn. The operative word is, planned.

Roslin and Temple are near one another but require a car or taxi to get from one to the other. I researched a car company before leaving but didn't make a reservation because I did not know for certain what the practice schedule would be. Four of us set out early that morning to see about a rental – there were no cars to be had. We were near the train stations so we tried there next – the plan was to take the train to Edinburgh and then a bus from there to Roslin. That didn't work either so we headed for the bus station.

There we were able to take a bus from Glasgow to Edinburgh and then change services to take another bus from Edinburgh to Roslin – a stop at Temple was out of the picture.



Rosslyn Chapel, formally known as the Collegiate Chapel of St Matthew, is located at the village of Roslin. It was founded as a Catholic collegiate church (with between four and six ordained canons and two boy choristers) in the mid-15th century. The chapel was founded by William Sinclair, 1st Earl of Caithness of the Scoto-Norman Sinclair family.

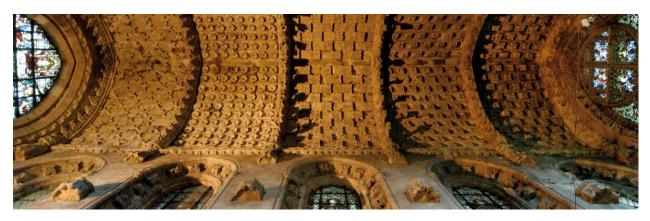
The purpose of the college was to celebrate the Divine Office throughout the day and night and also to celebrate Mass for all the faithful departed, including the deceased members of the Sinclair family. During this period the rich heritage of plainsong (a single melodic line) or polyphony (vocal harmony) would be used to enrich the singing of the liturgy. An endowment was made that would pay for the upkeep of the priests and choristers in perpetuity and they also had parochial responsibilities.

After the Scottish Reformation (1560), Roman Catholic worship in the chapel was brought to an end,

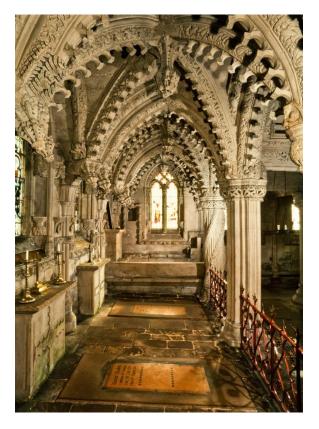
although the Sinclair family continued to be Roman Catholics until the early 18th century. From that time the chapel was closed to public worship until 1861, when it was opened again as a place of worship according to the rites of the Scottish Episcopal Church, a member church of the Anglican Communion.

Since the late 1980s, the chapel has also featured in speculative theories concerning a connection of Freemasonry, the Knights Templar and the Holy Grail. It was prominently featured in the 2003 bestselling novel *The Da Vinci Code* and its 2006 film adaptation. The book and film saved the chapel – the doors were literally falling off their hinges and the masonry was covered in algae. The 17-year restoration brought the chapel back to life.

Every part of the chapel – inside and out – is carved, including the ceiling shown below.



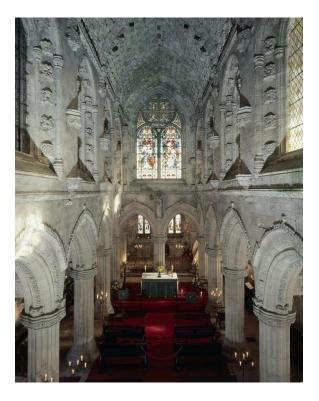
Ornate does not begin to describe the magnificence of the chapel.





Among Rosslyn's many intricate carvings are a sequence of 213 cubes or "boxes" protruding from pillars and arches with a selection of patterns on them. It is unknown if these patterns have any particular meaning attached to them. Many people have attempted to find information coded into them, but no interpretation has yet proven conclusive. Unfortunately, many of these 'boxes' are not original, having been replaced in the 19th century after erosion damage.

There are more than 110 carvings of "Green Men" in and around the chapel. Other carvings represent plants, including depictions of wheat, strawberries and lilies. Other carvings depict corn (maze) and aloe – which were not known in Europe at the time of the chapel's construction – and an elephant; which was also unknown at the time.



The chapel has been a burial place for several generations of the Sinclairs; a crypt was once accessible from a descending stair at the rear of the chapel. This crypt has been sealed shut for many years, which may explain the recurrent legends that it is merely a front to a more extensive subterranean vault containing (variously) the mummified head of Jesus Christ, the Holy Grail, the treasure of the Templars, or the original crown jewels of Scotland.

We walked through an adjoining cemetery and then across the street to have lunch in a local pub/diner before returning to Glasgow.

You could spend a lifetime investigating Rosslyn Chapel and still not see it all - we only had a couple hours.

### Tuesday, August 8

The itinerary for Tuesday was for another couple and me to take a bus to the Bannockburn battle site and visitor center.



The Battle of Bannockburn (June 24, 1314) was a significant Scottish victory in the First War of Scottish Independence, and a landmark in Scottish history. Our family had ancestors fighting on both sides of the war. Stirling Castle, a Scots royal fortress, occupied by the English, was under siege by the Scottish army. The English king, Edward II, assembled a formidable force to relieve it. This attempt failed, and his army was defeated in a pitched battle by a smaller army commanded by the King of Scots, Robert the Bruce.

A modern monument stands in a field above the battle site, where the warring parties are believed to have camped on the night before the battle. The monument consists of two hemi circular walls depicting the opposing parties.



Nearby stands the 1960s statue of Robert the Bruce.



The Center walks visitors through a 3-D experience of armaments and the battle; putting you right in the center of the action.





A war room allows participants to replay and change the potential outcome of the battle.



I participated leading the Scottish pike/spearmen. When the battle was put into motion, the Scots won again but at a much heavier loss.

Coming out of the Visitor Center, we noticed what looked like a totem pole in a yard across the street from the Center.



An older (80 something) man was "mowing" the lawn with an electric hover mower...that's right, a hover mower. It hovered above the ground cutting the grass. He said – in VERY heavy brogue – the tree was his wife's idea. She came out and invited us in to take a closer look.

Isabell and William MacDiarmid built their house from scratch with the help of their friends and family, and planted the tree on the day they laid the first bricks 50+ years ago. But when it grew to 50ft in height, they were told it was putting their home at risk. Rather than losing it, though, the couple made the decision to turn it into a totem pole with carvings of people close to them; there's a Route 66 and BMW sign on it for their son. Other carvings represent local history and Scottish culture. There's a hedgehog, dragon fly, squirrel, and more depicted.

The intricate designs were carved out by artist Rodney Holland using a chainsaw. The MacDiarmids say he worked for a week on the pole, leaving them with eight bags of sawdust.

We caught the bus back to Glasgow and grabbed a bite to eat...somewhere I don't remember.

# Wednesday, August 9

Since the band was not going to practice until that afternoon – some people were overnighting – a group of us decided to visit Glasgow Cathedral and the Necropolis.

Glasgow Cathedral is HUGE:



Also called the High Kirk of Glasgow or St Kentigern's or St Mungo's Cathedral is today a gathering of the Church of Scotland in Glasgow.

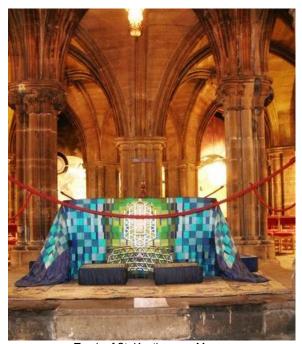
The first stone was dedicated in the presence of King David I in 1136. The present building was consecrated in 1197.





The choir looking east and west

The history of the cathedral is linked with that of the city, and is allegedly located where the patron saint of Glasgow, Saint Mungo, built his church. The tomb of the saint is in the lower crypt. Walter Scott's novel *Rob Roy* gives an account of the kirk.



Tomb of St. Kentigern or Mungo

Built before the Reformation from the late 12th century onwards and serving as the seat of the Bishop and later the Archbishop of Glasgow, the building is a superb example of Scottish Gothic architecture. It is also one of the few Scottish medieval churches (and the only medieval cathedral on the Scottish mainland) to have survived the Reformation.

Technically, the building is no longer a cathedral, since it has not been the seat of a bishop since 1690.

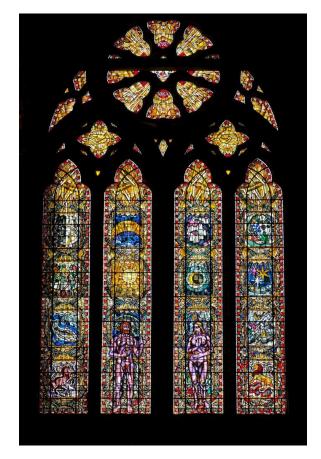


Memorials line the walls.



The organ sits high above the nave; the choir loft is higher yet.

The stained glass windows of the Cathedral run the gamut from the early  $19^{\text{th}}$  century (some earlier) to the  $20^{\text{th}}$  century and on a variety of subjects.



Behind the Cathedral is a Victorian cemetery called the Glasgow Necropolis.



Fifty thousand individuals have been buried here. Typical for the period only a small percentage are named on monuments and not every grave has a stone. Approximately 3500 monuments exist.

Predating the cemetery, the statue of John Knox sitting on a column at the top of the hill, dates from 1825.



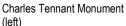
The Necropolis officially opened in April 1833. Just prior to this, in September 1832 a Jewish burial ground had been established in the north-west section of the land. This small area was declared "full" in 1851.



One of the more interesting structures (left) is the tomb of explorer William Rae Wilson.

One section is almost entirely filled with Celtic crosses.







There is also a small cemetery on the grounds of the Cathedral with some ancient monuments.





# Thursday, August 10

Since most of the band was going to attend the Edinburgh Military Tattoo that night, there was only a morning band rehearsal. Following the rehearsal, I purchased a train ticket to Edinburgh and headed for the Royal Mile.

The Royal Mile is the name given to a succession of streets forming the main thoroughfare of the Old Town of the city of Edinburgh. The thoroughfare is, as the name suggests, approximately one Scots mile long and runs downhill between two significant locations in the history of Scotland, namely Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace. The streets which make up the Royal Mile are (west to east) Castlehill, the Lawnmarket, the High Street, the Canongate and Abbey Strand. The Royal Mile is the busiest tourist street in the Old Town.

I started at the far end of the mile with a tour of Holyrood Palace.



Holyrood is the official residence of the British monarch in Scotland, Queen Elizabeth II. Holyrood Palace has served as the principal residence of the Kings and Queens of Scots since the 16th century, and is a setting for state occasions and official entertaining.

I took a self-guided audio tour through the palace and grounds. The apartments on the tour date back to the 17th century.

The dining room was set as it would be for the Queen.



The impressive oak ceiling in the bedroom of Mary, Queen of Scots shown on the next page bears the initials of Mary's parents, James V and Mary of Guise, and the associations with Mary have been drawing visitors since the eighteenth century.



Below is a picture of the room where Mary, Queen of Scots received her visitors, and is also where Rizzio, Mary's secretary, was stabbed. His alleged bloodstain can be seen where the body was left. The room is now used to display a range of Stuart and Jacobite relics that have been collected by successive sovereigns.



Amongst the relics associated with Queen Mary is embroidery of a cat and a mouse, made whilst she was in captivity in England. This possibly alludes to her relationship with her cousin, Elizabeth I of England, with Mary as the mouse and Elizabeth the cat. The so-called 'Darnley Jewel', was probably made for the Countess of Lennox, mother of Queen Mary's second husband, Lord Darnley. The emblems and inscriptions refer to the Countess' hopes and ambitions for her grandson, the future James VI and I. The Jewel was purchased by Queen Victoria from the collection of Horace Walpole in 1842. The Memorial to Lord Darnley was also commissioned by Lord Darnley's parents, after his murder, and may implicate Queen Mary in his death. Several of the inscriptions have been removed, possibly by James

VI and I, depicted as a child in the picture, mourning his father.

The Throne Room below is used for receptions and other state occasions. The centerpiece of the room is the pair of thrones, commissioned for Holyroodhouse by King George V in 1911.



Originally Charles II's Privy Chamber, intricate panel carvings by the Dutchman Jan van Santvoort surround the room. They enclose the first of the works produced by Jacob de Wet, *Bathing Scene by a River*, which were commissioned as part of the refurbishment of Holyroodhouse that would culminate in his work in the Great Gallery. The tapestries are French, and tell the story of Diana, the hunting Goddess. They were purchased for Charles II in 1668, and have been hung in this room since at least 1796.



The gardens of the palace extend to some 10 acres set within the much larger Holyrood Park. Walking through the park and around the palace brings you to the adjoining abbey.

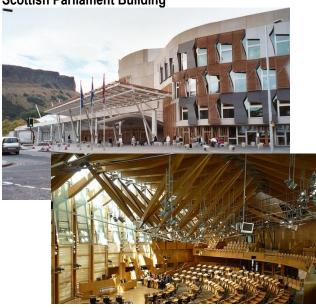


The ruined Augustinian Holyrood Abbey that is sited in the grounds was founded in 1128 at the order of King David I of Scotland. The name derives either from a legendary vision of the cross witnessed by David I, or from a relic of the True Cross known as the Holy Rood or Black Rood, and which had belonged to Queen Margaret, David's mother.

The early royal residence was in the abbey guesthouse, which most likely stood on the site of the present north range of the palace, west of the abbey cloister and by the later 15th century already had dedicated royal apartments.

After the tour, I began working my way up the Royal Mile towards Edinburgh castle for the Tattoo. Along the way, I stopped at several sites including the following; I won't go into any detail.

**Scottish Parliament Building** 



The Scottish National Gallery



People's Story Museum



St. Giles Cathedral



#### **Grey Friar's Bobby**



and the Greyfriar's Kirk



and adjoining cemetery



This was also the month of the Fringe Festival.



The Fringe is the world's largest arts festival. It is an open access (or "unjuried") performing arts festival, meaning there is no selection committee, and anyone may participate, with any type of performance. The official Fringe Program categories shows into sections for theatre, comedy, dance, physical theatre, circus, cabaret, children's shows, musicals, opera, music, spoken word, exhibitions and events. Comedy is the largest section and the one that in modern times has the highest public profile, due in part to the Edinburgh Comedy Awards.

Street performances occur regularly at multiple locations. Performances in theaters can be a little (or a lot) more risqué.

After dinner, I made way toward the lines entering the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



The first official Edinburgh Military Tattoo was held in 1950 with eight items in the program. It drew some 6,000 spectators seated in simple bench and scaffold structures around the north, south, and east sides of the Edinburgh Castle esplanade. Since the 1970s on average, just over 217,000 people.

This year's theme was "A Splash of Tartan".

We were seated near the gate of the castle. The announcer recognized the Omaha Pipes and Drums from the United States as competing in the World Pipe Band Championships during the opening remarks.





Performances included the Massed Pipes & Drums, the Indian Naval Band, The Fanfare Band of the 9th French Marine Infantry Brigade, Hjaltibonhoga, Tattoo Dance Company, Japanese Ground Self Defense Force Central Band, The Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, and The Queen's Colour Squadron with the Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment.



# Friday, August 11

The day before the worlds was spent practicing and preparing for the competition. I made a quick trip downtown to purchase a couple gifts and then back to the dorm to pack for the next day.

# Saturday, August 12



The World Pipe Band Championships have been held in Glasgow, Scotland every August since 1930, when the Scottish Pipe Band Association (today known as the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association) was formed. Before 2013, the entirety of the World Championships has taken place on one day in August, the current venue being Glasgow Green on the north bank of the River Clyde. Typically several hundred bands attend, traveling from all over the world. In 2017 there were 280 bands competing.

Depending on the size of the grade - or in the case of Grade One, where a band has not secured automatic qualification - bands are required to perform in a qualifying round which takes place in the morning. The top bands at the end of the qualifying round play in a second event in the afternoon to determine the winner.

Prizes at the Worlds are awarded in eight categories: Grade One, Grade Two, Grade Three "A", Grade Three "B", Juvenile, Grade Four "A", Grade Four "B", Novice Juvenile "A", and Novice Juvenile "B".

There were 60 bands competing in our grade divided up among three divisions of 20 each. Our preliminaries were in the morning.

A recording of our performance may still be available at: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vixl6\_nGOI4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vixl6\_nGOI4</a>





We sounded better than we had at either North Berwick or Bridge of Allan, but we did not make the finals. We finished 18th in our division.

Band	Actual Grade	Piping 1 Place	Piping 2 Place	Drumming Place	Ensemble Place	Total	Final Position
Cullen - Eire		3	5	1	2	11	1
Elgin and District		5	6	3	1	15	2
Kilmarnock		6	4	2	4	16	3
Isle of Skye		1	1	7	8	17	4
Vale of Atholl		2	2	11	3	18	5
Culter and District		8	7	5	6	26	6
Beatrix - Netherlands		4	10	8	5	27	7
Hawick		11	11	10	9	41	8
Communities of Cardenden		7	3	18	17	45	9
Mid Argyll		13	9	14	10	46	10
Edradour Pitlochry and Blair Atholl		9	8	19	13	49	11 EP
Hamilton Police Pipe Band - Canada		18	13	4	14	49	12
Strathendrick		10	16	17	7	50	13 EP
Letterkenny and District - Eire		12	14	13	11	50	14
William Kerr Memorial		14	12	16	15	57	15
Ellon and District Royal British Legion		17	17	12	12	58	16
Scotch Watch - Switzerland		16	18	9	16	59	17
Omaha Pipes and Drums- U.S.A.		20	15	6	19	60	18
Colum Cille Pipes and Drums - U.S.A.		15	19	15	18	67	19
City of Edinburgh Schools Pipe Band		19	20	20	20	79	20

We stayed for the massed bands and awards presentation. It was a thrill to play Scotland the Brave with 1600 other pipers, but the ceremony was VERY long.



# Sunday, August 13

The return trip was uneventful and work began for me on the following Monday.

The challenge following any trip like this is to sustain the momentum. The goal is to compete in the North American Championships (Glengarry Highland Games) in Maxwell, Canada in two years



and the Worlds five years after that.

It takes a tremendous amount of financial resources to fund a band and a tremendous amount of time and commitment from the members.

But...you can' hit a target unless you set one.