

Scottish Fiddling at the Skagit Valley Highland Games

All Scottish fiddle activities will be held at the Scottish Fiddling Tent on the grounds of the Skagit Valley Highland Games.

Pacific Northwest Regional Scottish Fiddle Competition

Registration for the Pacific Northwest Regional Scottish Fiddling Competition will begin at 9:00 am on Saturday, July 11, 2009 and the competition will commence at 10:00 am.



- Entry fees payable in US funds only.
- Entry fees must accompany entry form(s).
- Photocopies of entry forms are acceptable (downloadable forms are also [here](#) and are available from our homepage at www.celticarts.org).
- Check or money order payable in US funds only. We also accept your payment using VISA/MASTERCARD.
- Canadian competitors should take care to have adequate postage for delivery to the US.
- Entries postmarked by June 10, 2009 will be sent a Day of Event ticket. Entrants may register on the field on the day of the event. Field entries must purchase their own ticket to the games.
- Please mail fiddling entries complete with check or money order, payable in US funds; or with VISA/MASTERCARD information to:

NW Regional Scottish Fiddling Championship
Ward Beebe
2091 Boulder Meadow Lane
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Fees:
\$11 US. No refunds will be given for Fiddling entries received.

Awards:
Open Class: 1st Place \$75, 2nd Place \$50, 3rd Place \$25. Prizes for first, second and third place winners in each class. First place winners in Open and Junior Classes are eligible to compete in the US National Scottish Fiddle Championships.

Judging:
The Judge for this year's competition will be [April Verch](#).

Rules:
This competition is sanctioned by Scottish FIRE, the national Scottish Fiddling Organization, and is conducted according to these rules (quoted from Rules for Scottish FIRE Sanctioned competitions).



Open and Junior class competitors will first play an air, followed by a pause. Then the competitor will play without pausing between the tunes a march, a strathspey, and a reel, in that order. Novice class competitors will play three tunes, either an air, followed by a pause, then without pausing between tunes a strathspey and a reel; or, a march, a strathspey, and a reel played without pausing between tunes. [Novice competitors may also choose to play an air, march, strathspey and reel as described above for Open and Junior competitors.] The steward's decision to accept or reject late entries will be final. Highland attire (such as kilt for men, kilted skirt or dress with tartan sash for women) for competitors is strongly preferred and encouraged.

Competitors will play in reverse order of registration, that is, competitors whose entries were received earliest play last and those whose entries were received last play first. The steward determines the order of playing in each class by keeping a record of the order in which entries were received. **EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE:** The competitor who won the competition the previous year may choose to play last regardless of when the entry was received.



Definitions of Classes of Competitors

Open: any fiddler may compete in this class.

Junior: open to any fiddler under the age of 18.

Novice: any fiddler new to the art of Scottish fiddling, no age restriction. When a novice competitor has won first place in three novice class competitions, that competitor will be required to enter in the open or junior class (if under 18).

The Use of Written Music is optional in any class. [The Steward notes that it is customary not to use written music in Scottish competitions. Do not let this discourage you from competing: if you need written music, bring it!]

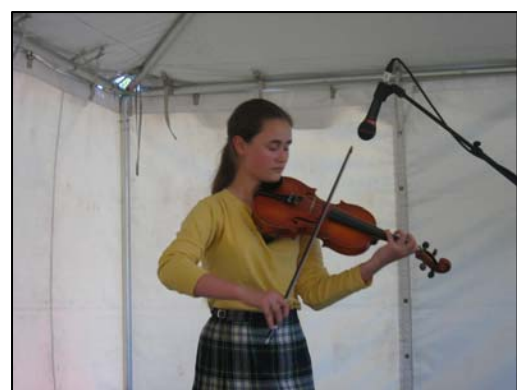
Performance Standards

For the opening air and the march/strathspey/reel sequence, the following factors will be considered and weighted as follows:

Time, 30 points: Tempo, continuity of music, rhythm. The tempo must be appropriate both to the tune chosen and to the style of execution. The rhythm must be appropriate to the tune chosen (i.e., strathspey, reel, etc.). While some variation may be appropriate for the proper interpretation, the overall context and structure of the tune should not be lost to specific techniques of execution or expression.

Execution, 30 points: Command of the instrument, both fingering and bowing, and technical skill in playing or ornamentation, in correct intonation, and in mastery of effects.

Expression/Interpretation, 40 points: The quality of the performance that appeals to the listeners' feeling, reflecting the performer's judgment and ability in capturing the sentiment of the composer or the



traditional associations of the tune. In the march/strathspey/reel sequence, the following additional factors will be considered as part of expression:

Transitions: March to strathspey and strathspey to reel. Does the transition suit the tunes and provide an effective bridge for the listener in terms of melodic flow, tonal and rhythmic punctuation?

Overall coherence and effect: Extent to which the tunes as played stand together as a coherent musical statement.

In all aspects, performance in the traditional Scottish style will be the significant element in distinguishing otherwise technically comparable performances. [There will be no favor or penalty for playing in any particular Scottish style, such as Northeast, Highland, Cape Breton, etc.; timing, execution, expression and interpretation should be appropriate to the chosen Scottish style.]

Fiddlers will perform without any accompanying instruments.

Types of Tunes Permitted in each Category:

Air: any slow air, pastoral, slow strathspey, lament or other tune played as an air.

March: any march (pipe march or other) whether 2/4, 4/4, 6/8, or any other tune played as a march.

Strathspey: any dance strathspey or other tune played as a strathspey.

Reel: any reel, Scots measure, hornpipe or other tune played as a reel.

Waltzes, jigs (6/8 and 9/8) and hornpipes played in the original manner will not be allowed as substitutions for any of the categories above.



Music Workshops

Music workshops are held Sunday morning beginning at 9:00 am. An open music session will be held both Saturday and Sunday between 2 and 4:00 pm. All Celtic musicians are invited.

The workshops and the Celtic music session are free with paid admission to the grounds.

2009 Fiddle Stage Schedule (Subject to change)

Saturday

9:00 - 10:00 Registration for the Northwest Regional Scottish Fiddling Championships
10:00 - 12:00 Northwest Regional Scottish Fiddling Championships
2:00 - 4:00 Celtic Fiddle Session

Sunday

9:00 - 12:00 Music Workshops (TBA)
2:00 - 4:00 Celtic Fiddle Session

For more information:

Ward Beebe: 360-416-4934

E-mail: humming@whidbey.net

Celtic Arts Foundation

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