

2024



Unama'ki
Cape Breton Island
October 11-19



Concert Guide

2024
Celtic
COLOURS
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Presented By
TD **TD READY**
COMMITMENT



PRESENTING SPONSOR



**TD READY
COMMITMENT**

GOLD SPONSORS



SCARLET SPONSORS



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



ORANGE SPONSORS



SALTWIRE



FEDERAL & PROVINCIAL PARTNERS



Atlantic Canada
Opportunities
Agency

Agence de
promotion économique
du Canada atlantique



Tourism, Culture and Heritage

MUNICIPAL PARTNERS





Message from the Honourable Gudie Hutchings
*Minister of Rural Economic Development and Minister
responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency*

Message de l'honorable Gudie Hutchings
*Ministre du Développement économique rural et ministre
responsable de l'Agence de promotion économique du
Canada atlantique*

Fáilte, Bienvenue, Pjila'si and Welcome!

Since 1997, the Celtic Colours International Festival, set amidst the glorious autumn foliage, has been one of Canada's premier musical events and a cultural highlight of Nova Scotia's fall tourism season.

Tourism plays a vital role in Atlantic Canada's urban, rural, remote and Indigenous communities, large or small, right across the region. More than two million people visit Nova Scotia each year, making memories that last a lifetime.

At Celtic Colours, visitors experience nine days and nights of music and dance as they explore every corner of Cape Breton, appreciate the Island's rich history and traditions, and enjoy the great outdoors and fantastic homestyle cooking.

This year's opening show, Let's Go Up Home Tonight will take the audience back to the popular 80s show "Up Home Tonight", which highlighted traditional musicians from the Maritime provinces.

This is the kind of great, authentic experience that keeps people from near and far coming back to our shores.

Enjoy the Céilidh!

The Honourable Gudie Hutchings, P.C., M.P.

Fáilte, bienvenue, pjila'si et welcome!

Depuis 1997, le festival international Couleurs celtiques, ayant comme décor le splendide feuillage automnal, est l'un des événements musicaux de premier plan au Canada et un moment culturel fort de la saison touristique d'automne néo-écossaise.

Le tourisme joue un rôle vital dans les collectivités urbaines, rurales, isolées et autochtones du Canada atlantique, qu'elles soient grandes ou petites, dans toute la région. Chaque année, plus de deux millions de personnes visitent la Nouvelle-Écosse et créent des souvenirs qui durent toute une vie.

Au festival Couleurs celtiques, les visiteurs bénéficient de neuf jours et neuf nuits de musique et de danse pour explorer les moindres recoins du Cap-Breton, savourer la richesse de l'histoire et des traditions de l'île, profiter des grands espaces et déguster une formidable cuisine maison.

Le spectacle d'ouverture de cette année, Let's Go Up Home Tonight, ramènera le public à la populaire émission des années 80 "Up Home Tonight", qui mettait en valeur les musiciens traditionnels des provinces maritimes.

C'est le genre d'expérience formidable et authentique qui fait revenir les gens d'ici et d'ailleurs sur nos rivages.

Profitez du ceilidh!

L'honorable Gudie Hutchings, C.P., députée



**A Message from the Honourable
Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia**

On behalf of the Government of Nova Scotia, welcome to the 2024 Celtic Colours International Festival!

We're delighted to have you join us in celebrating Cape Breton's vibrant traditions and culture. This festival is a wonderful showcase of our community's spirit, bringing together great music, delicious food, and lively dancing, all set against the backdrop of our stunning landscapes.

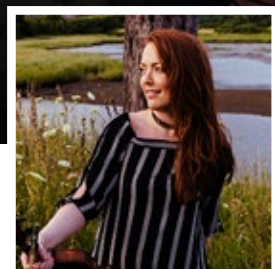
I want to thank the dedicated organizers and volunteers whose passion and hard work make this event a success year after year.

To our guests from near and far, prepare to be inspired by the incredible talents of our artists, the rich culture of our communities and the warm hospitality of Cape Breton during your stay.

We hope you make wonderful memories at the Celtic Colours International Festival!

Yours truly,

*Honourable Tim Houston,
Premier of Nova Scotia*



2024 FESTIVAL Snapshot

A GLANCE AT CELTIC COLOURS 2024 WITH

Artistic Director Dawn Beaton

4

Pjila'si! Fàilte! Bienvenue! Welcome!

Year 28! The Celtic Colours team is proud to present Celtic Colours 2024 and we hope you will enjoy it with the same gusto we experienced putting it together!

For me, this is a year marked by patience and timing yielding results. Some ideas percolate until the timing is just right, and then everything comes together with a resounding yes.

I feel this way about the opening show. Some folks will know the significance of flipping their televisions on to ATV on a Sunday evening in the 1980s and catching up with our good friend Gordon Stobbe, who would bring us the artists of the day from all reaches of the Maritimes. For musicians my age it meant music and culture, and experiences in the home was where this was a priority. That sentiment has never left me. I'm grateful for the example this show gave me, and others around me, that music was important. Musical friendships were formed on this show. It gave bands their big break. Every facet of the past that brought us the culture we know today is significant, and we can't lose sight of that.

In a similar vein, anniversaries of loss also show us what we had, what we cherish. Isn't it interesting that Tara Lynne and Lee's anniversaries are 30 and 25 years ago respectively, and the connection made when Lee wrote a tune upon Tara Lynne's passing?

And then what to say of our dear Buddy? Mr. MacDonald has been with the festival since day one and carried us from one millennium to the next. Oh heck, what's the good of one concert on one day? Let's just make the whole week about Buddy. We hear he likes chocolate, so if you see him over the nine days, send a little chocolate treat his way.

Some of the best practices I have happen when I go back to the past and revisit music, home tapes, and videos, and find new meaning in them. And like happy memories, they never disappoint. This is the case with one of my favourite albums, *Another Morning*. As the saying goes, "those who know, know". Like a warm hug, I, like so many others, get "all the feels" when I put this album on. So, let's settle in and have the man himself sing and play the album top to bottom, with some of the finest musicians in the room. And

if you aren't yet properly acquainted with this work of art, I invite you to set out the second Friday of the festival to properly understand what all the fuss is about. A properly elegant venue for a lovely gent, and incredible songwriter.

Celtic Colours always endeavours to bring new experiences to both artists and audiences alike. As the programming for this year's festival lined up, I envisioned collaborations that I wanted to see unfold. So, I crafted a concert for just that! What happens when artists from different corners of the world come together? What will they create on stage if given the chance? Let's all find out together in Mabou on Wednesday night. It's a show we have visited before, but it will be exciting to see it come together with a new set of players.

As always, thank you to all the supporters who truly make this festival come alive! We couldn't do this without you!

Dawn





A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, LEANNE BIRMINGHAM-BEDDOW



The people of Unama'ki Cape Breton Island represent a community of cultures and musical traditions woven

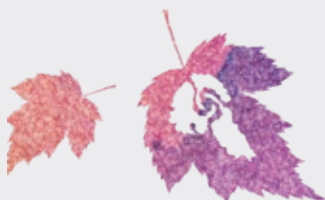
together like your favourite tartan. You can see the harmonious blending of colours in some places and colours that stand out on their own in other parts. The Acadians, the Gaels, and the many people who have landed on Cape Breton's shores to join the Mi'kmaq since, all share a sense of belonging to this land and an openness to welcome others to the place we call home.

The Celtic Colours International Festival is one of the few times every year that people from every community in Cape Breton come together to celebrate our musical artistry, customs, and traditions. We do so with open arms, welcoming all to enjoy the best the Celtic music world has to offer, and to experience the diverse and common threads that stitch together every village, city, and town of this beloved Island.

It takes an island of people to stage hundreds of events and concerts in halls, schools, churches, arenas, museums, and cultural centres in communities that stretch across almost 4,000 square miles (10,311 square kilometres) of land, surrounded by sea. We are grateful for the hundreds of volunteers from all over Cape Breton who give freely of their time and expertise to present Celtic Colours. Thank you to the stage managers, site managers, drivers, ushers, merchandise sellers, organizers, MC's, and community volunteers who give hours and hours to ensure the Festival lives up to its stellar worldwide reputation. Thank you to each, and every one of you.

Enjoy the 28th Celtic Colours International Festival! Slàinte Mhath!

Leanne



A MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF THE BOARD, MARCEL MCKEOUGH



When October arrives here in Cape Breton, bows are drawn across strings and the music sets feet a tapping. The greatest players from the

world's Celtic music communities gather and once again we launch the Celtic Colours International Festival.

Celtic Colours is, for so many Cape Bretoners, a time to celebrate music and cultural traditions, language, community and place. It's also a time of the year when we proudly share our island's Gaelic, Mi'kmaq, and Acadian heritage with our many visitors.

Thousands of tireless volunteers prepare for months as do our dedicated staff who see to every detail—and there are many. Communities across Cape Breton ensure that when Celtic Colours comes to visit, every need is taken care of. It's a magical time and to top it off, Mother Nature provides a stunning and beautiful backdrop.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to extend sincere thanks to our government funders, which include the federal, provincial, and municipal governments. Their collective support is nothing less than invaluable. Their investment shows that they value our efforts and appreciate just how important this Festival is to community, to visitors, and to the amazingly talented artists who grace our stages, bringing joy and inspiration.

We also want to acknowledge our loyal sponsors. These companies share our love for traditional music and live performance and our Celtic Colours team truly appreciates their generosity. Their sponsorship is a crucial ingredient in our ability to create a wonderful festival year after year.

We're so excited about this year's amazing line up of performers and wish you all safe travels. Enjoy Celtic Colours 2024.

Marcel



FESTIVAL INFORMATION

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Festival Snapshot | 4 |
| In the Schools Program | 26 |
| Festival Drive'ers | 26 |
| The Frank "Big Sample" Award | 26 |
| The John Allan Cameron Bursary | 26 |
| Festival Club | 27 |

5

CONCERTS

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Friday 11 | 6 |
| Saturday 12 | 7 |
| Sunday 13 | 9 |
| Monday 14 | 11 |
| Tuesday 15 | 14 |
| Wednesday 16 | 16 |
| Thursday 17 | 18 |
| Friday 18 | 20 |
| Saturday 19 | 23 |

FESTIVAL MAP

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Artist Index | 23 |
| Venue Index | 24 |



TICKETS & INFORMATION

1-888-355-7744

902-567-3000

170 George Street, Suite 8,
Sydney, NS B1P 1J2

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Celtic Colours Festival Society, 170 George Street,
Suite 321, Sydney, NS B1P 1J2 Canada
info@celticcolours.ca1-877-285-2321
902-562-6700

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote, celebrate and develop Cape Breton's living Celtic culture and hospitality by producing an international festival during the fall colours that builds relationships across Cape Breton Island and beyond.

FUTURE FESTIVALS

2025 October 10-18

2026 October 9-17

2027 October 8-16

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Marcel McKeough Chair
Patterson Gray-Rochon Vice Chair
Erin MacEachen Treasurer
Deborah MacKillop Secretary
Amey Beaton
Christine Doucet
Anna MacDonald
Steve Horne
Floyd Prosper
Greg Weir
Joella Foulds
Craig Beaton
Bill Vokey, Past Chair

HONOURARY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Late Hon. Allan J. MacEachen
The Late John Allan Cameron
Sam MacPhee

FESTIVAL FOUNDERS

Joella Foulds
Max MacDonald

FESTIVAL STAFF

Leanne Birmingham-Beddow Chief Executive Officer
Dawn Beaton Artistic Director
Mora Purcell Office Manager
Dave Mahalik Communications Manager
Yvette Rogers Outreach Coordinator
Alyson Oliver Marketing Coordinator
Heather Gillis Production Coordinator
Alison Campbell Volunteer Coordinator
Andrew Greig Box Office & Data Manager
Dale Fahey, Andy Gouthro, Nicole Bisson,
Riley Hill Box Office Staff
Blair Brown, Lee Price Transportation Coordination
Dave Corkum Technical Director
Shauna MacDonald Festival Club Manager
Kelly Peck Festival Club Stage Manager
Vibe Creative Group Branding & Graphic Design
NovaStream Video and Livestream Production
Causeway Digital Website Development,
Database Management

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11

LET'S GO UP
HOME TONIGHTGordon Stobbe & JJ Guy
Ashley MacIsaac
J.P. Cormier
Howie MacDonald
Kinnon Beaton
& Betty Beaton
Kimberley & Skip Holmes
Ray Legere
Richard Wood
Buddy MacDonald
Brenda Stubbart
& Blanche Sophocleous
Wendy MacIsaac
Jackie Dunn MacIsaac
Harvey Beaton
Hilda Chiasson
The Warner Sisters
The Pellerin Brothers**Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre, Port
Hawkesbury • 7:30PM**

"Dancing to the fiddle. Hear the banjo ring. Singing good old songs of long ago. When your day's work's over, lay your troubles down. Grab your hats, turn out the lights. Let's go up home tonight..."

If you lived in the Maritimes in the 1980s, and you had a television, you're sure to recognize the opening lines of the theme song for the program *Up Home Tonight*. Airing Sunday evenings on ATV from 1982 to 1989, the very popular and influential show put the spotlight on traditional musicians from the Maritimes, including practically everyone on stage tonight. Musical Director and Host Gordon Stobbe will once again welcome an impressive lineup of guests as we open the 2024 Celtic Colours International Festival with this very special concert.

Nearby Fishcakes and Beans
Supper • 4pm See pull-out map



SATURDAY OCTOBER 12

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12



WE'LL MEET IN INVERNESS

J.P. Cormier
Ray Legere
Lisa Cameron
& Vern MacDougall
Kevin Dugas & Kolten
MacDonell & James MacLean

**St. Matthew's United Church,
Inverness • 2:00PM**

Inverness has always been a natural meeting place for folks up and down the county. Located about halfway between Chéticamp and Judique on Route 19, also known as the Ceilidh Trail, the beachside town is a fitting place to meet up with friends for an afternoon of music. And that's exactly what's in the works for this afternoon. The beautiful St. Matthew's United Church will be overflowing with the sounds of strings, pipes, and song when these folks get tuned up for this opening weekend matinee. J.P. Cormier and Ray Legere are two of the most celebrated stringed-instrument players to ever come out of the Maritime provinces. Traditional, Celtic, bluegrass, fiddle, mandolin, banjo, or guitar—these guys have more than got it covered. Inverness native Kevin Dugas will be joined by Kolten MacDonell and James MacLean to round out the sound with some pipes, piano and guitar, as singer-songwriter Lisa Cameron and guitarist Vern MacDougall bring the songs. Hard to think of a better way to spend the day than settling in for this musical meeting in Inverness

HOSTED BY *St. Matthew's United Church*



CÒMHLA CRUINN: GATHERED TOGETHER

Cathy Ann MacPhee
Mary Jane Lamond
& Rose Morrison
& Eric Angus Whyte
Dara MacDonald
& Adam Young
Aidan & Cameron MacNeil
& Iain MacQuarrie
Gerard Beaton

**St. Barra Church & Christmas Island
Communities Centre, Christmas
Island • 2:00PM**

Gaelic culture runs deep in Christmas Island (*Eilean Na Nollaig*), where the traditions have been kept up, treasured, and passed on for generations. Céilidh, workshops, and concerts have played a vital role in preserving and promoting the Gaelic language and culture in this area. *Còmhla cruinn* means “gathered together” and Christmas Island's long history of being a gathering place for Cape Breton Gaels will continue with this concert, featuring songs sung in Gaelic and English, pipes and fiddle tunes, and Cape Breton step dancing. Enjoy the scenic drive alongside the Bras d'Or Lake as you make your way to Christmas Island today where these fine performers from Scotland and Cape Breton will present an afternoon of traditional and Gaelic-influenced music and culture.

HOSTED BY *Comunn Féis an Eilein*



ALONG THE SHORES OF BRAS D'OR

Richard Wood
Kimberley & Skip Holmes
Douglas Cameron
& Lawrence Cameron
Colin & Lili Watson
Hannah Krebs

**Big Pond Community Centre / Fire Hall,
Big Pond • 7:30PM**

Nestled along the southeastern shore of the Bras d'Or Lake lies Big Pond, a community with a rich legacy of traditional tunes, celebrated songwriters, and lively dances. This evening's concert reflects the place of importance music holds in this area, where the local Volunteer Fire Hall doubles as a Community Centre and was built with acoustics in mind. This attention to the details of how sound works and travels through a room will be a wonderful complement to the singing of brother and sister Colin and Lili Watson and Hannah Krebs whose Gaelic song is typically presented a cappella, or unaccompanied by instruments. The instruments won't be sitting idle all night, however. The Cape Breton duo of fiddler Douglas Cameron and his father Lawrence on piano, husband and wife Kimberley and Skip Holmes, and award-winning Prince Edward Island fiddler Richard Wood will have plenty of tunes to tap your toes to. Take your time getting to this one and don't miss the lovely views along the shores of the Bras d'Or.

HOSTED BY *Big Pond Community Council*



SATURDAY OCTOBER 12

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12



PJILA'SI: A WAGMATCOOK WELCOME

The Once
Kimberley Fraser
& Mac Morin & Aaron Lewis
Indian Bay Singers

Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre
Wagmatcook • 7:30PM

8

Pjila'si means welcome in Mi'kmaw, and Wagmatcook, like all First Nations communities of Cape Breton, has always been a very welcoming one. The Culture and Heritage Centre is a beautifully-sounding room overlooking Nyanza Bay. This evening's concert will open with a traditional welcome ceremony performed by the Indian Bay Singers, a local Mi'kmaw drum group who have been celebrating their culture through drumming and song for over 30 years. This welcome extends to locals and visitors alike, including our neighbours from Newfoundland and Labrador in the award-winning group The Once, who are playing the Festival for the first time in eight years. With their soothing vocal harmonies and acoustically-rich sound, the modern indie folk trio mingles their musical roots with folk, bluegrass, country, Americana, and modern indie rock. Cape Breton fiddler, piano player, and step dancer Kimberley Fraser will be joined by Mac Morin on piano and Aaron Lewis on guitar to complete the evening with a selection of tunes.

HOSTED BY *Wagmatcook Culture & Heritage Centre*

BUDDY'S DREAM

Buddy MacDonald
Archie Fisher
J.P. Cormier
Wendy MacIsaac
& Tracey MacNeil
Nipper MacLeod
Shane Pendergast
Steve MacIntyre

Boularderie School, Boularderie 7:30PM

Singer-songwriter Buddy MacDonald is well-known as host of the Celtic Colours Festival Club. He retired from the late-night gig at the end of 2022 after 26 years. While this role gave Buddy a high-profile at the Festival, he is also a songwriter of great renown whose iconic song, "Getting Dark Again", was inducted into the Cape Breton Music Industry Hall of Fame in 2023. In his time as host of the Club, Buddy crossed paths with almost everyone who played at the Festival and a number of those folks are gathered this evening for this special tribute to the affable singer-songwriter from the North Shore. Archie Fisher from Scotland, Shane Pendergast from PEI, and Cape Bretoners J.P. Cormier, Nipper MacLeod, and Steve MacIntyre will add their voices to this evening's celebration while Cape Breton fiddle and piano pair Wendy MacIsaac and Tracey MacNeil round out the lineup with some tunes. This lineup should inspire a great sing-along to end the night.

HOSTED BY *Ross Ferry Fire Department and the Big Wave Festival*

THANKSGIVIN'ER

Rum Ragged
Dwayne Côté
& Jason MacDonald
Beauxmont

**Membertou Trade & Convention
Centre, Membertou • 7:30PM**

Among the many traditions established in Cape Breton over the years, coming home for holidays is one of the most cherished. With so many of the Island's young people coming home for the Thanksgiving weekend from University and off-island jobs, we decided to have a party to celebrate. Richmond County fiddler and composer Dwayne Côté never fails to impress with his command of the instrument, versatility, and exceptional skill and technique. He drives the tunes with a pure passion that's hard to beat. Dwayne will be trading tunes and songs tonight with Jason MacDonald, an accomplished songwriter from Marion Bridge. Wielding accordion, fiddle, washboard, guitars, and drums with the *joie de vivre* Acadians are so well known for, Beauxmont carves out a special place in the world of traditional music with a contagious energy that gets the good times rolling. Rum Ragged's bold approach to the distinct folk music of their Newfoundland home, combined with striking vocal harmonies, staggering musicianship, and captivating storytelling will leave you with an impression you won't soon forget.

19 & over; photo ID required



SATURDAY OCTOBER 12

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13



FRENCH CONNECTIONS

Genticorum
The Gilberts
Allie Mombourquette
& Bradley Murphy
Les pieds au vol

La Picasse Centre Communautaire Culturel, Petit-de-Grat • 7:30PM

Tonight's French Connections concert sees Celtic Colours returning to the Acadian community of Petit-de-Grat, and La Picasse Centre Communautaire Culturel, for the first time since 2008. Coincidentally, it's been that long since Québec band Genticorum, known for their energy, stage presence, and precisely executed arrangements, played at the Festival. Award-winning sibling trio The Gilberts are back at Celtic Colours for the third time with their vibrant three-part harmonies and soulful lyricism. Richmond County native Allie Mombourquette is a fiddler, step dancer, and composer from nearby L'Ardoise, whose passion for sharing Acadian and Cape Breton culture is evident in her performances. Bradley Murphy is a Gaelic singer, fiddler, and piano player from East Bay, Cape Breton County, who carries on the culture passed down through family and community tradition. It wouldn't be a proper Acadian Saturday night without some dancing. Local group Les pieds au vol will take care of that.

HOSTED BY *La Picasse Centre Communautaire Culturel*



THE CAPE BRETON FIDDLERS

Cape Breton Fiddlers' Association

Colaisde na Gàidhlig / The Gaelic College, St. Ann's • 2:00PM

With so many well-known Cape Breton fiddlers playing all over the world these days, it's hard to imagine that the tradition was once in jeopardy. Back in the early 1970s, there was even talk that the Cape Breton fiddle style would disappear altogether! In response to the 1972 television documentary *The Vanishing Cape Breton Fiddler*, a group of dedicated individuals began contacting fiddlers about this dire prediction. There was such a strong response that the idea of a fiddlers' organization was born and in 1973, the first Festival of Cape Breton Fiddling was staged, leading to the formation of the Cape Breton Fiddlers' Association. Comprised of up-and-coming—as well as professional and well-known—players and composers, the Fiddlers' Association has been dedicated to preserving and promoting traditional Cape Breton fiddle music ever since. The Island's rich fiddling tradition will be front and centre this afternoon in St. Ann's for Celtic Colours' annual showcase featuring members of the Association in The Cape Breton Fiddlers.

HOSTED BY *Colaisde na Gàidhlig / The Gaelic College*

Nearby Meal: St. Ann's Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner • 4:30pm See map



DANCING UP A SUÊTE

La Swing du Suête
Richard Wood
Alex Kusturok with Tim Turrett
Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers
Douglas Cameron
& Lawrence Cameron
The Pellerin Brothers
Maureen Fraser

La Place des arts Père Anselme Chiasson, Cheticamp • 2:00PM

Some of Cape Breton's finest dancers come from the vibrant Acadian community of Chéticamp. This is where the famous southeast winds, known as les suêtes, blow strong onshore, and where dance troupe La Swing du Suête has kept their dance tradition strong for more than 25 years. For this afternoon's concert, it's as if les suêtes themselves have gathered folks up from Scottish, French, Métis, and Cape Breton cultures and traditions and brought them ashore to join in on this annual celebration of dance. La Swing du Suête will share the stage with the Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers, Maureen Fraser, and the Pellerin Brothers. Fiddle-piano duo Douglas and Lawrence Cameron, from just down the road in Terre Noire, will provide the soundtrack for this lively matinee along with Alex Kusturok and Tim Turrett from Alberta and Newfoundland, and Richard Wood from PEI.

HOSTED BY *Le Conseil des arts de Chéticamp*

Nearby Meal: Chéticamp Acadian Community Meal • 4pm See map





SUNDAY OCTOBER 13

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13



A FULL SLATE

The Once

Dawn & Margie Beaton
& Iain MacQuarrie
& Malcolm MacNeil
Shane Pendergast
Gerard Beaton

L'Ardoise Community Centre,
L'Ardoise • 2:00PM

L'Ardoise, or "Lordways" as it tends to be called locally, is a small fishing village on Cape Breton Island's rugged and beautiful south-western Acadian coast. Settled in the early 1700s by French Acadians, they called their new home L'Ardoise, meaning "slate", for the large deposits of rock and slate they found along the shore. Considering "a full slate" as something of a full schedule or list of events, it could certainly be said that that is exactly what we have in L'Ardoise this afternoon—a full slate of singers and players and dancers from Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton Island. The Once wrap up their quick visit to this year's Festival with the modern indie folk take on their musical roots that has earned the trio widespread accolades and multiple awards. PEI songwriter Shane Pendergast will share some of his award-winning songs. And multi-instrumentalists Malcolm MacNeil and Iain MacQuarrie will join Dawn & Margie Beaton for some tunes while Gerard Beaton keeps it close to the floor with some steps from Mabou.

HOSTED BY L'Ardoise Men's Club

STEP INTO THE PAST

Jim Payne & Fergus O'Byrne
Cathy Ann MacPhee
Brenda Stubbett
& Blanche Sophocleous

Fortress of Louisbourg Chapel,
Louisbourg • 6:00PM

Step into the Past is a unique experience that transports you back in time to offer a glimpse at life in colonial Cape Breton around the 1740s at North America's largest historical reconstruction, the Fortress of Louisbourg. The evening begins with an authentic, traditional 18th-century meal, served in period costume and character by candlelight. An after-dinner stroll, guided by the glow of lanterns through the cobbled streets of the reconstructed town, takes you to an acoustic concert at the enchanting chapel in the King's Bastion. Set against the beautiful candlelit backdrop of this historic chapel, Jim Payne and Fergus O'Byrne will regale those gathered with their instrumental prowess and humorous repartee as they cover a broad spectrum of Newfoundland culture. Renowned Scottish Gaelic singer Cathy Ann MacPhee's powerful voice will ring out in this historic setting, and celebrated Cape Breton fiddler and composer Brenda Stubbett, accompanied by Blanche Sophocleous, will have your toes tapping. This beautifully unique venue has neither central heating nor electricity, so dress warm tonight.

HOSTED BY Fortress Louisbourg Association

RAISING THE ROOF

Gordon Stobbe & JJ Guy
Kimberley & Skip Holmes
Troy MacGillivray
Stacey Read
Stephanie MacDonald
& Susan MacLean
& Leanne Aucoin

Boisdale Fire Hall, Boisdale • 7:30PM

Canadian Master Fiddler Gordon Stobbe and his duo partner—and fellow North American Fiddlers Hall of Famer—JJ Guy will do their part to help raise the roof tonight. Gordon's old bandmate from The Ladies' Choice Bluegrass Band, Skip Holmes, will also be on-hand with one of Canada's premier piano accompanists, Nova Scotia Country Music Hall of Famer Kimberley Holmes. Kimberley and Skip have worked with a who's who of Maritime traditional musicians, including Troy MacGillivray who certainly knows his way around the tunes whether on fiddle, piano, or his feet. And Stacey Read, a passionate voice for the fiddle music of her home province New Brunswick, will make her first appearance at Celtic Colours. Completing the lineup tonight is a trio of Cape Breton players and dancers steeped in traditional music, Stephanie MacDonald, Susan MacLean, and Leanne Aucoin. Don't miss this one if you're a fan of fiddle tunes—from the Scottish, Irish, Cape Breton, Down East, Bluegrass, or Old-Time traditions.

HOSTED BY Boisdale Volunteer Fire Department



SUNDAY OCTOBER 13

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13

MONDAY OCTOBER 14



WHYCOCOMAGH GATHERING

Archie Fisher
Rose Morrison
& Màiri Chaimbeul
Rum Ragged

**Whycocomagh Education Centre,
Whycocomagh • 7:30PM**

The musical cultures of Scotland, Newfoundland, and Cape Breton Island will take centre stage when a legendary songwriter, a lively and captivating folk band, and a couple of prolific collaborators gather in Whycocomagh tonight. This show is a really good example of what Celtic Colours is all about. It includes excellence in performance from three distinct but closely related traditions and friendships formed through shared experience. Archie Fisher is a songwriter of legendary repute who made his first record in the late 1960's, worked with Makem & Clancy and Silly Wizard, and appeared regularly on TV during the folk music boom of the 1960s and '70s. Rum Ragged's combination of striking vocal harmonies, staggering musicianship, and captivating storytelling enlivens audiences with their signature brand of Newfoundland folk. Rose Morrison and Màiri Chaimbeul combine Cape Breton fiddle and Scottish harp with traditional Gaelic and contemporary song when they team up. The Whycocomagh Gathering has a history of selling out so get your tickets early for this one.

HOSTED BY *Whycocomagh Volunteer Fire Department*



CELTIC CABARET

Ashley MacIsaac
Genticorum
The Gilberts

**Membertou Trade & Convention
Centre, Membertou • 7:30PM**

It's Canadian Thanksgiving and the long-awaited, first long weekend after summer is finally here—just as Cape Breton Island's transformation into its stunning autumnal state begins. As the leaves start to change from green to vivid hues of yellow, orange, and red, friends and family gather to share gratitude and thanks. And what better way is there to celebrate and give thanks than by making a night of it and heading out with pals for some music, dancing, and maybe a drink or two—if that's your sort of thing? One of the Festival's few licensed concerts, the Celtic Cabaret offers a perfect opportunity to kick up your heels. With that in mind, we've put together an appropriate lineup for the occasion featuring high energy tunes and heartfelt songs. Cape Bretoner Ashley MacIsaac plays fiddle with an intensity, authenticity, and passion that is hard to deny. Known for their energy and stage presence, Genticorum is one of the leading groups in Quebec's traditional music scene. And The Gilberts blend diverse influences and delightful, familial harmonies to come up with a new sound that is at once innovative and familiar. All in all, it sounds like the right formula for a great night out on the town.

 19 & over; photo ID required



THE MANY STYLES OF LEE CREMO

Morgan Toney & Keith Mullins
Alex Kusturok with Tim Turrett
Shawnee Paul
& Bradley Murphy
Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers
Stacey Read

**Sarah Denny Cultural Center, Eskasoni
2:00PM**

Mi'kmaq fiddler Lee Cremo was a folk hero and legendary musician who grew up in Eskasoni listening to his father, Simon, playing the fiddle at home. After starting on guitar, Lee learned fiddle from his father and other well-known fiddlers Wilfred Prosper, Winston "Scotty" Fitzgerald, and Dan Hughie MacEachern. Lee's style was electric—a distinct and rich mix of traditions and influences—and he played with a spirit and enthusiasm contagious to both his fellow musicians and audiences. Known for his humour, kindness, humility, and generosity, Lee was always performing at céilidhs, dances, fundraisers, weddings, and funerals. Six-time winner of the Maritime Old Time Fiddling Contest, he released seven albums, including 1996 ECMA winner, *The Champion Returns*. Lee passed away in 1999, but as the performers in today's concert will show, the trail he blazed is becoming a well-travelled path.

HOSTED BY *Allison Bernard Memorial High School Interac Group*

Nearby Meal: *Eskasoni Turkey Dinner • 5pm See pull-out map*





MONDAY OCTOBER 14

MONDAY OCTOBER 14

MONDAY OCTOBER 14



SONGS AND TUNES ☐ IN THE AFTERNOON

Jim Payne & Fergus O'Byrne
Ian MacDougall & Mac Morin
The Gilberts

**St. Matthew-Wesley United Church,
Leitches Creek • 2:00PM**

Monday is a holiday, so why not plan on going for a little drive to Leitches Creek and take in an afternoon of songs and tunes. The little white church was built more than a hundred years ago, but sure, Jim Payne and Fergus O'Byrne have songs older than that. Two of Newfoundland's most respected performers, you can expect rousing sea shanties and work songs, poignant ballads, comic ditties, folk tales and recitations, and toe-tapping jigs, reels, and polkas on a variety of instruments when this duo takes the altar... er, stage. Cape Bretoners Ian MacDougall and Mac Morin probably have a couple of oldies in their repertoire as well. Ian has become one of the most sought-after dance players on Cape Breton Island in recent years and his lively style fills dance halls with those eager for music and dancing. Accompanied by in-demand piano player and dancer Mac Morin, this pair will have your toes tapping all afternoon. The Gilberts' three-part harmonies, dynamic arrangements, and influences ranging from indie-folk contemporaries to 1970s classics will leave you mesmerized.

HOSTED BY *St. Matthew Wesley United Church*

A GOOD D'ESCOUSSE ☐ FOR A PARTY

Breabach • Rum Ragged
Isabella Samson

**D'Escousse Civic Improvement Hall,
D'Escousse • 7:30PM**

Connected by bridge to the rugged coast of Richmond County, D'Escousse is one of the main settlements on Isle Madame, where Acadian traditions run deep. Singer-songwriter Isabella Samson grew up in nearby Louisdale, fifteen minutes away from the venue. The Canadian Folk Music award winner's ability to captivate any crowd with her unique sense of humour and thoughtful lyricism will be on display tonight as she welcomes a couple of "other islanders" to her neighbourhood. Breabach is making their first appearance at the Festival since they were here as Artists in Residence in 2019. One of Scotland's most skilled and imaginative contemporary folk acts, the group unites deep roots in Highland and Island tradition with the innovation of Scotland's vibrant music scene. And it's one last chance to see why Newfoundland's Rum Ragged is quickly becoming known as the finest performers of their great, living, musical tradition as they have their last show tonight. Now that sounds like a pretty good "D'Escousse" for a party!

HOSTED BY *D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society*

*Nearby Meal: Acadian Meat Pie
Supper • 4pm and 5:15pm See map*



THE MAN WITH ☐ A RHYME

Archie Fisher
Doyle, McAuley & McAuley
Troy MacGillivray
& Caitlin Warbelow
& Jake Charron

Highland Arts Theatre, Sydney • 7:30PM

Almost fifty years ago, master guitarist, singer, and songwriter Archie Fisher recorded his first album in America, after establishing himself in the folk music scene at home in Scotland. *The Man with a Rhyme's* liner notes described Archie as "exemplifying all that is good about the folksong revival", praising his "deep respect for the older musical traditions of his native Scotland" and his ability to approach these traditions creatively. The write-up suggested that his freshly-composed song, "The Witch of the West-merlands", could easily assume a place among the classic ballads compiled during the last century. Now all these years later, every bit of it still rings true. Archie has been performing at Celtic Colours since 1998 and we are very pleased to feature him in concert this year. Known as Scotland's foremost troubadour, Archie will be joined at the lovely Highland Arts Theatre tonight by two exciting trios. Past Artist in Residence John Doyle hits the stage with fellow Irishmen Mick McAuley on accordion and Oisín McAuley on fiddle while the ever-versatile fiddler, piano player, and dancer Troy MacGillivray teams up with Fiddle Champion Caitlin Warbelow and guitarist Jake Charron.



MONDAY OCTOBER 14

MONDAY OCTOBER 14

MONDAY OCTOBER 14



NEVER SAY FAREWELL: A TRIBUTE TO TARA LYNNE

Jay Ungar & Molly Mason
Krista & Rhonda Touesnard
Gordon Stobbe & JJ Guy
Kimberley & Skip Holmes
Derrick & Melody Cameron
Patricia Chafe
The Pellerin Brothers
Stacey Read

**SAERC (Strait Area Education
Recreation Centre), Port Hawkesbury**
7:30PM

Tara Lynne Touesnard was a four-time champion at the Maritime Old Time Fiddling Contest, a recipient of numerous trophies and awards including the Don Messer Trophy, and a cast member of the Cape Breton Summertime Revue. Tara Lynne also played with the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra and released three albums. She was working on her fourth when she passed away tragically, 30 years ago, at the age of 21. In 1995, an award was established in her name and is given annually to a person who best exemplifies the qualities of Tara Lynne—her dedication to the preservation and enhancement of old time fiddling, devotion to community service, and her pleasant and outgoing personality. Tonight in Port Hawkesbury, friends and family will come together to honour the memory of Tara Lynne Touesnard.



CELTIC PUB

Genticorum
Kimberley Fraser
& Aaron Lewis
& Hilda Chiasson
Shane Pendergast

**North Sydney Firefighters Club, North
Sydney • 7:30PM**

It's the end of a long weekend and back to work tomorrow. But it's also Celtic Colours time, so if you're feeling like stretching the weekend out for one more night, Celtic Pub at the North Sydney Firefighters Club is the place to be. Genticorum is one of the leading groups on Quebec's traditional music scene. With unbridled energy and a magnetic stage presence, this award-winning trio weaves intricate fiddle, flute, and accordion lines together with rich vocal harmonies, subtle guitar textures, and exhilarating foot percussion. Matching their energy may be a challenge, but it's a challenge that Cape Breton fiddler, piano player, and step dancer Kimberley Fraser is surely up for. A past Artist in Residence, Kimberley grew up on the Northside so she'll be right at home tonight, especially with Nova Scotia Country Music Hall of Famer Aaron Lewis and one of the most sought-after piano players of this generation, Hilda Chiasson, by her side on stage. One of Atlantic Canada's finest folk troubadours, PEI singer-songwriter Shane Pendergast is on board to share some of his award-winning songs.

HOSTED BY North Sydney Firefighters Club

 19 & over; photo ID required



THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE BOW

Shelly Campbell & Allan Dewar
Andrea Beaton & Tracey MacNeil
Rakish
Donna Marie DeWolfe
Beverly MacLean
& Howie MacDonald
Taya MacDonald

Judique Community Centre, Judique
7:30PM

We've paraphrased William Ross Wallace's poem just a bit, and you'll see why tonight when these six women take bow in hand. Shelly Campbell's playing is deeply rooted in the Cape Breton tradition and Andrea Beaton comes from a long line of Inverness County musicians, composers, and dancers. Donna Marie DeWolfe also grew up surrounded by Cape Breton fiddle tunes and Beverly MacLean's love of music was influenced by a variety of traditional Cape Breton players. The local contingent is completed by young multi-instrumentalist Taya MacDonald. With a background in traditional Irish and Scottish music, North Carolina native Maura Shawn Scanlin will fit right in here. Tracey MacNeil won't be rocking a bow tonight, but she is one of Cape Breton's most accomplished piano players. Howie MacDonald, Allan Dewar, and Conor Hearn will round out the accompaniment.

HOSTED BY Judique Community Centre
Development Association

Nearby Meal: Judique Turkey Dinner
4:30pm See pull-out map





TUESDAY OCTOBER 15

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15



COAL TOWN CÉILIDH

Kinnon Beaton
& Betty Beaton
Rodney MacDonald
& James MacLean
Elise Boeur
& Adam Iredale-Gray
Roger Stone & Harold Davidson

Calvin United Church, New Waterford
2:00PM

Great music has always been a staple in New Waterford, a town with a proud history of coal mining. The collapse of the mining industry in Inverness County during the 1950s prompted many descendants of that area's Scottish settlers to make their way to New Waterford looking for work. With strong ties to their Scottish roots intact, folks in this community love music and never miss an opportunity to gather for some tunes. So, it's only fitting that we should have a céilidh this afternoon in New Waterford with some of Inverness County's favourite traditional musicians, Kinnon and Betty Lou Beaton, and Rodney MacDonald and James MacLean. Elise Boeur and Adam Iredale-Gray will keep the tunes flowing as they dig into some of their favourites on hardingfele, guitar, and twin fiddles. Singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Roger Stone will catch up with Harold Davidson—his old bandmate from popular Cape Breton folk band Brakin' Tradition—to round out this afternoon céilidh.

HOSTED BY Calvin United Church

CLOSE TO THE FLOOR

Beòlach
Breabach
Richard Wood
Alex Kusturok with Tim Turrett
Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers
Margie Beaton
Cheryl, Iain & Ann MacQuarrie
Tammy MacDonald

**Strathspey Performing Arts Centre,
Mabou • 7:30PM**

It is well-established that dance tradition is an important, if not defining, influence on Cape Breton's traditional music. In Cape Breton step dancing, all the movement is below the waist with the arms kept as still as possible. The feet barely leave the floor, and the heel is never higher than the toe. This is known as "close to the floor", and it's the best compliment a Cape Breton step dancer can get. Tonight, this annual dance concert will showcase the Cape Breton style alongside the Métis dance tradition of the Red River Jig reimagined with a hip hop twist, and some steps from Prince Edward Island. Accompanied by fiddles, pipes, and guitar from Cape Breton, PEI, Alberta, Newfoundland, and Scotland, these amazing dancers will delight and amaze you with their energetic rhythm, traditional steps, and innovative style.

HOSTED BY *Chestico Museum & Historical Society*

Nearby Meal: Port Hood Roast Beef
Dinner • 4pm See pull-out map



CHÉTICAMP SOIRÉE

Genticorum
Troy MacGillivray
& Caitlin Warbelow
& Jake Charron
Hirondelles

**La Place des arts Père Anselme Chiasson,
Chéticamp • 7:30PM**

Situated on the northeast coast of Cape Breton Island, along the Cabot Trail, the Acadian community of Chéticamp is home to a vibrant culture, rich traditions, and an abundance of music and dance. This evening's gathering is a chance to bid adieu to award-winning, globe-trotting Quebecois trio Genticorum, who have been wowing audiences around the Island since they got here. Past Artist in Residence Troy MacGillivray makes his way to Chéticamp for the soirée to play in a trio with Celtic Colours first-timer Caitlin Warbelow—who played fiddle in the original Broadway cast of the Tony Award-winning and Grammy Award-nominated musical, *Come From Away*, and well-travelled guitarist Jake Charron who you may recognize from critically-acclaimed and popular Prince Edward Island group The East Pointers. Traditional Acadian music will complete the evening with local francophone group Hirondelles featuring Elyse Delaney, Michelle Deveau, and Nicole Deveau.

HOSTED BY *Le Conseil des arts de Chéticamp*

Nearby Meal: Chéticamp Acadian
Community Meal • 4pm See map





TUESDAY OCTOBER 15

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15



FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC

Shelly Campbell
& Allan Dewar
Con O'Brien
Amy Laurenson & Miguel Girão

**Alexander Graham Bell National
Historic Site, Baddeck • 7:30PM**

There's no question why folks will want to come out to the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site in Baddeck tonight. This unique venue honours the legacy of its namesake, inventor Alexander Graham Bell, who just happened to be a great lover of music, and a fine piano player as well. After travelling the world, he chose to live on Cape Breton Island for its unrivaled beauty. Surely it wasn't just the scenery he was referring to—the music might have had something to do with it, too. Tonight's concert recognizes Bell's love for music with a collection of performers from islands renowned for their musical cultures. Con O'Brien has been sharing the music of his ancestral Irish home and beloved Newfoundland and Labrador for decades. Rooted in the traditional music of Shetland, pianist Amy Laurenson will be joined by guitarist Miguel Girão for some tunes that show the love of music knows no boundaries. Fiddler Shelly Campbell and piano player Allan Dewar grew up absorbing the traditional musical culture of Cape Breton and are a popular pair at dances, concerts, and céilidhs.

HOSTED BY *Alexander Graham Bell Museum Association*

A TOUCH OF THE IRISH

Jim Payne & Fergus O'Byrne
Doyle, McAuley & McAuley
Donna Marie DeWolfe
& Joël Chiasson

**Riverdale Community Centre, Lower
River Inhabitants • 7:30PM**

Irish immigrants started arriving in the Lower River Inhabitants area in the early 1800s and are still found there. The wave of Irish folk landing in the community tonight aren't coming to stay, but their music will surely leave a lasting impression. Dublin-born John Doyle is here in a trio with multi-instrumentalist, singer, and songwriter Mick McAuley from Kilkenny, and versatile fiddler and composer Oisín McAuley who was raised in County Donegal. Fergus O'Byrne was also born in Dublin, finding his way to St. John's, Newfoundland in the early 1970s as a member of the popular band Ryan's Fancy. The banjo, bodhran, guitar, and concertina-playing singer has performed with Jim Payne, a leading performer, collector, and producer of traditional Newfoundland music for almost 30 years. Donna Marie DeWolfe is a lively, upbeat fiddler from nearby River Tillard, who loves playing for dances and will be accompanied by veteran piano player and step dancer Joël Chiasson.

HOSTED BY *Riverdale Community Services Society*

*Nearby Meal: Traditional Irish Stew
4:30pm See pull-out map*



HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

Jay Ungar & Molly Mason
Buddy MacDonald
Rachel Davis
& Darren McMullen
Màiri Chaimbeul
Ryan Young

**Our Lady of Fatima Church, Sydney
River • 7:30PM**

Singers, songwriters, and instrumentalists from Cape Breton, Scotland, and the U.S. will be representing here, there, and everywhere tonight at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Sydney River. Not only do these performers come from far flung places, their music has taken them all over as well. After more than a decade of travelling far and wide performing with Còig, Rachel Davis and Darren McMullen released their debut album as a duo earlier this year. They will feel at home in this concert sharing the stage with their good pal Buddy MacDonald, who has been singing his songs throughout North America, Scandinavia, Scotland, and Germany for more than 45 years. Scottish harp player and composer Màiri Chaimbeul's wide-ranging collaborations cover a lot of ground, and Jay Ungar and Molly Mason didn't become one of the most celebrated duos on the American acoustic music scene by staying put. This concert welcomes Ryan Young, an award-winning fiddler from Scotland making his Celtic Colours debut tonight.

HOSTED BY *Our Lady of Fatima CWL*



TUESDAY OCTOBER 15

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16



COW BAY CÉILIDH

Dirk & Amelia Powell
J.P. Cormier & Dave Gunning
Rakish

**Port Morien Legion / Community
Centre, Port Morien • 7:30PM**

The Cow Bay Céilidh is a long-standing tradition in Port Morien during Celtic Colours. Typically an early sell-out, the Tuesday night concert has established itself as presenting a most entertaining mix of songs and tunes in the beautiful little seaside community on the southeastern shore of Cape Breton.

The community's welcoming spirit and generous hospitality is as enchanting as the view of the bay, but there's a very real possibility that even that may be overshadowed by the sounds coming from the stage this evening. Dirk and Amelia Powell's music is rooted in the bayous of Louisiana and the mountains of Kentucky where, like here in Cape Breton, musical traditions run deep. J.P. Cormier and Dave Gunning have long been musical compadres, performing together since the mid-'90s, whenever they could manage it. An absolute treat on stage, this award-winning duo will leave you breathless with their splendid songcraft, stunning musicianship, and comical banter. Rakish toes the line between concert music and session music with tunes and songs from Irish and American folk traditions.

HOSTED BY *Port Morien Development Association*

*Nearby Meal: Ham and Potato Salad
Dinner with Dessert • 4pm See map*



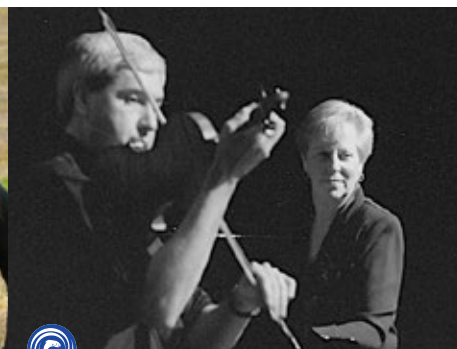
ISLAND SESSIONS

Jim Payne & Fergus O'Byrne
Hailee LeFort Trio
Rob MacLean

**L'Arche Cape Breton Gathering Place,
Iron Mines • 2:00PM**

Since being added to the Celtic Colours lineup in 2022, the L'Arche Cape Breton Gathering Place is proving to be a popular place to get together for a mid-week afternoon of music. Today's matinee features musicians from Newfoundland, Cape Breton, and Prince Edward Island and gives a nod to the relatively informal musical gathering typically known as a session. Sessions are popular events wherever traditional music is played. They can play an important role in meeting other musicians, learning tunes, and passing on traditions in a fun and friendly setting. The Hailee LeFort Trio came together as the result of its members meeting and playing during sessions at the Old Triangle Irish Alehouse in Charlottetown, PEI. Over the last thirty years performing as a duo, Jim Payne and Fergus O'Byrne have grown into the role of tradition-bearers of Newfoundland music and culture, and so much of this knowledge is passed on through sessions. Singer-songwriter Rob MacLean lives in Whycocomagh, not far from the venue. Known for soulful, powerful vocals and intricate guitar work, Rob can often be found during Celtic Colours at the Festival Club, where he is a frequent participant in the song sessions that tend to take place late at night.

HOSTED BY *L'Arche Cape Breton*



GÀIDHLIG ANNS A' GHLEANN: GAELIC IN THE GLEN

Kinnon Beaton & Betty Beaton
& Andrea Beaton
Amy Laurenson & Miguel Girão
Bradley Murphy
& Màiri Chaimbeul

**St. Mary of the Angels Community Hall,
Glendale • 7:30PM**

Glendale is a stronghold of Gaelic culture on Cape Breton Island and the hall in Glendale has been an important gathering place for music and dance for generations. The community has always held their culture and heritage in high regard here, and that sentiment is reflected in tonight's lineup. Bradley Murphy is a Gaelic singer, fiddler, and piano player from Cape Breton who proudly showcases the relevance, beauty, and power of traditional songs and melodies. He will be on stage with Màiri Chaimbeul, a Juno-nominated harp player and composer from the Isle of Skye in Scotland. A native Gaelic speaker, Màiri's versatile sound is rooted in language and tradition. Shetland pianist Amy Laurenson explores the music of her homeland alongside traditional and folk music from Scotland, Ireland, and Scandinavia with guitarist Miguel Girão. Music and dance are inextricably linked in Gaelic culture and Kinnon, Betty, and Andrea Beaton are some of the finest exponents of that tradition this Island has to offer.

HOSTED BY *Glendale and Area Community Cooperative*



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16



WAY UP DOWN NORTH

Jay Ungar & Molly Mason
Roger Stone
Heather Cameron
& Kenny Stewart

North Highlands Elementary, Aspy Bay
7:30PM

It may sound strange at first, but many locals refer to northern Cape Breton as “down north”. The term is a leftover from the days of sailing ships when vessels were carried north by the winds of the Gulf Stream. These days we travel mostly by road, and a trip down north will take you along the breathtakingly beautiful Cabot Trail. And as if the drive wasn’t enough, once you’ve made it “way up down north” to Aspy Bay, you’re in for a real treat. Jay Ungar and Molly Mason are masters of American folk music and storytelling who generously share their lives and their music with audiences. A member of the long-established and much-loved Nova Scotian band McGinty, Roger Stone is an accomplished Cape Breton musician and a regular at Celtic Colours over the years. Heather Cameron was brought up surrounded by music. A singer with a beautiful, soulful voice, she plays fiddle, guitar, bagpipes, and piano. Heather will be joined by well-travelled, veteran accompanist Kenny Stewart.

HOSTED BY North Highlands Elementary
Home and School

CONCERT BY THE CANAL

Con O'Brien
Chrissy Crowley & Jason Roach
Myles Davidson
& Harold Davidson
Ryan Young

St. Peter's Lions Hall, St. Peter's
7:30PM

The St. Peter's Canal connects the Atlantic Ocean to the sparkling Bras d'Or Lake. It was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1929 and Celtic Colours has been presenting a concert by the Canal since 2002. Tonight's offering will be an energetic one with fiddle tunes from Cape Breton and Scotland, a wealth of songs from the Newfoundland tradition, and a hometown songwriter. Chrissy Crowley will handle fiddle, with Jason Roach on piano, for the Cape Breton set of tunes while Ryan Young's musical focus will revolve around the traditional Scottish tunes that he is injecting fresh and innovative ideas into. Con O'Brien's impeccable musicianship, vocal prowess, and Newfoundland songbook will keep one and all entertained. And multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriter Myles Davidson will tie it all together when he takes the stage with his father Harold, a founding member and longtime bass player for Brakin' Tradition.

HOSTED BY Village on the Canal Society

HIGHLAND HARMONIES

J.P. Cormier & Dave Gunning
Hirondelles
Elise Boeur
& Adam Iredale-Gray

Inverary Resort - MacAulay Conference
Centre, Baddeck • 7:30PM

Award-winning songwriters Dave Gunning and J.P. Cormier are two of the most respected musicians on the Canadian folk music scene. And when they get together on stage, hang on to your seats because you're in for a ride. Their stunning musicianship, heartfelt songwriting, and quick sense of humour reinforce the bond these two share. Whether they're collaborating on new songs or rearranging old folk standards, singing harmonies or covering instrumental breaks, Gunning and Cormier will leave you in awe of their ability to find the spaces in what the other is doing. Drawing from the wells of Norwegian and Swedish fiddle music, Elise Boeur throws in arcane influences and emerges with a multi-faceted sound grounded in Nordic traditions. Adam Iredale-Gray is a versatile guitarist and fiddler with deep roots in Irish traditional music and a commitment to innovation. Hirondelles' dedication to their Acadian heritage comes through in the way they remain faithful to the lyrics and melodies of the old songs from Chéticamp in their own familiar and original style.

Nearby Meal: Lobster and Crab Supper in
Neil's Harbour • 1pm See pull-out map



Nearby Meal: Sounds and Supper by
the Sea • 1pm See pull-out map



19 & over; photo ID required



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16

THURSDAY OCTOBER 17



PERFECT PAIRINGS

Dirk & Amelia Powell
& Mairi Rankin
Anna Massie
& Troy MacGillivray
Buddy MacDonald
& Shane Pendergast
Rose Morrison & Rakish

Strathspey Performing Arts Centre,
Mabou • 7:30PM

In the early days of Celtic Colours, Festival co-founder and longtime Artistic Director Joella Foulds expressed her opinion that a festival is not doing its job if it's not making new things happen, noting that an important legacy of Celtic Colours is the brilliant collaborations that result from musicians getting a chance to work together. Perfect Pairings will put that concept to the test tonight. Dirk and Amelia Powell's roots in the bayous of Louisiana and the mountains of Kentucky will find common ground with fiddler and dancer Mairi Rankin's deep Cape Breton roots. Scottish guitarist Anna Massie and the multi-talented Troy MacGillivray have played together before and we're looking forward to their onstage reunion. Buddy MacDonald and Shane Pendergast are both renowned songwriters so it'll be interesting to see what they come up. And Rose Morrison teams up with American duo Rakish for some songs and tunes.

HOSTED BY Dalbrae Academy Student Council

LOUISBOURG CROSSROADS

Breabach
Doyle, McAuley & McAuley
Kenneth MacKenzie
& Jenny MacKenzie
& Mac Morin
& Patrick Gillis
Dawn & Margie Beaton

Louisbourg Playhouse, Louisbourg
7:30PM

The scenic town of Louisbourg has been a cultural crossroads for four centuries and tonight it will be the meeting place of some outstanding musicians from Scotland, Ireland, and Cape Breton in the annual Louisbourg Crossroads concert. This is your last chance to see award-winning and universally acclaimed Scottish band Breabach who will be wrapping up their time at this year's Festival with this concert. John Doyle and Mick McAuley have played and toured together for many years. They are joined at the Festival by longtime collaborator Oisín McAuley who plays fiddle with renowned Irish group Danú. A fine crowd of Cape Bretoners complete the lineup with all the essential elements of traditional music that Cape Bretoners are known for—fiddles, pipes, guitar, and dancing. What a crew this is to meet up at the crossroads!

HOSTED BY Louisbourg Playhouse Society

EILEAN BRÈAGHA: BEAUTIFUL ISLAND

Assynt
Colin & Lili Watson
Nipper MacLeod
Heather Cameron
& Kenny Stewart

Baile nan Gàidheal / Highland Village,
Iona • 2:00PM

When the Gaels arrived from Scotland, they brought their language, music, and culture to this new land. The community of Iona is one of the places where they settled. Rich in Gaelic heritage, the area has maintained close ties to the roots of its settlers, and Baile nan Gàidheal / the Highland Village has played an important role in maintaining that cultural heritage. There are few places more inspiring for a performance rooted in Gaelic culture and tradition than this unique living history museum that celebrates the story, language, and living culture of Nova Scotia Gaels. Today's concert takes place in the Malagawatch Church, positioned high on the hill at the Village. Boasting a view of all four counties of Cape Breton Island, this little wooden church is the perfect setting for an afternoon of tunes and songs from the Gaelic and folk traditions performed by artists from Cape Breton, mainland Nova Scotia, and Scotland. Today's concert will remind us all there's so much more to a beautiful island than just the scenery.

HOSTED BY Nova Scotia Highland Village Society

Nearby Meal: Salmon Dinner (Harm Option Available) • 4:30pm See map



Nearby Meal: Louisbourg Roast Beef Dinner • 4:30pm See pull-out map





THURSDAY OCTOBER 17

THURSDAY OCTOBER 17

THURSDAY OCTOBER 17



GUITAR SUMMIT

J.P. Cormier
John Doyle
Anna Massie
Cailean MacLean

Judique Community Centre, Judique
7:30PM

Celtic Colours has been presenting a concert focused on guitar since the first Festival in 1997. Most commonly and popularly known as (the) Guitar Summit, this Thursday night concert has, over the years, explored the ever-evolving role of this most ubiquitous of instruments. The Guitar Summit is one of the most anticipated concerts in a Festival that boasts so many must-see events. Flavourful harmony lines, full-speed-ahead finger and flat-picking, sophisticated chording accompaniment, and sympathetic and syncopated rhythmic structures all have a place in this annual showcase. This year, the sure-to-be-sold-out concert features three veterans of the show and welcomes one first-timer. Past Artist in Residence, and Guitar Summit mainstay, J.P. Cormier will share the stage with innovative and influential Irish-American guitarist John Doyle, one of Scotland's foremost guitarists Anna Massie, and deeply-rooted guitarist Cailean MacLean who will be making his Guitar Summit debut. Be sure to get your tickets early.

HOSTED BY Judique Community Centre
Development Association

Nearby Meal: Haddock Dinner
4:30pm See pull-out map



SHAPED BY MUSIC

Beòlach • Con O'Brien
Hailee LeFort Trio

Cape Breton Highlands Academy, Belle
Côte • 7:30PM

Inverness County has been lovingly described as "...a string of beautiful communities and majestic coastline vistas bound together by musical traditions. The music culture here is written into the story...the very fabric of the coastline. During harsh winters and trying times, music and dance were neither indulgence nor luxury, but rather survival. Music culture here is honest, authentic and shared directly from the heart—this is a coast shaped by music." The folks on stage tonight have also been shaped by music. One of Cape Breton's longest running trad bands, Beòlach came together after an impromptu late-night session at the Celtic Colours Festival Club. The rocky coastal outposts and strong musical heritage of Newfoundland have had a strong hand in shaping Con O'Brien, who has been performing throughout North America and beyond for more than 35 years. Hailee LeFort energized audiences around Cape Breton Island for more than a decade. The Margaree native returns to Celtic Colours with two artists at the centre of PEI's traditional music scene, Romy Munkres and Jesse Periard.

HOSTED BY Margaree Area Development
Association

Nearby Meal: Acadian Culinary
Experience • 5pm See pull-out map



THE HILLS ARE ALIVE

Dirk & Amelia Powell
Décota McNamara
& Jeremy Finney
Amy Laurenson & Miguel Girão

St. Peter's Church, Ingonish Beach
7:30PM

The St. Peter's Parish Church in Ingonish has been witness to many memorable moments in its more than 100-year history. And memories will be made again tonight in this beautiful old church as the surrounding hills of the Cape Breton Highlands come alive with the sounds of fiddle, accordion, banjo, mandolin, guitar, piano, and song. Situated north of Cape Smokey on the incomparable Cabot Trail, the drive alone is worth the trip. But wait until you hear the music. Dirk Powell is a "musician's musician" who has toured with Joan Baez, Eric Clapton, Loretta Lynn, and Rhiannon Giddens who he performed with at Celtic Colours in 2017. Dirk is here this time with his daughter Amelia, a hard-driving guitar player and soulful singer who grew up exploring the old-time music of her Appalachian heritage. Décota McNamara and Jeremy Finney have been impressing Celtic Colours audiences for a few years now with their mix of tunes and songs. Amy Laurenson and Miguel Girão reflect on Amy's traditional Shetland roots and how they intertwine with threads of contemporary influence and ideas.

HOSTED BY St. Peter's Parish CWL

Nearby Meal: Stuffed Chicken Breast
Dinner • 5pm See pull-out map





THURSDAY OCTOBER 17

THURSDAY OCTOBER 17

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18



UNITED IN MUSIC



Troy MacGillivray
& Caitlin Warbelow
& Tracey MacNeil
Elise Boeur
& Adam Iredale-Gray
Donnie Campbell
& Jinks O'Neill

**United Protestant Church of Sydney
River, Sydney River • 7:30PM**

Just when it seems that Antigonish County native Troy MacGillivray has played with everyone you've ever heard of, he shows up with a new combo. This year the past Artist in Residence is playing a couple of shows with a newcomer to the Festival, and someone very familiar to Cape Breton and Celtic Colours audiences—fiddler Caitlin Warbelow and piano player Tracey MacNeil. Members of Canadian Folk Music Award winning neo-folk quintet Aerialists, Elise Boeur and Adam Iredale-Gray explore fiddle music in fluid, easy lockstep. They each spent years touring as collaborators with diverse projects, and all along they were playing fiddle tunes at sessions and afterparties. Donnie Campbell and Jinks O'Neill have been performing together for ten years and draw on a vast repertoire of music from the folk revival and classic country, along with the traditional music of Ireland, Scotland, and Cape Breton Island.

HOSTED BY *Men's Brotherhood-United
Protestant Church of Sydney River*

Nearby Meal: Peachy Chicken Dinner
5:30pm See pull-out map



RAKISH REELS



The Dublin Trio
Scott Macmillan
& James MacLean
Rakish

**Inverary Resort - MacAulay Conference
Centre, Baddeck • 7:30PM**

Making their Celtic Colours debut in this concert, The Dublin Trio brings together three well-travelled masters of Irish traditional music in vocalist and bodhrán player Kevin Conneff, uilleann pipes and whistles player Joe McKenna, and guitarist Tony Byrne. Kevin and Tony have played the Festival before, with The Chieftains and Julie Fowlis respectively, so it will be exciting to see them in this new trio. Maura Shawn Scanlon, two-time U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion and a winner of the Glenfiddich Fiddle Competition, performs with the technical range of a classical violinist and the deep sensitivity of a traditional musician. A stylistically diverse guitar player, Conor Hearn has established himself as a cutting-edge accompanist. Their shared background in traditional Irish and Scottish music brings the two together as Rakish. Toeing the line between concert music and session music, they explore tunes and songs from Irish and American folk traditions reflecting their shared love for old traditional tunes and chamber music. Guitarists Scott Macmillan and James MacLean complete tonight's Rakish Reels lineup in Baddeck.

 19 & over; photo ID required

MATINEE ON THE MIRA



Amy Laurenson & Miguel Girão
Jordan Musycsyn
& Emily Dingwall
Gillian Head & Jason Roach

**Marion Bridge Recreation Centre,
Marion Bridge • 2:00PM**

Cape Breton's Mira River has inspired tribute in song and is known the world over for its beauty and the hospitality of the surrounding area. Making music is an age-old tradition along the Mira River where there's always time for a cup of tea, or something a little stronger, and a lively exchange of songs, tunes, and stories. Gillian Head is a fiddler whose sound exemplifies the spirit and drive of traditional Cape Breton music. Jason Roach plays piano with unequalled intensity and a style all his own. Gillian and Jason will share tunes duty with BBC Radio Scotland's 2023 Young Traditional Musician of the Year, Amy Laurenson and a genuinely unique voice in contemporary Scottish Trad music, guitarist Miguel Girão. Award-winning Cape Breton singer-songwriter Jordan Musycsyn is a masterful storyteller who writes folk songs about life and love with pathos and humour. Jordan is joined by Emily Dingwall on bass and harmony vocals. If you've never been to the famous Mira River, this is as good a time to visit as any.

HOSTED BY *Marion Bridge Community Council*

Nearby Meal: Lunch on the Mira
12pm See pull-out map





FRIDAY OCTOBER 18

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18



MUSIQUE DE LA NUIT: MUSIC OF THE NIGHT

Anna Massie
Sylvia LeLievre
with Marcel Lefort
Elise Boeur
& Adam Iredale-Gray
Mary Beth Carty
Hailee LeFort Trio
Doug Lamey & Sarah MacInnis
Michael Cavanaugh

Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site, Louisbourg • 5:00PM

It's Friday night in the French fortress town of Louisbourg, in the middle of the 18th century. Conversation mingles with music over a meal served on pewter dishes. Singing and laughter drifts through the open window of the tavern on the corner while lively tunes draw the dancers to fill the floor in the hall. Experience it all for yourself tonight at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site. This one-of-a-kind night on the town starts with an 18th century meal, then carries on, into the cobblestone streets for music, dancing, and good times. As you travel from one reconstructed stone building to another, you'll find music everywhere—songs in French, English and Gaelic, and tunes for toe-tapping and dancing. Bring comfy shoes and a sweater.

HOSTED BY *Fortress Louisbourg Association*

 19 & over; photo ID required



DEEP FROM THE HEART

The Men of the Deeps
The Dublin Trio
Howie MacDonald
& Beverly MacLean
& Sandy MacDonald

Inverness Education Centre / Academy, Inverness • 7:30PM

For nearly sixty years, Cape Breton's Men of the Deeps choir has been travelling the world as Canadian Ambassadors, preserving some of our rich Cape Breton folklore and culture. Through stories and song, they share a sense of what life was like as a miner in a mining town. And these guys know what they're talking about as the members of this choir are all former coal miners. The Dublin Trio is a brand-new ensemble featuring bodhrán player and vocalist Kevin Conneff, guitarist Tony Byrne and piper, whistle and accordion player Joe McKenna. All three have strong pedigrees, and this collaboration bears the hallmarks of musicians whose appetites for adventure and exploration are as hearty as they ever were. And it wouldn't seem right to have a concert in Inverness County without a good blast of Cape Breton tunes, so we've lined up Howie MacDonald, Beverly MacLean, and Sandy MacDonald to take care of that. Make your way to Inverness tonight for an evening of music that could only come from deep in the heart.

HOSTED BY *Inverness Education Centre / Academy (Student Council)*



ANOTHER MORNING: J.P.'S SONGBOOK

J.P. Cormier • Dave Gunning
Kim Dunn • Allie Bennett
Brian Talbot

Savoy Theatre, Glace Bay • 7:30PM

J.P. Cormier is a gifted multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter who has released more than a dozen records including two career retrospectives, and albums dedicated to mandolin, guitar, and banjo. Tonight's concert revisits his award-winning 1997 album, *Another Morning*. J.P. established himself in the 1980s as an indispensable sideman, adept on a variety of stringed instruments, after touring for years throughout the southern United States with country, bluegrass, old time, Americana, and gospel performers. He eventually made his way back north to his ancestral homeland of Cape Breton Island and exploded onto the traditional music scene in the mid-1990s. By the time he recorded *Another Morning*, J.P. was well-known on the East Coast for his unparalleled instrumental abilities. After the album came out, it was revealed that the man could sing! And write songs that drew comparisons to the works of folk legends like Stan Rogers. Join J.P. at the historic Savoy Theatre for a walk down memory lane as he takes the stage with Dave Gunning, Kim Dunn, Allie Bennett, and Brian Talbot to play through this beloved classic album.



FRIDAY OCTOBER 18

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19



MASTERS OF MELODY

Assynt
Dwayne Côté
& Jason MacDonald
Décota McNamara
& Jeremy Finney

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
Sydney Mines • 7:30PM**

Richmond County's Dwayne Côté has been universally praised as one of Cape Breton's most impressive fiddlers. His command of the instrument, his versatility of styles, and his outstanding compositions are just the beginning. It's in performance that one truly appreciates Dwayne's exceptional skill and technique, and the pure passion he possesses when driving the tunes. Dwayne will team up with Marion Bridge singer-songwriter Jason MacDonald for a melodic set of tunes and songs. Recognized for their tight-knit fiddle and pipe playing blended with intricate guitar lines and grooves, Scottish trio Assynt's music is inspired by the great piping, fiddle, and Gaelic traditions of the Highlands of Scotland. Décota McNamara and Jeremy Finney will have your toes tapping and heart soaring with their mix of original and reimagined tunes and songs. If it's the melodies that really get you, Sydney Mines is where you need to be tonight.

HOSTED BY St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Nearby Meal: Famopus Fish & Chips
4pm See pull-out map



DRIVE'ER AGAIN

Joanne MacIntyre & Sons
Keith, Kyle, & Colin MacDonald
Maxim & Gervais Cormier
Malcolm MacNeil
Dane Pedersen
Adrianne Chapman
Jason Roach
James MacLean

**Greenwood United Church, Baddeck
7:30PM**

One of the most remarkable things about Celtic Colours is how hundreds of artists get moved around all over Cape Breton Island to as many as six and seven concerts a day for nine days running. Keeping this logistical challenge from becoming a logistical nightmare are the dedicated volunteers of the Festival Volunteer Drive'ers Association. In addition to driving artists around, members of the not-for-profit association, sell Festival and artist CDs at Celtic Colours concerts for a small commission. Since 2006, the Association—in partnership with Lakewind Sound Studios—has used the monies collected from these sales to help an up-and-coming Cape Breton Celtic artist record their first album. In 2010, the Festival featured the first four recipients of what has become known as the Big Sampie award, named for the late Frank Sampson, a dedicated member of the driver corps. Drive'er Again showcases some of the more recent Big Sampie winners.

HOSTED BY Greenwood United Church Council

PIPERS' CÉILIDH

Assynt
Matt MacIsaac & Mac Morin
Cape Breton Island Pipe Band

**Colaisde na Gàidhlig / The Gaelic
College, St. Ann's • 2:00PM**

A perennial favourite at Celtic Colours, the Pipers' Céilidh never fails to thrill pipes enthusiasts of all descriptions. This afternoon's concert takes place at Colaisde na Gàidhlig / the Gaelic College in beautiful St. Ann's. The only institution of its kind in North America, piping has been taught at the College for many years. Each year the Pipers' Ceilidh showcases a variety of players and styles. This year's line-up offers more of the same with a pipes and piano duo, a folk trio featuring pipes, and a full-on competition and performance pipe band on the bill. Matt MacIsaac was born into a piping family in St. Peters, Cape Breton, and started playing whistle and pipes when he was 10 years old. Matt has toured and recorded with Natalie MacMaster and Beòlach, and competed as Pipe Major of the 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron Pipe Band, a grade 2 competitive band out of Borden, Ontario. Matt will be accompanied by Beòlach bandmate Mac Morin on piano. Award-winning instrumental folk trio Assynt will take the stage featuring former BBC Radio Scotland Young Musician of the Year finalist David Shedden on pipes and whistles. The Cape Breton Island Pipe Band will round out the afternoon.

HOSTED BY Colaisde na Gàidhlig / The Gaelic College



SATURDAY OCTOBER 19

ARTIST INDEX



THE GRAND FINALE

Carlos Núñez
Julie Fowlis
The Dublin Trio
Mary Frances Leahy
Cape Breton Island Pipe Band

Centre 200, Sydney
7:30PM • \$70/60/50/40/25

The 28th Celtic Colours International Festival wraps up with a céilidh of grand proportions. In case you haven't quite had your fill of music over the last nine days, we stacked the lineup for this one, just to make sure. Carlos Núñez is the world's most famous player of the Galician bagpipes, the gaita, and has been a Celtic Colours favourite since he first wowed Festival audiences in 2002. Award-winning Gaelic singer and multi-instrumentalist Julie Fowlis has graced stages around the world from village halls in the Scottish Highlands to Carnegie Hall in New York City, and The Philharmonie de Paris to the World Festival of Sacred Music in Fez, Morocco. We're very happy to have her back at Celtic Colours tonight. The Dublin Trio is capping off their first trip to the Festival while Mary Frances Leahy returns after making quite an impression last year in her solo debut. Top it all off with the Cape Breton Pipe Band and we're sure you'll agree, this is one fine Grand Finale indeed!



Nearby Meal: Howie Centre Roast
Beef Dinner • 4:30pm See pull-out map



Aaron Lewis • Pages 8, 13
Adam Young • Page 7
Adrianne Chapman • Page 22
Aidan & Cameron MacNeil • Page 7
Alex Kusturok with Tim Turrett • Pages 9, 11, 14
Allan Dewar • Pages 13, 15
Allie Bennett • Page 21
Allie Mombourquette • Page 9
Amy Laurenson & Miguel Girão • Pages 15, 16, 19, 20
Andrea Beaton • Pages 13, 16
Anna Massie • Pages 18, 19, 21
Archie Fisher • Pages 8, 11, 12
Ashley MacIsaac • Pages 6, 11
Assynt • Pages 18, 22
Beauxmont • Page 8
Beòlach • Pages 14, 19
Betty Beaton • Pages 6, 14, 16
Beverly MacLean • Pages 13, 21
Blanche Sophocleous • Pages 6, 10
Bradley Murphy • Pages 9, 11, 16
Breabach • Pages 12, 14, 18
Brenda Stubbert • Pages 6, 10
Brian Talbot • Page 21
Buddy MacDonald • Pages 6, 8, 15, 18
Cailean MacLean • Page 19
Caitlin Warbelow • Pages 12, 14, 20
Cape Breton Fiddlers' Association • Page 9
Cape Breton Island Pipe Band • Pages 22, 23
Carlos Núñez • Page 23
Cathy Ann MacPhee • Pages 7, 10
Cheryl, Iain & Ann MacQuarrie • Page 14
Chrissy Crowley • Page 17
Colin & Lili Watson • Pages 7, 18
Con O'Brien • Pages 15, 17, 19
Dane Pedersen • Page 22
Dara MacDonald • Page 7
Dave Gunning • Pages 16, 17, 21
Dawn & Margie Beaton • Pages 10, 18
Décota McNamara
& Jeremy Finney • Pages 19, 22
Derrick & Melody Cameron • Page 13
Dirk & Amelia Powell • Pages 16, 18, 19
Donna Marie DeWolfe • Pages 13, 15
Donnie Campbell & Jinks O'Neill • Page 20
Doug Lamey • Page 21
Douglas Cameron • Pages 7, 9
Doyle, McAuley & McAuley • Pages 12, 15, 18
Dwayne Côté • Pages 8, 22
Elise Boeur
& Adam Iredale-Gray • Pages 14, 17, 20, 21



ARTIST INDEX CONTINUED

Emily Dingwall • *Page 20*
 Eric Angus Whyte • *Page 7*
 Genticorum • *Pages 9, 11, 13, 14*
 Gerard Beaton • *Pages 7, 10*
 Gillian Head • *Page 20*
 Gordon Stobbe & JJ Guy • *Pages 6, 10, 13*
 Hailee LeFort Trio • *Pages 16, 19, 21*
 Hannah Krebs • *Page 7*
 Harold Davidson • *Pages 14, 17*
 Harvey Beaton • *Page 6*
 Heather Cameron
 & Kenny Stewart • *Pages 17, 18*
 Hilda Chiasson • *Pages 6, 13*
 Hirondelles • *Pages 14, 17*
 Howie MacDonald • *Pages 6, 13*
 Iain MacQuarrie • *Pages 7, 10*
 Ian MacDougall • *Page 12*
 Indian Bay Singers • *Page 8*
 Isabella Samson • *Page 12*
 Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers • *Pages 9, 11, 14*
 J.P. Cormier • *Pages 6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 19, 21*
 Jackie Dunn MacIsaac • *Page 6*
 Jake Charron • *Pages 12, 14*
 James MacLean • *Pages 7, 14, 20, 22*
 Jason MacDonald • *Pages 8, 22*
 Jason Roach • *Pages 17, 20*
 Jay Ungar & Molly Mason • *Pages 13, 15, 17*
 Jenny MacKenzie • *Page 18*
 Jim Payne & Fergus O'Byrne • *Pages 10, 12, 15, 16*
 Joanne MacIntyre & Sons • *Page 22*
 Joël Chiasson • *Page 15*
 John Doyle • *Pages 12, 15, 18, 19*
 Jordan Musycsyn • *Page 20*
 Julie Fowles • *Page 23*
 Keith Mullins • *Page 11*
 Keith, Kyle, & Colin MacDonald • *Page 22*
 Kenneth MacKenzie • *Page 18*
 Kevin Dugas • *Page 7*
 Kim Dunn • *Page 21*
 Kimberley & Skip Holmes • *Pages 6, 7, 10, 13*
 Kimberley Fraser • *Pages 8, 13*
 Kinnon Beaton • *Pages 6, 14, 16*
 Kolten MacDonell • *Page 7*
 Krista & Rhonda Touesnard • *Page 13*
 La Swing du Suête • *Page 9*
 Lawrence Cameron • *Pages 7, 9*
 Leanne Aucoin • *Page 10*
 Les pieds au vol • *Page 9*
 Lisa Cameron
 & Vern MacDougall • *Page 7*
 Mac Morin • *Pages 8, 12, 14, 18, 19, 22*

Màiri Chaimbeul • *Pages 11, 15, 16*
 Mairi Rankin • *Pages 14, 18, 19*
 Malcolm MacNeil • *Pages 10, 22*
 Margie Beaton • *Page 14*
 Mary Beth Carty • *Page 21*
 Mary Frances Leahy • *Page 23*
 Mary Jane Lamond • *Page 7*
 Matt MacIsaac • *Pages 14, 19, 22*
 Maureen Fraser • *Page 9*
 Maxim & Gervais Cormier • *Page 22*
 Michael Cavanaugh • *Page 21*
 Morgan Toney • *Page 11*
 Myles Davidson • *Page 17*
 Nipper MacLeod • *Pages 8, 18*
 Patricia Chafe • *Page 13*
 Patrick Gillis • *Page 18*
 Rachel Davis
 & Darren McMullen • *Page 15*
 Rakish • *Pages 13, 16, 18, 20*
 Ray Legere • *Pages 6, 7*
 Richard Wood • *Pages 6, 7, 9, 14*
 Rob MacLean • *Page 16*
 Rodney MacDonald • *Page 14*
 Roger Stone • *Pages 14, 17*
 Rose Morrison • *Pages 7, 11, 18*
 Rum Ragged • *Pages 8, 11, 12*
 Ryan Young • *Pages 15, 17*
 Sandy MacDonald • *Page 21*
 Scott Macmillan • *Page 20*
 Shane Pendergast • *Pages 8, 10, 13, 18*
 Shawnee Paul • *Page 11*
 Shelly Campbell • *Pages 13, 15*
 Stacey Read • *Pages 10, 11, 13*
 Stephanie MacDonald • *Page 10*
 Steve MacIntyre • *Page 8*
 Susan MacLean • *Page 10*
 Sylvia LeLievre with Marcel Lefort • *Page 21*
 Tammy MacDonald • *Page 14*
 Taya MacDonald • *Page 13*
 The Dublin Trio • *Pages 20, 21, 23*
 The Gilberts • *Pages 9, 11, 12*
 The Men of the Deepes • *Page 21*
 The Once • *Pages 8, 10*
 The Pellerin Brothers • *Pages 6, 9, 13*
 The Warner Sisters • *Page 6*
 Tracey MacNeil • *Pages 8, 13, 20*
 Troy MacGillivray • *Pages 10, 12, 14, 18, 20*
 Wendy MacIsaac • *Pages 6, 8, 14, 19*

VENUE INDEX

Acadian Trailhead, Cheticamp Visitor Centre
 16 Chemin Visitor Centre Road, Cheticamp
 Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site
 559 Chebucto St, Baddeck
 An Drochaid/The Bridge Museum
 11513 Nova Scotia Trunk 19, Mabou
 Baile nan Gàidheal / Highland Village
 4119 Highway 223, Iona
 Belle Côte Community Centre
 10615 Cabot Trail, Belle Côte
 Big Intervale
 456 Beulach Rd., Cape North
 Big Pond Community Centre / Fire Hall
 7193 NS Highway 4, Big Pond
 Boisdale Fire Hall
 3810 Grand Narrows Hwy, Boisdale
 BOLD Centre
 490 Chebucto Street, Baddeck
 Boularderie School
 12065 Kempt Head Rd, Boularderie
 Bras d'Or Yacht Club
 1 Jones St, Baddeck
 Cabot Volunteer Fire Department Fire Hall
 29428 Cabot Trail, Cape North
 Calvin Memorial Hall
 3 Upper Warren St, Louisbourg
 Calvin United Church
 417 Smith St, New Waterford
 Calvin United Church (Margaree Harbour)
 67 Margaree Harbour Village
 Rd, Margaree Harbour
 Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design
 322 Charlotte Street, Sydney
 Cape Breton Highlands Academy
 11070 Cabot Trail Rd, Belle Côte
 Cape Breton Miners' Museum
 17 Museum St, Glace Bay
 Cape Breton University
 1250 Grand Lake Rd, Sydney
 Carman United Church • 1 Clyde Avenue,
 Sydney Mines, Sydney Mines
 Celtic Music Interpretive Centre
 5471 Nova Scotia Trunk 19, Judique
 Centre 200 • 481 George St, Sydney
 Centre de la Mi-Carême
 51 Old Cabot Trail Rd, Grand Étang
 Chestico Museum
 8095 Route 19 Harbourview, Port Hood
 Club des Retraités
 15108 Cabot Trail, Cheticamp
 Colaisde na Gàidhlig / The Gaelic College
 51779 Cabot Trail Rd, St. Ann's
 Corney Brook Trail
 18573 Cabot Trail, Cheticamp
 Coxheath Hills Wilderness Trail
 1580 Coxheath Rd, Coxheath
 D'Escousse Civic Improvement Hall
 3276 Highway 320, D'Escousse



VENUE INDEX CONTINUED

Église Saint Joseph
12585 Cabot Trail, Petit de Grat

Fortress of Louisbourg Chapel
259 Park Service Rd, Louisbourg

Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site
259 Park Service Rd, Louisbourg

Freshwater Lake, Ingonish Beach
Beach Road, Ingonish Beach

Greenwood United Church
98 Twining St., Baddeck

Highland Arts Theatre
40 Bentinck St, Sydney

Ingonish Beach Soccer Field
90 Beach Road, Ingonish Beach

Inverary Resort - MacAulay Conference Centre
368 Shore Rd, Baddeck

Inverness County Centre for the Arts
16080 Highway 19, Inverness

Inverness Education Centre / Academy
59 Veterans Memorial Ct, Inverness

J. Franklin Wright Gallery at Port
Hawkesbury Civic Centre
606 Reeves St, Port Hawkesbury

Judique Community Centre
5473 Nova Scotia Trunk 19, Judique

Knox Presbyterian Church
39 Grant St, Baddeck

Knox United Church (Coxheath)
1588 Coxheath Road, Sydney

L'Arche Cape Breton Gathering Place
8356 Hwy 105, Iron Mines

L'Ardoise Community Centre
206 Chapel Cove Rd, L'Ardoise

La Picasse Centre Communautaire Culturel
3435 Route 206 Petit-de-Grat

La Place des arts Père Anselme Chiasson
15118 Cabot Trail Rd, Cheticamp

Lennox Passage Provincial Park
2313 Highway 320, Martinique

Lobsters R Us
197 Little Harbour Rd, L'Ardoise

Louisbourg Playhouse
11 Aberdeen St, Louisbourg

Marion Bridge Recreation Centre
3921 Gabarus Hwy, Marion Bridge

McConnell Library
50 Falmouth St, Sydney

Membertou Trade & Convention Centre
50 Maillard St, Membertou

Mica Hill Trailhead
South Harbour, Cabot Trail

Mira Seniors & Pensioners Centre
4037 Gabarus Hwy, Marion Bridge

Mkwesagtuk / Cap-Rouge Campground -
Interpretation House
18283 Cabot Trail, Petit Étang

North Highlands Community Culture Centre
29243 Cabot Trail, Dingwall

North Highlands Elementary
1363 Bay St Lawrence Rd, Aspy Bay

North Sydney Firefighters Club
14 Pierce St, North Sydney

Notre Dame de l'Assomption
2292 NS-206, Arichat

OLA Parish Hall
2318 Hwy 206, Arichat

Our Lady of Fatima Church
1452 Kings Rd, Sydney River

Pepperell Place Inn
9383 Pepperrell Street, St. Peter's

Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre
606 Reeves St, Port Hawkesbury

Port Morien Legion / Community Centre
2832 Highway 255, Port Morien

Riverdale Community Centre
106 Vince McCarthy Dr, Lower River Inhabitants

Rocky Bay Irish Club
751 Rocky Bay Rd, Rocky Bay

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 008
769 Main Street, Sydney Mines

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 151
2317 Kings Rd, Howie Centre

SAERC (Strait Area Education Recreation Centre)
304 Pitt St #1, Port Hawkesbury

Sarah Denny Cultural Center
65 Mini Mall Dr, Eskasoni

Savoy Theatre
116 Commercial St, Glace Bay

Scotsville School of Crafts
2234 Strathlorne Scotsville Rd, Scotsville

Skye Glen & Centreville Community Hall
1904 Hwy 252, Skye Glen

South West Margaree (St. Joseph's Parish)
Hall • 643 Main St, Sydney Mines

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
643 Main St, Sydney Mines

St. Ann's Bay United Church
46715 Cabot Trail, Indian Brook

St. Barra Church & Christmas Island
Communities Centre
47 Church Rd, Christmas Island

St. John's Centre for the Arts (Former Anglican
Church) • 2513 Highway 206, Arichat

St. Joseph's Parish (Port Hawkesbury)
138 Granville Street, Port Hawkesbury

St. Mary of the Angels Community Hall
4216 Trans Canada Highway 105, Glendale

St. Mary's Catholic Church (East Bay)
3944 East Bay Highway, East Bay

St. Mary's Parish Hall (Mabou Hall)
Route 19, Mabou

St. Matthew-Wesley United Church
27 St. Columba Drive, Leitches Creek

St. Matthew's United Church
78 Church St, Inverness

St. Michael's Catholic Church
1195 East Margaree Rd., Margaree

St. Paul's Anglican Church
115 Cliff Street, Port Morien

St. Peter's Church
37385 Cabot Trail Rd, Ingonish Beach

St. Peter's Lions Hall
39 Lions Ave, St. Peter's

St. Peter's Parish Hall
260 Main Street, Port Hood

St. Peter's United Church Hall
9915 Grenville St, St. Peter's

Strait Area Museum
24 Hwy 19, Port Hastings

Strathspey Performing Arts Centre
11156 Rte 19, Mabou

Trinity Anglican Church
16 Queen Street, Sydney Mines

United Protestant Church of Sydney River
1524 Kings Rd, Sydney River

Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre
10765 NS-105, Wagmatcook

Warren Lake Trailhead
325 Warren Lake Rd, Ingonish

Whycocomagh Education Centre
50 MacLeod Ln, Whycocomagh

Whycocomagh Waterfront Centre
9650 NS-105, Whycocomagh

Wilson United Church
1625 West Big Intervale Road, Margaree Centre



Search
for your
favourite
artists
in a snap,
or tap

Our website is mobile
friendly celticcolours.ca



Don't forget
to remove the
pull-out
festival map
on page 14



26

Festival Information

UNAMA'KI - LAND OF FOG

The Celtic Colours International Festival takes place in beautiful Unama'ki (the Mi'kmaw name for Cape Breton Island), where you are never far from a breathtaking ocean view or a lush forested area. Mi'kmaw is a verb-based language that, millennia ago, was passed down through oral storytelling, which is still a cornerstone of Mi'kmaw tradition and culture today. The Island is home to the five First Nations communities of We'koqma'q, Wagmatcook, Membertou, Eskasoni, and Potlotek. Mi'kmaq have called Unama'ki their home for thousands of years, and have always been caretakers of the Island as they are now.

You will have many opportunities to learn about and engage with rich, living Mi'kmaw traditions and culture during the Festival.

FESTIVAL DRIVE'ERS

The Festival Volunteer Drive'ers Association is an incorporated not-for-profit society. Formed in August 2004, the Association's membership is made up of individuals who volunteer as drivers with the Celtic Colours International Festival. Drivers also volunteer their time selling performing artists' and Celtic Colours CDs at venues during the Festival. Proceeds from these sales are directed to the Association who provide grants and bursary programs.

THE FRANK SAMPSON "BIG SAMPIE" AWARD grants recording studio time to an up-and-coming Celtic artist. Between 2006 and 2024 more than \$38,000 has been awarded.

THE JOHN ALLAN CAMERON BURSARY is available to Cape Breton students of Colaisde Na Gàidhlig / The Gaelic College. Over 100 students have been awarded more than \$53,000 since its creation in 2006.

The Association has also awarded more than \$19,000 in travel bursaries over the years to several individuals and groups, assisting them to attend dance competitions, performances, and student exchange groups to Scotland, Ireland, and various parts of Canada.

festivalvolunteerdrivers@outlook.ca

CELTIC COLOURS IN THE SCHOOLS

*Program Presented by
Cape Breton University*

Celtic Colours International Festival recognizes the importance of keeping our cultural traditions alive—especially among young people on the Island. These cultural traditions build pride of place in our communities, and help to sustain cultural activities, including our Festival. A great deal of time and effort is placed on creating opportunities to present traditional cultures, from here and elsewhere, to students in public schools across Cape Breton through this program. Cape Breton University, a long-time Festival supporter, is the presenting sponsor of the Celtic Colours in the Schools program.

The program consists of a series of performance-based presentations, featuring artists from the Celtic Colours lineup, delivered to students across Cape Breton Island throughout the school year. Since 2014, when the Schools Program began being offered free-of-charge to students, we have presented hundreds of performances to tens of thousands of students across the Island in both rural and urban communities.

The goal of the program is to expose young people to music that is rooted in culture by way of artists who share compositions and arrangements that are influenced by tradition.

There has been a significant transition in the way children access cultural traditions. Having a program that brings music into the schools is vital to the recognition of our Island's musical heritage. Exposure to roots and traditional music and dance styles is vital to sustaining an interest in culture and the arts. And it reaches children who may not otherwise have an opportunity to meet artists and culture bearers, and experience live music.





THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CELTIC COLOURS NEVER SLEEPS...

CELTIC
COLOURS

**Festival
Club**

As the evening concerts conclude, the licensed Festival Club comes alive with the spirit of Celtic Colours. Relax and unwind as Festival artists perform in an informal setting with friends and fellow musicians from far and wide.

*Performance is by invitation only and depends on the availability on any given night.
The performance schedule is not posted in advance.*

STARRING



Colaisde Na Gàidhlig / the Gaelic College, a St. Ann's • \$20 • 11pm • October 12-19
19 & over, photo ID required

What makes a great musician...

Mastery of their instrument

Ability to innovate

**Dedication to continuous
improvement**

**Adaptability to different
styles and genres**

A deep passion for their craft

**...also makes a
great printer.**

