

Please verify all information and event details before attending events.



Scottish News in Minnesota



DECEMBER 2014

EVENTS

DECEMBER

SimpleGifts with Billy McLaughlin Holiday Concerts 2014

As long-time fans will tell you, SimpleGifts makes musical magic by bringing a modern flair to traditional Christmas carols and hymns. Staying close to the heart of Christmas by avoiding commercial and pop holiday repertoire has become the trademark of this award winning six-piece ensemble. SimpleGifts combines violin, Celtic flutes, whistles and bagpipes, piano, acoustic guitar and percussion with angelic three part female vocals to create a "modern Old-World" sound. There is nothing ordinary about the arrangements this team delivers both in the studio and in concert. Seen by over 20,000 live audience members last season, this group continues to grow in popularity throughout the Upper Midwest. With exceptional set and lighting design and an impeccable sound, SimpleGifts puts community celebration ahead of commercialization by

pulling the audience into the sublime side of traditional repertoire in a truly meaningful Christmas event.

Concert details (performing throughout December) and tickets available here: [SimpleGifts with Billy McLaughlin](#)

DECEMBER 3

St. Andrew's annual Kirkin' of the Tartans

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 7:00pm, we will be hosting our annual Kirkin' of the Tartans at Epiphany Episcopal Church, 4900 Nathan Lane in Plymouth. Please join us for this traditional St. Andrew's Day event. The service will be followed by a tea with wonderful goodies.

Epiphany Episcopal Church | 4900 Nathan Lane N | Plymouth, MN 55442

DECEMBER 5

O'Rourke's Feast Celtic Christmas Concert

O'ROURKE'S FEAST, an Irish traditional music ensemble led by Saint Paul's Irish button accordion legend Paddy O'Brien, will celebrate their first-ever Celtic Christmas Concert on Friday, December 5, starting at 7:30 PM at Celtic Junction, 836 Prior Avenue North in Saint Paul.

The band has planned a feast of not-your-usual holiday fare, including harp tunes from the 17th century, lively jigs and reels, and a couple of 500-year old traditional carols from County Wexford sung by guest artist Erin Hart.

Admission for the concert is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$7 for children under 12, and tickets will be available at the door. Complimentary holiday treats will be served. The new O'Rourke's Feast self-titled CD will be on sale at the concert, along with other titles from New Folk Records, just in time for holiday giving!

O'ROURKE'S FEAST is a lively seven-piece Irish traditional music ensemble, with repertoire that includes dance melodies like jigs and reels, plus older, oft-neglected material from the Irish tradition, including hornpipes, clan marches, and some beautiful old slow airs and songs. The group also plays some original music, composed by members of the band in traditional style.

O'ROURKE'S FEAST is led by button accordion master Paddy O'Brien, a native of County Offaly in Ireland, and renowned all over the world as a walking encyclopedia of Irish traditional music. Paddy has been playing and rehearsing with O'Rourke's Feast since 2005, cultivating the ensemble's unique and authentic traditional sound. Other members of O'Rourke's Feast include Kathleen Green, Ingrid Jans and Rosa Wells on

fiddle, Suzanne Rhees and Amy Shaw on flute, and Sherry Ladig on piano.

Celtic Junction | 836 Prior Avenue North| Saint Paul, MN

DECEMBER 6

RSCDS Twin Cities 18th Annual Failte Dance

6 December 2014, 6:30pm at the Celtic Junction in St. Paul.

"Fàilte" means welcome in Gaelic, and all Scottish dancers, beginners and experienced, are most welcome*! The Fàilte Ball is intended to be a gentle introduction to the ball scene for newer dancers, and a fun night for all. Enjoy a scrumptious dessert buffet, live music by Thistledown, and dancing. Tickets are just \$25, with a \$5 discount available if you are attending your first ball. If you are not (yet!) a dancer, you can come to watch, listen, and eat for just \$10. Details at rscds-twincities.org/failte.html

*PLEASE NOTE: Although we consider this event to be "beginner-friendly," we do strongly recommend that dancers have some previous exposure to Scottish country dancing (a few classes at least) and familiarity with the terminology. Please contact us at info [at] rscds-twincities.org if you have any questions about your ability to participate.

Celtic Junction | 836 Prior Avenue North| Saint Paul, MN

DECEMBER 7

St. Andrew's Day event

On Sunday, December 7th, we will be hosting our annual St. Andrew's Day event. This year it will begin with a brunch at The Liffey on West Seventh Street in St. Paul at 11:00 am. We will then proceed to the Minnesota History Center for an afternoon visiting Minnesota's great history, featuring current exhibits of Toys from the '60s, '70s, and '80s, as well as an exhibit about World War II and the Greatest Generation and their permanent historic exhibits. Invitations and reservation sheets have gone out. If you didn't receive one, or misplaced it, contact Don Bruce at bruce1051@comcast.net or 651-492-9181. Be sure and get those reservations in.

The Liffey | 175 7th St W | St Paul, MN 55102

MN History Center | 345 W Kellogg Blvd | St Paul, MN 55102

DECEMBER 13

Willow Brae in concert

Saturday, December 13 at 2:00 PM

Laura MacKenzie, winds and voice, and Andrea Stern, Celtic harp (the duo Willow Brae). Part of the World Music series at Hosmer library - a wonderful series, free and open to all. Co-sponsored by KFAI Radio, curated by Dan Rein.

All ages.

www.lauramackenzie.com

[Hosmer Library | 347 East 36th St. | Minneapolis, MN](#)

JANUARY 17

Second Annual MSFHG & MSCDA Robert Burns Night

The MSF&HG and the Minnesota Scottish Celtic Dance Association (MSCDA) are once again teaming up to celebrate the birth of Scotland famous poet Robert Burns. Join us at the Celtic Junction in St. Paul for an evening of song, dance, food and friends.

Social hour begins at 6:30pm with light appetizers. The program begins at 7:30 and dancing at 8:30. Available for purchase: beer, wine and meat pies!

Buy your tickets today! www.mnscottishfair.org/burnsnight.html

Please print and bring your receipt to the door as your ticket.

Celtic Junction | 836 Prior Avenue North | Saint Paul, MN

JANUARY 31

39th Annual St. Andrew's Society Burns Dinner

Save the date of January 31 for the 39th Annual St. Andrew's Society Burns Dinner at the Fort Snelling Officers' Club. Invitations will be going out in December. Get your reservations in early as this event usually is a sell out.

Fort Snelling Officers' Club | 395 Highway 5 and Post Road | St Paul, MN

FEBRUARY 6

You're invited to the Macalester College Winter Open House and Pasta Dinner!

Friday, February 6, 2015
6:00pm until 8:00pm

Blow away the February chill with an evening of pasta, music, and good company! Free dinner (with gluten free and vegetarian options) and musical performances by the Macalester College Pipe Band and other local celtic music groups. This family night will include a chance for folks of all ages to learn more about the life of our pipe band and the Great Highland Bagpipes & Drums and to try on a kilt or have a go on a practice chanter or drum pad. Donations will be welcome. An RSVP to MacPipeBandRSVP@gmail.com is appreciated (so we know how much pasta to make) but not necessary.

Macalester-Plymouth United Church | 1658 Lincoln Ave, Saint Paul | Minnesota 55105
(Next door to Macalester College)

NEWS

Laura MacKenzie News

The new CD **"From Uig to Duluth"** was launched in October, and is now available!

MacKenzie's recording of Scots Gaelic music and song also features Dáithí Sproule on guitar and Andrea Stern on harp. Sourced mainly from field recordings, this is a beautiful collection of music with a special connection to Scottish heritage in Minnesota.

Tis the Season.... MacKenzie's popular recordings *"Celtic Holiday"* and *"Yuletide Bagpipes"* are also available this year!

All MacKenzie CDs can be found at : www.lauramackenzie.com

The Celtic Croft Has a New Store!



Just two miles down the road from our home (where we've done business for the previous 14 years). We ran out of room to grow and had to move the business! We now have a large new warehouse, office, and a real showroom! Come see us!

8451 Xerxes Ave N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444 ([map](#)).
Hours: M-Th 8:00am–5:30pm, F 8:00am–5:00pm, and Sat

10:00am–2:00pm.

The SNIM is sponsored by the [Scottish American Center](#). We welcome news from all variety of Celts. Please send news, announcements, questions and concerns to scottishamericancenter@yahoo.com. Please note, editorial pieces may be subject to approval by the Scottish American Center board before posting.

Sign up to receive the SNIM via e-mail on the Scottish American Center website:
<http://scottishamericancentermn.org/SNIM.php>

Thank you!
Tiffany Esau-McCracken
Scottish American Center



Scottish American Center
3030 West River Parkway South
Minneapolis, MN, Minnesota 55406-2396
US