

## **PALMETTO PIPES & DRUMS CHANTER & BAND PRACTICE**

### **Objective**

Monday night chanter practices have always been designed in such a way as to provide students with an informal and fun setting in which to learn how to play the bagpipes. This will continue. However, a number of changes will be implemented to promote learning in a more standardized manner.

### **Five Class Levels Lead to Band Membership**

Soon after the beginning of 2003, chanter students will be asked to perform on the practice chanter in front of a panel of instructors (day and time TBA) to determine in which Grade they should be placed. Beginning, intermediate and advanced students will find themselves in one of five categories. These Grades have not been designed as a mechanism to divide the band but rather as a way to facilitate the teaching and learning of the Great Highland Bagpipes. A student will know that he/she is at the same Grade of playing as other people in his/her class.

- Grade 5:**      **Beginning Chanter** (Basic musical knowledge, “the big notes,” Page 14 with no crossing noises)
  
- Grade 4:**      **Embellishments** (All gracenotes, doublings, grips, etc., with easy tunes e.g., *Scots Wha Hae*, *Amazing Grace*)
  
- Grade 3:**      **Six Basic Tunes:** (Memorization of first tunes: *Hyfrodol*, *The Day Thou Hast Giv’n*, *Brown Haired Maiden*, *High Road to Gairloch*, *Mairi’s Wedding*, *God Bless America*)
  
- Grade 2:**      **Beginning Bagpipes** (Blowing, instrument maintenance, applying everything from Grades 5, 4 & 3 to the pipes.)
  
- Grade 1:**      **Remainder of Basic Band Tunes** (Tier I)
  
- Band:**        **Band Curriculum** (Intermediate and Advanced Tunes (Tiers II & III, Seasonal Tunes)

### **Demonstration of Mastery**

When a teacher and student agree that the student is ready to graduate to the next Grade, the student will demonstrate mastery of specific knowledge and skills to a panel of instructors. A successful exhibition will result in graduation to the next Grade. The criteria will focus on the following: open embellishments, tempo, correct playing (has the student memorized the tunes satisfactorily?)

*For the benefit of current students, this audition process will be implemented after the month of January, 2003. This time will give current students and teachers a chance to determine which grade and class is best suited for each individual student.*

**PALMETTO PIPES & DRUMS**  
**Monday Night Schedule**

**Monday Night Chanter & Band Practice Schedule**

- 5:30 – 6:30 : Practice Chanter Grades 5, 4, 3, and 1
- 6:30 – 6:45 : Band Business Meeting
- 6:45 – 7:30 :  
1) Band Rehearsal, Practice Chanter  
2) Beginning Pipes, Grade 2  
3) Drum Corps lessons & practice
- 7:30 – 8:30 : Band Rehearsal, Pipes
- 8:30 – 8:45 : “Jamming Session” (Advanced Pipes)

---

**PALMETTO PIPES & DRUMS  
DETAILED REQUIREMENTS**

**GRADE 5**

Use Sandy Jones' *Beginning the Bagpipe*.

Students in Grade 5 will be working on basic musical knowledge and the notes.

Emphasis for this Grade: correct and CLEAR execution (**beware of crossing noises**)

**Requirements for graduation to the next Grade:**

- 1) Names of the notes (students should be able to identify each of the nine notes on a staff)
- 2) Differences between whole-note, half-note, quarter-note, eighth-note, sixteenth-note, thirty-second-note and the "dot"
- 3) Time signatures (students should be able to explain what a time signature of 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8, etc. means)
- 4) Finger posture (dos and don'ts)
- 5) **Be able to play Page 14 of Sandy Jones' *Beginning the Bagpipe* well and without crossing noises (this is the main requirement for this Grade)**

---

**Grade 5 Curriculum:**

Basic Music Theory:

- 1) The staff (p. 1)
- 2) The names of the musical notes (p. 1)
- 3) The bagpipe scale (p. 1)
- 4) Measure (p. 1)
- 5) Repeats & brackets (p. 2)
- 6) Whole-Note, Half-Note, Quarter-Note, Eighth-Note, Sixteenth-Note, Thirty-Second-Note (p. 2)
- 7) The "dot" (p. 2)
- 8) Time signatures (p. 3)

Basic Chanter:

- 9) Finger posture (pp. 5-6)
- 10) Items to remember when developing finger posture (Dos and Don'ts) (pp. 7-8)
- 11) Developing the scale (right and left hands development) (pp. 9-13)
- 12) Two Hand Exercises, Page 14

## **GRADE 4**

Use Sandy Jones' *Beginning the Bagpipe*.

Supplementary recommended text: Jim McGillivray, *Rhythmic Fingerwork*

Students in Grade 4 will be working on gracenotes and embellishments. In addition students will tackle a couple of easy tunes integrating some of the gracenotes and embellishments.

***Keep on practicing what you have learned in Grade 5.***

Emphases for this Grade: ***OPEN embellishments***, tempo, correct and CLEAR execution (**beware of crossing noises**)

### **Requirements for graduation to the next Grade:**

- 1) Good OPEN execution of each of the gracenotes and embellishments found on "Grade 4 Daily Exercises."
- 2) Be able to play *Scots Wha Hae* and *Amazing Grace* well and without crossing noises **from memory** (focus on OPEN embellishments, tempo and correct execution).

---

### **Grade 4 Curriculum:**

- |                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) Gracenotes (pp. 15-17)  | 12) <b><i>Scots Wha Hae</i></b> |
| 2) GDEs (p. 18)            | 13) D Doubling (p. 28)          |
| 3) The Tachum (p. 19)      | 14) C Doubling (p. 28)          |
| 4) Strikes (pp. 20-21)     | 15) B Doubling (p. 30)          |
| 5) D Throw (p. 22)         | 16) Low A Doubling (p. 30)      |
| 6) Half Doublings (p. 23)  | 17) Low G Doubling (p. 31)      |
| 7) High A Doubling (p. 24) | 18) Grip (Leumluath) (p. 33)    |
| 8) High G Doubling (p. 24) | 19) Taorluath (p. 35)           |
| 9) F Doubling (p. 25)      | <b>20) <i>Amazing Grace</i></b> |
| 10) E Doubling (p. 25)     |                                 |
| 11) The Birl (p. 27)       |                                 |

### **GRADE 3**

Students in Grade 4 will be working on six basic tunes found in Tier I of the band repertoire. *Students in the grade will also receive a copy of the official band repertoire book, a ring binder with all the current tunes being played by the band.*

***Keep on practicing what you have learned in Grades 5 and 4.***

Emphases for this Grade: Correct memorization of tunes, and playing them with ***OPEN embellishments***, steady tempo, correct and CLEAR execution (**beware of crossing noises**)

#### **Requirements for graduation to the next Grade:**

- 1) Be able to play the six tunes below well and **from memory** (focus on OPEN embellishments, tempo and correct execution)

**UPON GRADUATION FROM GRADE 3 STUDENTS WILL  
START ON THE GREAT HIGHLAND BAGPIPES**

---

#### **Grade 3 Curriculum:**

##### **Basic Tunes (Tier I)**

Follow the order below (once a tune has been mastered by EACH student move to the next one)

- 1) Hyfrodol
- 2) The Day Thou Hast Giv'n
- 3) Brown Haired Maiden
- 4) High Road to Gairloch
- 5) Mairi's Wedding
- 6) God Bless America

## **GRADE 2**

Students in Grade 2 will familiarize themselves with the Great Highland Bagpipes.

*Keep on practicing what you have learned in Grades 5, 4 and 3.*

Emphases for this Grade: ***OPEN embellishments***, tempo, correct and CLEAR execution  
(beware of crossing noises)

### **Requirements for graduation to the next Grade:**

- 1) Demonstrate knowledge of the instrument (What is the name of each part? How does the instrument work? Etc.)
- 2) Be able to tune up the instrument (chanter and drones)
- 3) Show familiarity with maintenance techniques
- 4) **Be able to play everything you have learned in Grades 5 to 3 on the bagpipes (this is the main requirement for this Grade)**

---

### **Grade 2 Curriculum:**

- 1) The instrument
  - a) Drones (2 tenors, 1 bass)
  - b) Blow pipe
  - c) Chanter
  - d) Bag (types of bags)
- e) Reeds (drone and chanter)
- 2) How to play the bagpipes (blowing)
- 3) Tuning up the instrument
  - a) Chanter reed
  - b) Chanter
  - c) Drone reeds
  - d) Drones
- 4) Maintenance Techniques
  - a) Yellow hemp
  - b) Cleaning
  - c) Chanter and drone reeds
- 5) Play everything you have learned in Grades 5 to 3 on the bagpipes.

## **GRADE 1**

Students in Grade 1 will be working on the remainder of the Tier I tunes.

*Keep on practicing what you have learned in Grades 5, 4, 3 and 2.*

Emphases for this Grade: ***OPEN embellishments***, tempo, correct and CLEAR execution  
(beware of crossing noises)

### **Requirements for graduation to the next Grade:**

- 1) *Be able to play the tunes below well and **from memory** (focus on OPEN embellishments, tempo and correct execution)*

**UPON GRADUATION FROM GRADE 1 STUDENTS WILL BE  
FORMALLY INDUCTED INTO THE PALMETTO PIPES & DRUMS**

---

### **Grade 1 Curriculum:**

#### **Basic Tunes (Tier I)**

- 1) Flower of Scotland
- 2) McRae Meadow
- 3) Highland Cathedral
- 4) Bells of Dunblane
- 5) Scotland the Brave
- 6) Rowan Tree
- 7) Will Ye No' Come Back Again
- 8) Johnnie Scobie
- 9) Green Hills of Tyrol
- 10) When the Battle is O'er
- 11) Castle Dangerous

## **THE BAND**

Students in the band (and we are all, always, students) will continue working on the remainder of the band repertoire (Tiers II & III) as well as the seasonal tunes. It is an obligation of those who perform with the band to stay proficient on the entire band repertoire, as well as work diligently on the development of new tunes, sets, and medleys as they are assigned.

*Keep on practicing what you have learned in Grades 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1.*

Emphases for this Grade: **OPEN embellishments**, tempo, correct and CLEAR execution (**beware of crossing noises**)

### **Band Curriculum:**

#### **Intermediate Tunes (Tier II)**

Lochanside  
Loch Maree  
Lord Lovat's Lament  
Battle of Waterloo  
Flett from Flotta  
The Dark Island  
Going Home  
Mist Covered Mountains  
Morag of Dunvegan  
Skye Boat Song  
Cock o' the North  
Bonny Dundee  
Caber Feidh

#### **Advanced Tunes (Tier III)**

Pipe Major Donald McLean of Lewis  
Mrs. Lily Christie  
Dennypace  
Inverness Rant  
Balm in Gilead  
Piper of Drummond  
Willie's Brogues

#### **Novelty/Seasonal**

Angels We Have Heard on High  
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen  
Ding Dong Merrily on High  
O Come All Ye Faithful  
Veni Emmanuel  
Little Drummer Boy  
Hark the Herald  
The Minstrel Boy  
The Wearing of the Green

Please feel free to contact Pascal if you have any questions regarding the requirements for each of the five Grades or if you need advice regarding a particular embellishment, measure, line, tune or piping in general.

Pascal MacLellan Reber  
2400 Ashland Rd., Apt. H-6  
Columbia, SC 29210

Phone/fax: (803)750-4182  
Cell: (803)467-8525  
E-mail: [ptrmaclellan@hotmail.com](mailto:ptrmaclellan@hotmail.com)