

John's Bio

John is a world-renowned performer and composer and holds the prestigious honor of being one of only 11 pipers in history and the only piper outside of Scotland to win both Gold Medals (at Oban and Inverness) in the same year. He is the Pipe Sergeant with the Scottish Lion - 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band and the proprietor of **Bagpipe Solutions by John Cairns** (www.bagpipesolutions.com).

The Music

The idea behind this music was to tell a series of stories using the bagpipe as the main voice. Unlike other piping CDs, where the arrangement is written around an existing bagpipe tune, I wrote the drum rhythms and chord progressions first and then wrote the pipe music. My goals were to write melodies that were recognizable by the listener (i.e. melodies that they could easily repeat back) and to also write bagpipe music that would appeal to anyone and everyone. Too often the music that is portrayed on the bagpipe is so complex that only the die-hard fans will recognize a melody at all.

I also wanted to portray the bagpipe in the same light as other conventional orchestral instruments. To that end, I have intentionally recorded the bagpipe tracks at Bb concert. You will also hear that some audio affects have been added to soften the sound and add some colour to the instrument.

I hope you enjoy the music. John Cairns

PS: For those wondering, the photo on the the front cover, is taken from a painting of my great-great grandfather.

Thank You's

My wife Debbie for all of her encouragement, support and love.

My kids Brittany, Malcolm and Olivia for inspiring me.

Mr. Innis Campbell and the Scottish Lion (www.scottishlion.com) for believing in this project.

Yvan Gagné, for his excellent graphic artwork.

Credits

All music except *The Old Woman's Lullaby* (which is Public Domain) was written and arranged by John Cairns ©2007 (SOCAN). All rights reserved. Unauthorized duplication (in part or whole) is a violation of applicable laws. Made in Canada.

All bagpipe parts played by John Cairns.

Shawn O'Donnell played the guitar solos on *First Landing* and *Chasing Time*.

My daughter Olivia Schamann was the child's voice on *The Old Woman's Lullaby*.

Doug Stronach - what can I say ... this man was instrumental (no pun intended) in the creation of this CD. He produced the CD, played all of the percussion parts and background instruments, and contributed greatly to the development of each arrangement - thank you Doug!

This CD is a **Scottish Lion Production**.



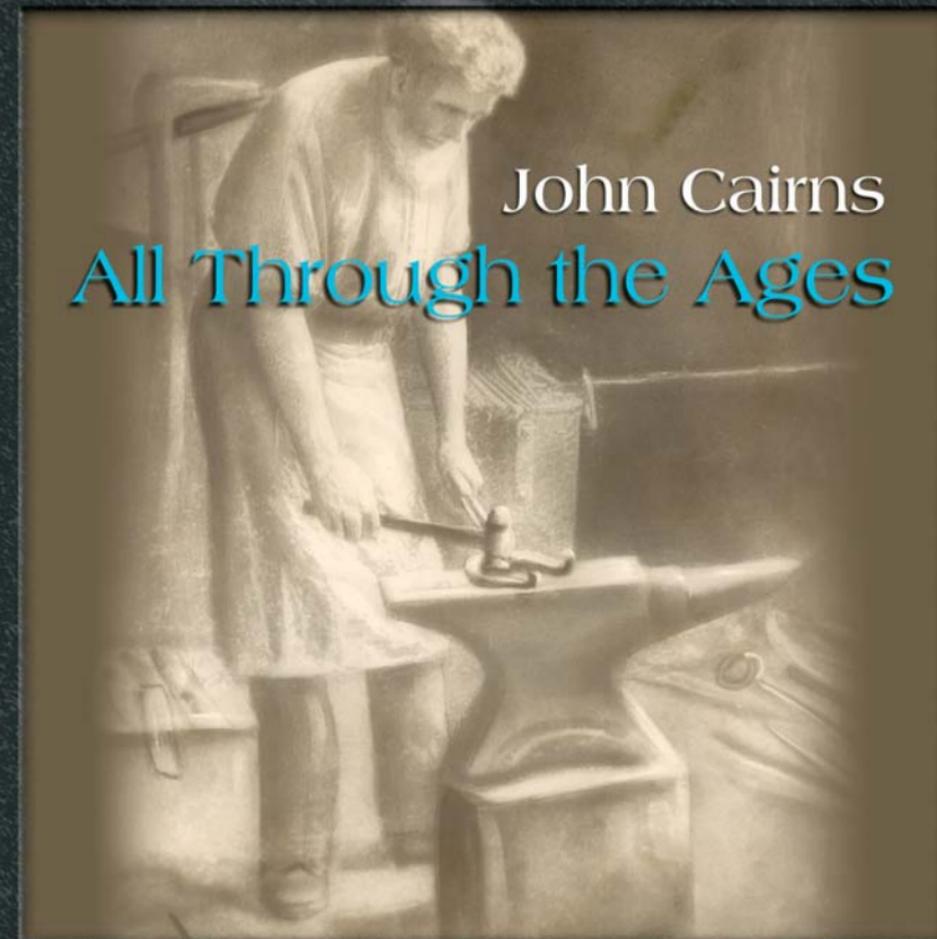
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| 1. Na Seanchaid | 2. Zimba Warrior | 3. A Love Song For Deborah Anne |
| 4. Remember Culloden | 5. First Landing | 6. All Through The Ages |
| 7. The Old Woman's Lullaby | 8. Chasing Time | 9. Connecting A Nation |



Track 1: Na Seanchaid

The “Seanchaid” (pronounced “*shawn a kee*”) was an individual in the Gaelic culture that recorded and recited tales, or in simpler terms - a storyteller. I have chosen this title because it has significance to what I am doing with the music on this CD. I am using my music to tell a variety of stories about the bagpipe and the Scottish culture *All Through The Ages*.

Track 2: Zimba Warrior

Historically, the Scottish military was a haven for some of the greatest pipers of the 19th and 20th centuries. As soldiers, these pipers fought bravely with their regiments around the globe. When the Scottish regiments were in Africa in the late 1800’s (during the Boer Wars), the natives were often encouraged to play with the regimental pipers and drummers. Here is a story to celebrate what must have been a wonderful collaboration of music and culture as the African natives with their unique percussion sounds joined the traditional music of the Scottish bagpipe.

Track 3: A Love Song for Deborah Anne

This music is a heartfelt tribute to the love of my life - my wife Debbie. The encouragement and support that she gives me with my piping career and my music in general is more than I could ever ask for. I am truly blessed to have her in my life.

Track 4: Remember Culloden

Pledging loyalty to Prince Charles Edward Stewart, the Jacobite clans rose up against their English rulers. Their rebellion scored a series of stunning successes and they seemed on their way to victory. But one hellish day in April 1745, on Culloden Moor, their quest for independence took a different turn.

Imagine this scene: It is a cold, gray dawn. Many of the Jacobites are asleep, tired after marching through the night. The surprise attack on the English army had failed due to unexpected delays. The command is given and the piper begins to play - calling the Jacobites to gather for battle. The Jacobite army (consisting of less than 5000 men) gathers, full of hope for a free Scotland. Anticipation builds as the Jacobites prepare for battle. The Jacobites fire the first canon shot and the battle has begun. The Jacobites, famous for their wild, terrifying charge, do not advance on their enemy as one, as the command to charge was not heard by all. The wet ground hampers their

charge allowing only one small section on the right to reach the English line.

The result is devastation, defeat and butchery. The Jacobite soldiers, six deep in their ranks, are easy targets for the superior strength and manpower of the English army. The clans, the highlands, and the simpler way of life - all disappear in less than one hour! The Jacobite army is defeated and you can hear the sadness in the hearts of the survivors - as the funeral dirge fills the air. But wait ... the Jacobite survivors continue to hold onto their dreams of freedom - and the piper sounds notice, through his plaintive call, that the dream of the Jacobite will live on.

Track 5: First Landing

What would it have been like to be a Scottish settler on a ship crossing the Atlantic in the late seventeen hundreds - headed for the new world (Canada)? After weeks at sea the settlers would be tired, hungry, anxious and uncertain of what lay ahead. Even though they had heard stories of savages and a brutal barren existence, they still carried a feeling of hope ... hope for a new beginning. As they stand on the deck of the rolling ship, they hear the cry ... “*land ho*”. But wait, another sound fills the air. At first the settlers are uncertain if what they are hearing is the pounding of their own hearts. But as they approach the shore, they begin to realize that these sounds are actually drums coming from the land ... the natives are aware of their arrival, and all the stories they have heard come racing to their minds. Fear and panic set in ... but the landing is made, and as they stand on the earth of their new home ... they are welcomed by the natives to this place ... their new homeland ... Nova Scotia.

Track 6: All Through The Ages

There was a time in the Scottish regiments, when it was the drummers who held a position of importance in the regiment - as the drummers were used to give the battle calls. The pipers were not viewed as necessary at all - in fact, in order to get paid, the pipers had to be listed in the regiment as drummers. This humiliating state of affairs finally changed in 1854 when it was decided to combine the two instruments to form a pipe band. Finally, the claim could be made to “*pay the piper*”. Here is a story in music to exemplify the drum call that has been with us from the very beginning, and to show that the snare drum sound is a constant ... *all through the ages*.

Track 7: The Old Woman’s Lullaby

Piobaireachd (pronounced “Pee brock”) is one of the original forms of music played on the bagpipe and is considered to be the “classical” music of the bagpipe. The first part of the tune establishes the main theme and has a beautiful melody that sounds very much like a lullaby. The next two sections contain rhythmical and melodic variations of the main theme. The tune concludes with a short section of the initial melody, played again to show a conclusion to the piece and to bring the music full circle. My daughter Olivia is the child’s voice and she did a great job helping me to present this tune in a story-like fashion.

Go on ... lay down ... close your eyes ... and let the music lull you into tranquility.

Track 8: Chasing Time

This music is just plain fun. No story, no tale to tell here. Just sit back, listen and enjoy.

Track 9: Connecting A Nation

In 1867, Canada’s first Prime Minister, Sir John A. MacDonald, knew that the young country’s future existence depended on the successful completion of a transcontinental railway ... one that would connect a nation. The dream would allow Canadians to travel from sea to sea and open up access to raw materials and markets all across the country. In 1881, the *Canadian Pacific Railway Company* (CPR) began the mammoth task of building the railroad.

The laborers who worked tirelessly to build the railroad were called navvies. Chinese navvies were nicknamed *coolies* and played a key role in building the western stretch of the railway. Coolies were paid poorly and sadly many died completing the most dangerous construction jobs, including working with explosives. Many thousands of European’s also worked on the railway as navvies - including Scottish immigrants. The pick and shovel exemplify the back-breaking labour that each navy must have endured.

In 1885, the last spike was driven to complete the railroad at Craigellachie, British Columbia. The dream was realized and the nation was now connected. It took 12,000 men, 5,000 horses, and 300 dog-sled teams to build the railway. The first transcontinental passenger train departed from Montreal’s, on June 28th, 1886 and arrived in Port Moody, British Columbia on July 4th, 1886.