



An Cuairtear

Ceòlmhor

AGCA Mòd Bulletin 2009
<http://usmod.wordpress.com/>

U.S. Mòd Welcomes Scottish Guests Kennedy, Finlay, MacLeod

Scotland will be well represented at ACGA's U.S. National Mòd this year, with guests from the Hebrides, the Highlands and Scotland's Central Belt — learners and native speakers — coming to the United States for the three-day event.

Both gold medalists from Scotland's Royal National Mòd last year in Falkirk will attend the U.S. Mòd in Ligonier, Pa.: **Lyle Kennedy** from Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire, and **Kerrie Finlay** from Dingwall, near Inverness.

Both, importantly, are Scottish Gaelic learners who have achieved one of the highest Gaelic cultural awards — an inspiration to learners on both sides of the Atlantic.



Kerrie Finlay and Lyle Kennedy at the Falkirk Mòd.

Mòd Registration Materials Enclosed

Everything you need to register and prepare for the 22nd annual U.S. National Mòd is enclosed in this edition of An Cuairtear Ceòlmhor: complete competition **rules** and procedures; a **reservation** form for room and board at the Antiochan Village and the Mòd Banquet & Cèilidh; and a **registration** form for the competitions to receive all required materials. We encourage you to complete the registration and reservation forms as soon as possible so we can quickly send you the materials for our competitions.

And we are delighted to welcome **Donnie Murdo MacLeod** of the Isle of Lewis as the adjudicator for our 22nd annual Mòd.

This is the first time MacLeod, an acclaimed Gaelic singer and educator, has been our adjudicator, and he will judge both the song, story and poetry competitions at the Mòd itself and the distance learning competition.

Fàilte dhan dùthaich!

Kennedy, 43, has competed in solo and choral competitions at the Royal National Mòd since 1993 and won the Silver Pendant for Gaelic learners in 1999.

A senior design engineer working in the oil and energy industries, Kennedy lives with his wife and chil-

(Continued from page 1)

dren in Bonnybridge, near Falkirk. He is a member of the Stirling Gaelic Choir.

He has performed with the Edinburgh Gilbert & Sullivan Society, as well, appearing in productions of *The Mikado*, *Princess Ida*, *Orpheus and Iolanthe*.

Finlay, 26, and her family live in Inverness, where she is studying Gaelic culture at the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Previously, she attended Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Finlay sings in the Dingwall Gaelic Choir. She won the Silver Pendant at the Royal National Mòd in 2001.

MacLeod also is a Mòd medalist, having won the coveted gold medal for traditional singing in Blairgowrie in 1996 and an award for Gaelic psalm singing at a subsequent Mòd.

He grew up in Stornoway, the main town of the Isle of Lewis in the Western Hebrides.

"My home life in Stornoway was surrounded by music," MacLeod writes. "My father was a popular church precentor and at home he sang puirt-a-beul and children's songs to us. My mother, although reluctant to sing herself, loved song and singing."

Growing up, he was encouraged to sing at local Mòds, not only by his parents but by teachers such as Jessie MacKenzie from Point. He was inspired at the University of Aberdeen by singers such as Joan MacKenzie and William Matheson.

"Going to university in Aberdeen, my pride in my own language was strengthened within the group of fellow-islanders who were in the University Celtic Society," he says. "Together we put on an annual, week-long cultural festival, where typical guests were Joan MacKenzie, Flora MacNeil, Reverend William Matheson, Norman MacMillan and Murdo MacFarlane; all invited because of their interest in, and knowledge of the best in Gaelic traditions, including songs."

The Gaelic psalms of Lewis also greatly influenced Donnie Murdo.

"Like most Lewis traditional singers I was sur-



2009 U.S. Mòd Adjudicator Donnie Murdo MacLeod

rounded by beautiful, highly ornamented and deeply spiritual Gaelic psalm singing and I have strong memories of the psalms being sung at home interspersed with traditional songs and hymns," he says.

"You could no more take the traces of these influences out of me and my singing than you could the grain-
ing out of oak."

MacLeod's solo CD, "Sguab is Dloth" was voted the best traditional album by the Scotland on Sunday newspaper in 2001. He also performed on the CD "Lasair Dhè." His latest album, "I Lift My Eyes," includes psalms in both Gaelic and English.

"Over the years, other songs from different 'homes' have had a deep impact on me in my journey and have found their way into my repertoire especially in English," says MacLeod. "Some of these 'homes' range from Bluegrass to contemporary gospel but, I guess, even they have now got traces of my deepest and most abiding roots. My repertoire may have grown and extended but I think (hope) you would know where I came from!" ❖

An Cuairtear Ceòlmhor

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Mòd Naiseanta Aimeireagaidh 2009, An Comunn Gàidhealach, America
Twenty-second Annual Mòd
Ligonier Highland Games, Idlewild Park,
Ligonier, Pennsylvania — Saturday, September 12, 2009

Competition Rules and Procedures

General Information:

Registration forms may be returned at any time before **October 15 for Mail-in**, and **August 31 for at-Mod events**.

Registrations sent after this deadline are subject to a **late fee of \$5** and may be refused.

To register, indicate your competition level on the registration form. The levels are:

- a) **“Gaelic Starters”** – First introduction to Gaelic.
- b) **Beginner:** 1. *”New beginner” just starting to learn. 2. “Advanced beginner:” In first year of Gaelic study
- c) **Intermediate:** Studied two years or more; good basic knowledge of the language.
- d) **Advanced:** Extensive knowledge of the language.
- e) **Fluent**

Send a completed registration form to: Registrar **Cathleen Mackay, 3860 Dumfries Rd, Catlett, VA 20119.**

When she receives your registration form, the registrar will mail you texts, the Mòd 2009 CD or any other materials you have requested.

Awards: For those competing in the Mail-in competition and not present at the Mod, the adjudicator's comments, your cassette tape and awards will be sent to you by mail after the Mòd. Those taking part in the Poetry and Song competitions will receive their awards at the Mòd. *Competitors who have previously won cash awards or scholarships are not eligible for those awards again. Competitors who have won gold medals in a category for 2 consecutive years will not be eligible for that award the following year.*

Housing And Other Information: The Mòd Committee has arranged for housing at a modest cost in a nearby Conference Center (see reverse of registration form). Information on local area accommodations is also available on request. Weekend schedules, maps, and other information will be sent to participants before the Mòd.

I. SPEECH / TRANSLATION/ WRITING COMPETITIONS

A. Rosg: Prose Mail-In: Upon receipt of your registration, the Registrar will send you the texts, instructions, and the Mòd 2009 CD especially prepared for this year's competitions by Donnie Murdo MacLeod. Translate the required text into English and record on an audio cassette your reading of the spoken text in Gaelic. Write the required piece in Gaelic for your level, **double spaced**, using typewriter or computer if possible.

*New beginners will be asked to simply copy out and read a Gaelic text. (Translation included.)

Airmail this material to: Donnie Murdo MacLeod, 237 MidStocket Road, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK, AB15 5PB, postmarked by October 15.

B. Bardachd: Original Poem (Mail-In) To be eligible for this special award, competitors must write an original poem in Scottish Gaelic and submit it by mail to the adjudicator with an English translation. The poem may be also used at the Mòd poetry reading competition. Mail your original poem and translation **to Donnie Murdo MacLeod, as detailed above.** No additional fee is required.

C. Aithris Bardachd: Poetry Recitation at the Mòd

Poem of Choice:

1. Verses of a song may be used as the selection. However, the same song cannot then be used in a Song competition the same year.
2. Selections should not run more than three (3) minutes.
3. Selections are most meaningful if performed with a brief introduction /translation.
4. Although competitors are not required to memorize their selections, they should do so to the extent possible. Notes may be used, and it is recommended that these be handy should they be needed.

A copy of the poem and English translation must be mailed to:

Nick Freer, 4901 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22301, no later than Saturday, August 31.

D. Sgeulachd: Story-telling at the Mòd: Tell a story in Gaelic, from memory - it must be a traditional story in order to be eligible for the David MacRitchie award for storytelling.

II. SONG COMPETITION AT THE Mòd

A. *Co-fharpaisean an òrain* (Basic Song Competition)

Registration and Categories:

Competitors may enter either one or two of the following song categories a-c. Competitors may sing only one song per category. Competitors may sing either a selection from the Mòd 2009 CD or one from another source. Competitors should mail the text, music (if available) and an English translation for each song of choice to: **Nick Freer, 4901 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22301, no later than Friday, August 31.**

Selections should be in Scottish Gaelic and sung unaccompanied. Finalists are required to include one song they have not presented at a previous ACGA Mòd. Selections should not run more than (3) minutes. Competitors should memorize their songs. Use of notes is permitted, though this may detract from a competitor's final score. A brief introduction/translation is encouraged, but not required. Singers will be awarded points for both music and Gaelic.

a. *Oran mall agus Oran tàlaidh* (Slow song or lullaby)

b. *Puirt-a-beul* (Mouth Music): Songs intended to accompany dance.

c. *Oran obrach* (Work Song): Songs intended to accompany work such as rowing, waulking the tweed, spinning or weaving.

d. *Oigridh* (Youth): For competitors 17 and under, perform one song from any category. Young competitors may, if they wish to be considered among the finalists, register as adults.

B. *Crìochaichean* (Finalists - if selected)

To be considered for this category, a competitor must sing two songs in the Basic song competition.

A competitor who has won first place in this competition for two years in a row is not eligible to compete as a finalist the following year. The Adjudicator will select top scorers in the above categories to deliver a third song for the finalist competition. This song may fall under any category.

C. *Bacaidhean* (Restrictions)

Professional musicians are not eligible to enter the competitions but everyone is encouraged to contribute their talents through performance at the Mòd banquet and ceilidh.

III. GROUP SONGS, Unison Singing

(Gaelic study groups, newcomers, and family members are especially invited to participate!)

A) *Orain luadhaidh: Waulking Songs Demonstration*

Traditional Women's songs from Scotland and/or Men's Milling Songs in the Cape Breton, Nova Scotia tradition. Participants: 4 to 6. Present one or two songs at the waulking table, in the traditional manner (up to 6 minutes total).

B) *Orain obrach, puirt-a-beul, agus òran mall: Group Singing: Work Songs (Except Waulking), Mouth Music, or Slow Songs.*

Participants: Two or more. Sing one or more songs in ONE category below (Up to 5 minutes total).

1) Traditional songs used for work, such as reaping, rowing, milking, spinning, etc.

2) Songs traditionally sung as Mouth Music, suitable for dancing.

3) Slow songs, such as Love Songs, Laments, etc.

Group Song Rules:

1) Group singing will be in unison (everyone singing the melody together) but with solos included where that is the traditional format (as in waulking songs, or call and response), or in a group's desired arrangement of other songs.

2) Competitors may sing with only ONE group in each category (A or B).

3) No singer may present the SAME song as a solo at the Mod in more than one category.

Mòd tutor materials from past years include many traditional Gaelic songs that groups might present -- waulking songs, a herding song (2001), a potato lifting song (2002) and others. Contact the Mòd Committee if you have questions or would like help in finding a particular kind of song.

NOTE: A late fee of \$5 will be charged for materials submitted after the specified deadlines. Late registrations may be refused.

Reservations for the Mòd Weekend

22nd Annual U.S. National Mòd

Donnie Murdo MacLeod, Adjudicator, at the Ligonier Highland Games

Friends of Scottish Gaelic culture, Gaelic language students, singers and musicians—join us in welcoming our guests from Scotland to ACGA’s Mòd Weekend, September 11-13, 2009, at the fine conference center in the highlands of Pennsylvania. This year’s adjudicator is Donnie Murdo MacLeod; guest artists, Lyle Kennedy from Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire, and Kerrie Finlay from Dingwall, near Inverness, Gold Medal singers from Scotland’s Royal National Mòd. Make reservations now for the Mòd—a great Fall getaway! ACGA members may also order the Mòd CD and text.

Cut out this page and fill out front and back for registration and reservations!

Mod Banquet Reservations — Historic Ligonier Tavern Saturday night, September 12, 2009: Adults, \$27 Children under 12, \$10 (selection from children’s menu)

Cash bar, Sliced Roast Beef, Baked Nantucket Whitefish, Pasta Primavera, garlic mashed potatoes, green bean Almandine, hot apple crisp, coffee, tea.

Conference Center Lodgings—Cost is Per Person

Includes Friday dinner, 2 nights lodging (Sept. 7-8), 2 breakfasts, ceilidhs, Sunday workshop, and lunch (Sept 9). Room reservations are on a first come/first serve basis, especially where sharing rooms is involved.

Adult Single, \$215 Youth (age 11-18), \$40
 Adult Double, \$155 Child (age 5-10), \$20 (in room w/2 adults)
 Adult Triple, \$130 Children under 5, free (in room w/2 adults)
 Adult Quad, \$120

You may pay the cost in full or place a \$30 deposit on each **adult** reservation. (Deposit not required for Youth and Child reservations.) Payment in full is due August 31. Your reservation is subject to cancellation if full payment is not received by this date.

	Quantity	Each	Total
Banquet <input type="checkbox"/> Adult # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Beef # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Pasta # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Child # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Fish # _____			
Lodging <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Double <input type="checkbox"/> Triple <input type="checkbox"/> Quad # of Children _____ Age(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Deposit (if applicable) \$			
Mod Book/CD <input type="checkbox"/> Competitor (\$14) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Competitor (\$18)			
Donation			
Competitor Fees			
T-Shirt—\$18 Medium-Large / \$20 XL/XXL			
Total Enclosed	-----	-----	
Balance Due by August 31	-----	-----	

Banquet Place Card Names: _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Room Requirements: _____

Send form and check payable to ACGA-Mod in \$US to: Cathleen Mackay, 3860 Dumfries Rd, Catlett, VA 20119

ACGA Mod Naiseanta Aimeireanaidh 2009 Registration

Name: *(To be completed by competitors and non-competitors)*

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Prov: _____ Country: _____

Zip/Post: _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Competitor Registration: Complete this side of the form to register for **all** competitions, both mail-in and at Ligonier. When your registration is received, you will be sent competition rules and materials.

Note: Adult competition fee is \$10.00 per person (including each member of a group song or drama) regardless of number of competitions entered. Children 18 and under are free. *Fill in the previous side with total competitor/attendee fees.*

Mod Lodgings/Banquet: If you wish to make reservations for Ligonier lodgings and Mod banquet, *fill in the reverse side.*

Name of Competitor	Age	Level of Gaelic Study	Prose, Poetry	Group Song and Drama	Solo/Group Song
	<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Gaelic Starter <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Fluent	<input type="checkbox"/> Prose (Mail) <input type="checkbox"/> Original Poem (Mail) <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry Recitation (Mod) <input type="checkbox"/> Storytelling (Mod)	<input type="checkbox"/> Waulking (Mod) <input type="checkbox"/> Group Song (Mod) <input type="checkbox"/> Drama (Mail-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Slow Air <input type="checkbox"/> Work <input type="checkbox"/> Puirt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Gaelic Starter <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Fluent	<input type="checkbox"/> Prose (Mail) <input type="checkbox"/> Original Poem (Mail) <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry Recitation (Mod) <input type="checkbox"/> Storytelling (Mod)	<input type="checkbox"/> Waulking (Mod) <input type="checkbox"/> Group Song (Mod) <input type="checkbox"/> Drama (Mail-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Slow Air <input type="checkbox"/> Work <input type="checkbox"/> Puirt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Gaelic Starter <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Fluent	<input type="checkbox"/> Prose (Mail) <input type="checkbox"/> Original Poem (Mail) <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry Recitation (Mod) <input type="checkbox"/> Storytelling (Mod)	<input type="checkbox"/> Waulking (Mod) <input type="checkbox"/> Group Song (Mod) <input type="checkbox"/> Drama (Mail-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Slow Air <input type="checkbox"/> Work <input type="checkbox"/> Puirt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Gaelic Starter <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Fluent	<input type="checkbox"/> Prose (Mail) <input type="checkbox"/> Original Poem (Mail) <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry Recitation (Mod) <input type="checkbox"/> Storytelling (Mod)	<input type="checkbox"/> Waulking (Mod) <input type="checkbox"/> Group Song (Mod) <input type="checkbox"/> Drama (Mail-in)	<input type="checkbox"/> Slow Air <input type="checkbox"/> Work <input type="checkbox"/> Puirt

Competitors:

Group song competition - please state the name of the group and region:

Drama competition - please state the name of the participants:

.....
 : Rules Queries: Nick Freer, Ph. 703 836-5654 :
 : Neacalban1@aol.com :
 : Registration Queries: Cathleen Mackay, 540 788 4708 :
 : amum44@gmail.com :
 :

Mòd Naiseanta Aimeireagaidh, 2008
An Comunn Gàidhealach, America, Neacal Freer
Neacalbani@aol.com

A Chàirdein Chòir a' Mhòid (*Dear Friends of the Mòd*):

What a wonderful opportunity our 22nd Mòd will give us all to meet up with old friends and make new ones. A great time to listen to native Gaelic speakers, fluent learners, and adventurous newcomers tackling Gaelic songs, stories and poems in competition and at cèilidhs. A great time to soak up as much Gaelic as you can in a friendly, non-classroom environment. A great time to be part of a Gaelic community – without the cost of a roundtrip airfare to Scotland!

As you read in the lead story for this bulletin, we'll have Donnie MacLeod of Lewis as adjudicator for the first time this year. We will once again have the honor to welcome the male and female Gold Medalists from Scotland's Royal National Mòd, Lyle Kennedy and Kerrie Finlay, brought to us courtesy of An Comunn Gaidhealach in Scotland.

Putting on the U.S. National Mòd requires funds (over and above what competitor fees bring in and is budgeted by ACGA) to house our overseas guests, pay our adjudicator, arrange for prizes, etc. Thanks to the generosity of our donors in past years, the Mòd Committee has managed to keep accounts in the black, but just barely.

At our 20th annual Mòd we began a new and successful fundraising effort and we're proud to continue it this year. We are selling commemorative t-shirts honoring the 20th anniversary of the U.S. National Mòd. See the picture below for yourself, and buy a t-shirt to help the Mòd meet its budget, as well as proclaim your interest in the Mòd and Gaelic.

The t-shirts are available in M,L,XL, and XXL. M and L are \$18.00 each plus shipping, and XL and XXL are \$20.00 each plus shipping. Checks can be made out to ACGA-Mod and sent to Cathi MacKay at 3860 Dumfries Road, Catlett, Va. 20119.

Also, you can donate. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. For \$35 or less, you can be a Caraid (friend) of the Mòd; for \$36-\$50, a Laoch (champion); for \$51-100, a Gaisgeach (hero); and for more than \$100, a tigherna or bantigherna (lord or lady). Those donating \$200 or more will be elevated to rìgh (king) or ban-rìghinn (queen)! At least as far as we're concerned ...

The Mòd Committee hope you will be able to join us in Ligonier, or if not, that you will consider making a donation, or buying a commemorative t-shirt.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd

Neacal Freer

Cathraiche (Chair),
Mòd Naiseanta Aimeareagaidh 2009



A Mòd t-shirt?
Abair snasail! Now
that's fashionable!

Naidheachd is a publication of
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Aimeireagaidh
The Gaelic Society of America

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An Cuairtear Ceòlmhor

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