

It is my pleasure to introduce Doug Lamey's first solo CD, which includes family and friends who have come together to take "A Step Back in Time". Doug's grandparents, Bill and Sally (Sarah Ann MacEachern) Lamey, instilled in their children the Scottish traditional music and culture, and they in turn passed it on to their children.

At a very early age Doug chose to take up the fiddle, and over the years he has had the opportunity and privilege to learn from some of the great Cape Breton fiddlers such as John Campbell, Buddy MacMaster and Jerry Holland. Also, Doug's grandfather Bill Lamey (born in 1914 in River Denys, Cape Breton) was a great Scottish/Cape Breton fiddler who recorded several 78's in the 1940's and played for dances in and around Cape Breton for many years. Bill's account of how the music was preserved in Cape Breton when our Scottish immigrants landed on Cape Breton Island is expressed by him on the CD. Doug plays the only tune that Bill wrote (that we know of) called "Father John Angus Rankin's March" aptly named for his dear friend of many years.

One of Doug's greatest influences in Scottish culture was his grandmother Sally (born in 1916 on Maple Brook Road in Glendale, Cape Breton). She was fluent in Scots Gaelic and came from a musical family. Sally's father, Dougald Rob MacEachern, was a singer and a composer of Gaelic songs. On this CD you will hear Dougald Rob's great grandson, Goiridh Domhnallach, soulfully performing in the language of our ancestors along with his brothers Johnny MacDonald (piano) and Sandy MacDonald (guitar). Doug's friends Natalie Hass (cello), Kaitlin MacDonald (piano) and Allan Dewar (piano) also generously share their musical gifts to make this CD possible.

Doug's playing has a solid rhythmic beat which is the key to great Cape Breton style fiddling and his love of the music clearly shines through. In this recording, you will hear tunes and Gaelic songs that will take you A Step Back in Time, and know that even today, they still stand the test of time.

Today, Doug lives in Kingsville, Cape Breton.

Màiri Ealasaid Lamey

1. Pipe Jigs w/ Introduction by Bill Lamey

Pipe Major Donald MacLean of Lewis (Donald MacLeod)

Walking the Floor (John Chisholm)

Donald MacLean (Peter MacLeod)

Piano – Allan Dewar

Cello – Natalie Haas

Three great pipe jigs to open 'er up! I heard Jerry Holland perform the first jig on a tape with Dave MacIsaac and Hilda Chaisson recorded in Washington D.C. back in the 90's. I learned the last tune from a great friend and musician Matthew Phelps.

2. Dan Rory

Omega Strathspey (Dan R. MacDonald)

Elmer Briand's Reel (Dan R. MacDonald)

Bridge of Inver (James MacIntosh)

Piano – Johnny MacDonald

Guitar – Sandy MacDonald

Cello – Natalie Haas

The first two tunes can be found in the Trip to Windsor Collection, and I learned the final reel in one of my favourite books - The Skye Collection.

3. James Scott Skinner

MacKenzie Hay (James Scott Skinner)

The Kirrie Kebbuck (James Scott Skinner)

Spey and Spate (James Scott Skinner)

Piano – Kaitlin MacDonald

Cello – Natalie Haas

My Grandfather as well as Jerry Holland recorded this set of tunes, written by the great Scottish composer James Scott Skinner. For the purpose of "carrying on" I've decided to record them as well. The first two tunes are a couple of my favourite strathspeys, and the reel is about as dandy as a tune can get.

4. O, Teannaibh Dlùth Togaibh Fonn (Trad)

Vocals – Goiridh Domhnallach

Piano – Johnny MacDonald

Guitar – Sandy MacDonald

Cello – Natalie Haas

*Fonn: O, Teannaibh dlùth is togaibh fonn,
Mo chridhe trom air m'aineol,
'S mi fad' o eilean nan damh donn,
'S bho thìr nan gleann 's nan gallan.*

*1. O! bheir an t-soraidh seo nis bhuam
Thar chuain is chruaich is bheannaibh
A dh'ionnsaigh Muile nam bean fuar',
O! Eilein uaine bharraich*

*2. Och a rìgh! Nach mi bha thall
An tìr nan gleann 's nam bealach,
Tìr nan craobh 's i tìr mo ghaoil,
Nan lagan fraoich 's an raineach.*

*3. O sid na glinn 's am faighte 'n aoidh,
'S na roinn chum taobh na mara,
'S tha luchd mo ghaoil-s' an diugh ma sgaoil,
'S an t-àit' fo chaoraich Shasuinn.*

*4. 'S tha'n diugh gun taigh, gun sgrath, gun chruib,
Gun chloich os cionn na starsann,
Tha leac-an-teinntein air fàs fuar
Le còinneach ruadh tighinn fairis.*

*5. Gur truagh a' Ghàidhlig bhi 'n a càs
O'n dh'fhalbh na Gàidheil a bh'againn;
A ghineil òig tha tighinn 'n an àit'
O togaibh àrd a bratach.*

(English Translation)

O, Sit Closer and Let us Sing a Song

*Chorus: O, sit closer and let us sing a song
My heart is defected in a strange land,
I am far away from the island of the brown stags,
And from the land of the glens and saplings.*

*1. O, bear this greeting from me now over ocean, rounded hills, and bens, to Mull
of the cold mountains, O green island of the birch trees.*

2. *Och, O God! I wish that I was over there in the land of the dales and mountain gorges; the land of the trees is my own dear land with heather-hollows amongst the bracken.*

3. *O, these are the valleys of kindness especially in the districts beside the sea. My loved ones have now departed, and their homes are under English sheep-runs.*

4. *There is no house, roof-thatch, upright beam, or threshold-stone to be seen these days. The hearth has become cold, and red moss grows over it.*

5. *It is a pity that Gaelic is in such a precarious state since the departure of the Gaels we knew. O, youthful race that has replaced them, unfurl the (Gaelic) banner to its maximum height.*

{This is a song that our Great-Grandfather Dougald Rob MacEachern used to sing. This specific version of the song was sung by John Neil Gillis of Gillisdale, Cape Breton and is found in "Gaelic Songs of Nova Scotia" by Calum MacLeod and Helen Creighton.}

5. Tea Gardens

Happy to meet, Sorry to part (Trad)

Oh Dear, What can the Matter Be? (Trad)

Tea Gardens (Angus Chisholm)

Piano – Johnny MacDonald

Guitar – Sandy MacDonald

Cello – Natalie Haas

This is the first set myself, and my "dream band" recorded together. My cousins Johnny and Sandy were just introduced to Natalie for the very first time, and our 3-day journey in the studio began. The first jig is a traditional Irish tune taught to me by the late John Campbell.

6. Compliments to Buddy MacMaster w/ Introduction by Bill Lamey

Mrs. Garden of Troup (Robert Petrie)

Compliments to Buddy MacMaster (Jerry Holland)

Pottinger's Reel - (Tom Anderson)

Reichwell's Forest (Dan. R MacDonald)

Piano – Kaitlin MacDonald

The late Dan R. MacDonald composed the last tune in this set while cutting down lumber in Reichwell's Forest, Germany during WWII. After composing, he sent

the manuscript to his friend, Professor J. Murdoch Henderson in Scotland where Henderson renamed it "The Rae Reel" for Thomas Sinclair Rae, because he didn't feel that such a fine tune should be named after the enemy! Dan R. decided to keep the original title though for the infamous forest where this epic composition was born.

7. Dear Jerry...

James Cameron (Jerry Holland)
The Auld Wife Ayont the Fire (Trad)
Primrose Lassie (Trad)
The Bear and the Buckwheat (Trad)
Sheehan's Reel (Trad)

Piano – Allan Dewar

Cello – Natalie Haas

"Dear Jerry, if I could play for you a few tunes, I think I'd start off with this set." Jerry Holland taught me the first tune in this set as an up-tempo march at the Gaelic College in the late 1990's. I am fortunate to have had Jerry as an instructor and mentor through the years. He is greatly missed in my life and so many others. Though, through his albums and compositions he will truly live forever.

8. Muile nam Mòrbheann (Duncan Livingston)

Vocals – Goiridh Domhnallach

Piano – Johnny MacDonald

Guitar – Sandy MacDonald

Cello – Natalie Haas

*Fonn: Bho'n tha mi gun sunnd, 's is dùth dhomh mulad,
Cha tog mi mo shùil ri sùgradh tuilleadh;
Cha téid mi le mùirn gu cùirt nan cruinneag,
'S mo rùn am Muile nam mórbheann.*

*1. Am Muile nan craobh tha 'mhaighdeann bhanail,
Dha 'n tug mi mo ghaol 's mi faoin am bharail;
'S ma chaidh i fo sgaoil 's nach fhaod mi faighinn,
Gun taobh mi caileagan Chòmhail.*

*2. Tha maise is uaisle, suairceas is ceanal
A' dìreadh a suas an gruidh mo leannain;
Ma bheir thu dhomh fuath, 's nach buan do ghealladh*

Nì uaigh is anart mo chòmhdach.

*3. Do shlios mar an fhaoileann, taobh na mara,
Do ghruaidh mar an caorann, sgaoilt' air mheangan;
Sùil ghorm is glan aoidh, fo chaoinrosg tana –
'S tu'n òigh a mhealladh gach òigear.*

*4. Do chùl mar an lìon 'n a mhìle camag,
Nach greannach fo chìr, is sìod' 'g a cheangal;
Do dheud mar na dìsnean, dìonach, daingeann;
Beul binn a ghabhail nan òran.*

(English Translation)

Mull of the Big Bens

Chorus: Since I feel depressed and sadness is befitting to me, I will not focus my eye on mirth any more. I will not frequent the company of the maidens with tenderness, as my love resides in Mull of the Big Bens.

1. In Mull of the trees dwells the modest lass to whom I gave my love when I was light of heart; and if she has drifted away, out of reach, I will make up with the girls of Còmhail.

2. Beauty and nobility, complaisance and mildness, reveal themselves in my sweetheart's cheek; if you hate me, and your promise is not fulfilled, the grave and a shroud will cover me.

3. Your side is as white as the sea-gull beside the sea; your cheek is like the rowan, spread out on branches; eyes of blue (revealing) a clear, cheerful countenance under smooth and slender eye-lashes . . . you are the maiden who would entice every young man.

4. Your hair is like flax with a thousand ringlets, not bristly when combed, and tied with silk. Your teeth are like dice, closely-set, and firm; a melodious mouth for the singing of songs.

*{Song composed by Duncan Livingston, Crogan, Mull, Inner Hebrides, Scotland.
Lyrics here as sung by Rev. J.D.N. MacDonald and found in "Gaelic Songs of Nova Scotia" by Calum MacLeod and Helen Creighton.}*

9. Bill and Father John

The Warlock's Strathspey (Robert Lowe)

Johnny Sullivan's (Trad)

Flora MacDonald (Robert Bremner)

Piano – Johnny MacDonald

Guitar – Sandy MacDonald

Cello – Natalie Haas

This set was originally recorded on an old 78rpm record by my Grandfather and Fr. John Angus Rankin. It is my favourite set of all time, so I decided I would record it as well.

I came across the following story while doing some restoration work at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church on the remote community of River Deny's Mountain in Cape Breton during the summer of 2011. The church is the last building standing of a community of over 50 families that has essentially vanished over the last 50 years or so. The church was built in 1841.

*“This is a story of **Flora MacDonald**. As a young girl, on her own, and on more than one occasion Flora boldly made her way across this shadowy mountain pass. It is said that on one of these difficult trips, she rested on or near a large boulder, which was situated near where the church now stands. (This was at a time when neither the gravel road nor the church existed). From this vantage point, Flora is said to have had a vision of a church and to have heard music. In the early 1840's the actual church was completed, in the same area where Flora saw the vision so many years before. The boulder has since been moved and is positioned between the church and the cemetery where it can be still seen today.”*

10. Gloomy Winter's Now Away with Introduction by Bill Lamey

Gloomy Winter's Now Away (Trad)

Father John Angus Rankin's March (Bill Lamey)

Lucy Campbell's Strathspey (Trad)

Sheep Shank (Robert Macintosh)

Marchioness of Tullybardine (Trad)

Piano – Johnny MacDonald

Guitar – Sandy MacDonald

Cello – Natalie Haas

The set starts with an old and sad air. It depicts a period in the ancient Celtic World that words cannot describe. That being said, there are words that were written for this haunting air, but like most old traditional songs, the air most likely preceded the lyrics by many years. I learned this specific version from Winston Scotty Fitzgerald's book. The 2nd tune is a march written by my Grandfather for his friend and fellow musician Fr. John Angus Rankin. Lucy Campbell's Strathspey is a great pipe tune I learned on stage from Wendy MacIsaac, and the Sheep Shank is an old classic found in the Cape Breton Fiddler's Collection. Its

original title was The Honourable Miss Maules and was written in the 18th century. The last tune was originally a pipe march. The Inverness Serenaders interpreted this popular tune as a reel on an early 78 disc, and so it is.

11. Alex Joe and Dougie's

The New York Jig (Alex MacEachern)

Doug MacPhee's Visit to Belle Côte (Jerry Holland)

Piano – Johnny MacDonald

Guitar – Sandy MacDonald

Cello – Natalie Haas

The New York Jig is published as "Alex Joe's Jig" in Dan Hughie MacEachern's 2nd book. The second jig is written for the great pianist Dougie MacPhee of New Waterford, Cape Breton.

12. Old Faithful

Old Faithful (Jerry Holland)

Sir Archibald Dunbar Strathspey (Trad)

Reel for Maurice (J.P. Cormier)

Grampy's Favourite (Trad)

Lively Steps (Jerry Holland)

Piano – Johnny MacDonald

Guitar – Sandy MacDonald

Cello – Natalie Haas

This MSR concludes my album. I have quite a few favourite selections of music, and that list includes several of the tunes in this lively set. Old Faithful is a great march followed up with a popular and ancient dance strathspey found in the Skye Collection. The first reel is a tune I learned from the composer in the key of D minor. I'm not actually sure of the title of the 2nd reel, but I do know it was a favourite of my Grandfather's. The final tune by Jerry Holland is as dynamic and vibrant as the title suggests!

Thank You's

Kaitlin MacDonald for your music, photos and endless support.

Lawrence and Joanne Lamey for your support in this move to Cape Breton and with my music through the years. I Love you both very much!

Lauren, Rick and Sarah Ann Hajjar for my website and your love.

Johnny, Sandy, Jeff, Natalie and Allan for the wonderful music created and recorded. I look forward to a lot more music and good times in the future!

Cheryl Smith for her great work, and helping to make this project possible.

Cliff McGann for your confidence in me, and your idea to launch a Kickstarter Project to help fund my album. Thanks also for filming the promo video. It wouldn't have been done properly without you.

Mary Lamey, Patricia and Walter Hart, Billy and Ann Lamey, Sarah and Domenic Nicotra, Peggy Lamey, Billy and Natalie Rockwell, Alex Hughie, Becky, Sandy, Danny and Donnie MacInnis, Paul McDonagh, Paul Cranford, Frank and Dolores Casey, Danny and Edna MacDonald, Marina MacIntyre, Jamie and Laura Jensen, David Gillis, Lloyd Carr, Gordon MacLean, David J. & Marcia Young Palmater, Victor M. Faubert, Toller Nevius, Rutman's Violins - Boston, Joseph E. Kenny, John Donald Cameron and Cameron Music - Port Hawkesbury, Nicole D'atri, Glen Gray and KLee Radio - Baddeck, The Glendale Area Community Co-op, Alex and Minnie MacMaster, Brian O'Donovan and WGBH Radio - Boston, Janet Stubbart and The Scottish Voice Radio Show - Montreal, George Keith, Stuart Peak, Bob Rafuse, Terry Eagan, Emerald Rae, Emma Beaton, Sarah Goodell, Peggy MacGillivray Morrison, Sally Sommers Smith, D.J. and Tracy MacLellan, Leonard and Sandy MacNeil, Janine Randall, Jeff Boudreau, Hugh and Geri Duffy, Meghan Marsh, Joan MacIsaac, Patrick and Barbara Ring, Yvonne M. MacIsaac, Renn Tolman, Jimmy MacInnis, Jack and Peggy MacInnis, Richie Anderson and to my Grandparents and all of my Ancestors!

Also, Thanks to all of my teachers, the composers of all the great music, my friends, my family and God!