

Piobaireachd Enclave

The piobaireachd conclave will be held at the piping and drumming tent at 10 am on Sunday, April 18th. It will consist of the following:

- Dr. Alan Armstrong - a discussion on piobaireachd findings at Harvard
- A Tune- Colin MacRae of Invernate's Lament
- Alasdair Gillies- Unjust Incarceration- how to get the music out
- Attendees are welcome to have a tune for discussion

Dr. Armstrong has provided a brief introduction to the piobaireachd below:

*How in the noon of night that pibroch thrills,
Savage and shrill! But with the breathe which fills
Their mountain pipe, so fill the mountaineers
With the fierce native daring which instils
The stirring memory of a thousand years.
Byron.*

Although nowadays a number of musical styles vie for a piper's attention, it was not always so. The corpus of known music for the Great Highland Bagpipe for most of two hundred years was *piobaireachd*, or more correctly *Ceól Mòr* (literally: "Big Music"). The facts concerning the origin and composition of the earliest works are still shrouded in pre-history, as the Gaels were given to oral, not written, history. However, one fact is certain: regardless of when it was written, and by whom, *Ceól Mòr* is music suited solely for the Great Highland Bagpipe and as such, worthy of a piper's attention and study. The soul of the Highlands is found within its measures; the hearts of its pipers as they stirred men into battle, lamented the death of clansmen, paid homage to lairds, rejoiced in the arrival of chiefs or their ladies, and commemorated historical events are laid bare before us once again as its strains fill the air. There is nothing quite like *piobaireachd*, and the fulfillment one receives from studying and performing of it is unequalled in all of music.