



**Maggie MacInnes receives
“Best Gaelic Singer of the Year”
Award for 2004**

Scots Traditional Music Awards, 2004 –

At a ceremony in the Queen’s Hall, Edinburgh on 4 December, 2004 Maggie MacInnes was chosen by the voting public as “Best Gaelic Singer of the Year.” The awards were organized by BBC Interactive and Hands Up for Trad.

Ms. MacInnes is steeped in the Gaelic tradition coming from a long line of Gaelic singers and storytellers from the island of Barra in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. Her mother is Flora MacNeil of Barra, a famous Gaelic singer. Maggie first made her name as a clarsach player (Celtic harp) before turning to solo singing.

She was one of ten singers chosen to take part in the “Scottish Women” project which toured Scotland in March 2002. This project involved bringing together some of the finest Gaelic and Scots singers in concert with an “all star” backing band under the musical direction of Mrian MacNeil. The tour was sponsored by the Celtic Connections Festival of Glasgow with assistance from the Scottish Arts Council. A live CD recorded during the Scottish Women tour was released by Greentrax in August 2004.

Just recently Maggie MacInnes returned to Celtic Connections in a concert entitled "Maggie MacInnes & Friends" in January 2005 presented at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Her return to Celtic Connections featured her new composition “A Woman’s Song” originally commissioned by the festival and first preformed in January 2004 to a packed auditorium and great critical acclaim.

Reviews of Maggie’s performances:

“...her singing was such that no translations were necessary...her voice was haunting and angelic; and her chilling unaccompanied vocal on a Scottish lament earned the show’s longest ovations from the sell-out crowd”... Boston Globe USA

“...a display of singing confidence, background authority and unshowy musicality that bodes well indeed.” Rob Adams, Glasgow Herald 25 Jan 2000

**Maggie MacInnes’ Latest CD is
Peaceful Ground - Talamh Sìtheil**

2004 saw the release of Maggie's third solo album which has been called her "most ground-breaking CD yet".



In **Peaceful Ground** Maggie is singing more of the beautiful traditional Gaelic songs from her family tradition as well as two non-Gaelic songs. The songs in English and Scots include the title track written by Maggie and a song called "The Ewe Bughts" which is a recently discovered poem by Robert Burns and which is thought never to have been recorded before.

The CD features some very fine guest musicians including;-Brian MacAlpine (piano), Marie Fielding (fiddle), Finlay MacDonald (Pipes and Whistles), Wendy Weatherby (Cello), Sean O'Rourke(Soprano Sax.), Flora MacNeil and Cairistiona MacInnes (Backing vocals) and Maggie's co-producer on this and her previous three CDs Graeme Hughes (electric and acoustic guitars).

Tracks on the CD:

Dh'èirich mi gu moch diluain, Peaceful Ground, Dh'fhalbh mo rùn bho chionn seachdain, 'S toil leam an Ciobair, Haidh O, Thig an Smeòrach as t-Earrach, Cairistiona, The Ewe Bughts, Fhir an Leadain Thiàth, Dh' fhalbh Mo Rùn 's dh' fhàg e 'n Cala, Nuair Bhios mi Leam Fhin.

Her previous CDs include "**Eilean Mara**" on **Dunkeld Records(DUNCD022)** which was co-produced by Dougie MacLean and received great critical acclaim.

In May 2001, Maggie released her second solo C.D. which is called "**Spiorad Beatha**" ("**The Spirit of Life**") on her own new label "**Marram**" (**MARCD01**), which features some of Scotland's finest musicians such as Charlie McKerron (of Capercaillie) , Brian McAlpine (formerly of Iron Horse), Sean O'Rourke(formerly of JSD Band) , Marie Fielding, Paul Jennings, and Keith Easdale along with her mother, Flora, on backing vocals.

Her last two solo albums were recorded on her own new record label "Marram" which specializes in Scottish traditional music and in particular in Gaelic music and song. **www.marrammusic.com**

Her CD's may be purchased on line at **www.maggiemacinnnes.com/newsite/recordings.htm**

The Association is extremely proud of Maggie MacInnes and her accomplishments. What a wonderful and talented ambassador of Gaelic music she makes!

* * *

Please email or mail suggestions for items to be mentioned in this column to:

Martha Long, Adj. Commissioner-Cultural at tommarlong@insightbb.com or
mail to 1300 Brasslin Avenue, Louisville, KY 40245-8486 USA.