

∞ Bagpipes with Bruce ∞

December 7th

7-9 pm

An evening of piping with
Major Bruce Hitchings (retd.)
Chairman of the Solo Pipes
Judge's Association

\$35 via Eventbrite */\$40 at the
door

All proceeds benefit the
Shriner's Hospitals for
Children



*plus Eventbrite service charge

∞ 463 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501 ∞

for more information call 505-982-4415 or to send a check to reserve your seat



Major Bruce Hitchings MBE BEM was born in Hunterville, New Zealand. He started playing the pipes at the age of nine. By the time he was sixteen he was playing with the New Zealand Champions - The City of Wellington Pipe Band. Bruce visited Scotland in 1975 with the band, and the following year, came back to compete around the Highland Games circuit for what he thought would be a couple of years.

Instead of returning home Bruce enlisted in 1978 into the Queen's Own Highlanders. The following year he won the Silver Medal for Piobaireachd at the Argyllshire Gathering. The Regiment always endeavored to have its top players compete at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban and the Northern Meetings at Inverness where Bruce won numerous prizes including second in the March and Strathspey/Reel in 1980. Bruce continued to compete successfully around the Highland Games when his Army career permitted. He attended the Pipe Major's course at Edinburgh Castle in 1980-81 receiving instruction from Captain Andrew Pitkeathly and Pipe Major Angus MacDonald MBE and continued to receive on-going instruction from them until their deaths.

In 1986, he became the Battalion Pipe Major, a position he held for six years and during this time was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM). The last eight years of his military career was spent in the post of WO1 Pipe Major, the Senior Pipe Major, British Army and Chief Instructor at The Army School of Piping, The Castle, Edinburgh. His main responsibility during this period was the teaching of the future Pipe Majors for the British Army and was rewarded with the Member of British Empire Medal (MBE) for services to Army piping in 2000.

On completion of his regular service, Bruce was commissioned into the Territorial Army with responsibility for the development of piping within the Reserve and Cadet Forces. After a total of 33 years service, he finally resigned his commission (Major) in 2011 and continues to be held in highest esteem in military and piping circles.

Bruce set up the highly successful Highland Reeds company in 2000 and has developed new piping products with an aim to simplify the science of piping. His Balance Tone Drone Reeds and range of moisture systems are popular with pipers the world over for both their simplicity and effectiveness. He continues to work on innovative products to make the life of the piper easier.

Throughout his career Bruce played at many prestigious events for both the British Royalty and foreign dignitaries. He remains in demand as a piper through teaching and running schools and workshops in the U.S., Germany, Austria, and France on a regular basis. Bruce is a senior judge for both Piobaireachd and Light Music in Scotland plus a senior judge with the Western United States of America Pipe Band Association for both solo piping and pipe bands. Bruce judges internationally at many of the Scottish Senior competitions, including the Gold and Silver Medal at the Northern Meetings and Argyllshire Gathering. He gives recitals in places as far afield as China, New Zealand, Germany, France and the USA.

In 2012, Bruce was appointed as a Board Member of the College of Piping and as a member of the Piping Committee for the Northern Meeting Piping Competition. He continues to be a Senior Examiner for the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) Pipe & Drums Qualifications Board (PDQB).

Bruce played at many Tattoos during his military career, including being the Lone Piper. During the 8 years as Senior Pipe Major he was part of the Production Team for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. His responsibilities encompassed leading all military and civilian bands in their performances including, rehearsals and final performances.

Applying his military career status and using his myriads of military contacts in both British and American services, Bruce is an invaluable asset in any Tattoo production. In 2011 he produced the first International Military Tattoo in Las Vegas, Nevada and the New York Tattoo in 2013. He is a demonstrated born leader and puts in uncountable hours of organization to produce the Highland Military Tattoo each year.

In November 2023, Bruce was honoured to be elected Chairman of the Solo Pipes Judge's Association. Bruce currently resides in Arizona with his wife Karen, and they also have a residence in Scotland.