



Press Release
For immediate use

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FESTIVAL PLANS ANNOUNCED

[Seattle] *Féis Shiàtail 2004* (FAYSH he- AT-ul), an internationally recognized celebration of Scottish Gaelic and the arts of Scotland, will be held June 15-20 at Fort Worden Conference Center, Port Townsend, Washington.

Hosted by *Slighe nan Gaidheal* (SHLEE-uh nun GAY-ul), the Seattle's Gaelic language and cultural society, "*Féis*" brings participants together with leading tradition bearers in language and arts. Drawing enthusiasts from throughout North America and the United Kingdom, the gathering allows everyone from beginner to native expert to "focus deeply on Scottish Gaelic language, music, culture, and community," said Kathryn Cole, *Féis* co-chair.

In addition to language classes at all levels, attendees will be able to participate in seminars covering piping, singing, fibre arts, harping, fiddling, and step dancing as well as history and folklore.

"As a *Féis* participant myself, I treasure the time to spend with my Scottish Gaelic family, welcome newcomers and share their discovery of their heritage." Cole said.

Presenters at the biennial event are a veritable "who's who" of the Scottish Gaelic world. They include: Catriona NicIomhair Parsons, associate professor of Celtic studies, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia; Catriona Chaimbeul, editor, *Speaking our Language*, a member of the Gaelic Broadcasting Committee and former head of Grampian Television's Gaelic news service; Muriel Fisher, founder, Tucson Gaelic Institute and University of Arizona instructor; Catherine Ann MacPhee, award-winning Gaelic singer and recording artist; Rona MacDonald Lightfoot, internationally recognized bagpiper whose family archives include one of the most extensive collections of Gaelic song; Wendy MacIsaac, Cape Breton fiddler and step dancer; Dr. Michael Newton, director, Gaelic studies program, University of Richmond, Virginia; and, Norman Kennedy, fibre artist and singer, former master weaver at Colonial Williamsburg.

Féis Shiàtail is sponsored in part by the Dunvegan Foundation, an organization dedicated to educational, cultural and informational activities in both the United States and Scotland. The Dunvegan Foundation supports such activities as workshops in History, Gaelic and Tartan, provides for musical scholarships in harp, fiddle and bagpipe, and strives to enrich the knowledge of Americans in things Scottish and Scottish-American.

For further information and registration, visit *Slighe nan Gaidheal*'s website at www.slighe.com or phone (206) 903-9452.