

# The Steve McDonald Fan Club

## Newsletter

### Steve McDonald Fan Club Newsletter #34

Sent September 1, 2008

Dear Friends and Fan Club Family,  
Welcome to all of our new fan club members...and a special thanks to everyone who wrote to me about my new grandson! Riley Ruffin was born 8/08/08 and was 8 lbs 5 oz and 21 inches long. Riley, his parents and 3 sisters are all doing fine.

I cannot believe that summer is almost over! I hope you all had some special, memorable times.

#### **Whats New:**

Please check out Steves Bio on the website. Ive added some links you might find interesting: old pictures and band info, and music, which will be the focus of this months Forum Topic of the Month. Please have a listen to Steves Song of 85 and a track from his first solo album The Riddle and the Rhyme.

Has everyone been to Steves MySpace? Its been a good move, and brought many more fans to the club. Many thanks to those of you who made the suggestion to me.  
Check it out at [www.myspace.com/stevemcdonaldfanclub](http://www.myspace.com/stevemcdonaldfanclub) !

We have been thinking of doing away with the Forum Topic of the Month, since we do not get contributions for every topic. In its place we would have a section where members of the fan club could write on any relevant topic, such as Steves music, concerts, albums, and what you would like on the website. The topics would be chosen by the fans themselves, and you could reply to each others suggestions and opinions in a thread.

If anyone has an idea for something new to add to the website or MySpace, please write to me and let me know.

#### **On The Road Contest News**

##### **We need some more of Steves fans to blow their own horn!**

I know that everyone who loves Steves music tells their friends about it, and shares his music. Cmon now! Write in and let me know, and I will post your stories, and enter you to win an autographed CD!

The Steve McDonald On The Road Team is a very special group of Steves listeners who help promote his music. I know through your e-mails to me that many of you are already doing this by telling friends about his music, posting about his music on message boards, and asking for his CDs in stores. Thank you all for your efforts! Were thrilled by your support, and I'd love to encourage you to continue to spread the word about his music. On The Road Team membership is open to all of his listeners, and benefits include your name listed on the front page of the On The Road Team section of the Fan Club website, and a chance to win autographed CDs in a monthly drawing for On The Road Team members only. Joining is easy...visit the On The Road Team section and click on "Invitation" to see what you need to do. Whether you decide to join the team or not, we appreciate your support!



#### **Steves wee newsletter blurb**

"Here's a weeeee blurbly thing.

Having done my musical apprenticeship in 'rock', it is no wonder I'm half deaf! It reminds me of Beethoven, who went totally deaf without the aid of rock music, but if I'm half deaf maybe it means I'm half as good as Beethoven? I'd settle for that. Beethoven maintained that all music fell into three categories, those being "Programme" ( Lyrical songs, Opera, music with pictures ) where there was a story line or vocal line that guided you through the music, "Secular" ( soloing, Jazz ) which you just like for no other reason than it having good playing or a good vibe about it. Thirdly "Visionary" ( ambient orchestral, mystical etc ) which conjures up images, which affect different people in different ways. I have always been into the latter, but even today all music stills seems to fit into one of those categories.

Just another bit of useless information I wanted to share with you, oh well, back to the grind stone.  
Cheers.  
Steve"

# Contest News

A decorative background on the right side of the page features a large purple treble clef at the top. Below it, several musical notes in various colors (orange, yellow, cyan, green) are scattered across a light green and blue gradient background. The notes are stylized and appear to be floating or moving across the page.

## **Forum & Topic of the Month:**

This month's Topic of the Month winner is Robert Van Groll! Please email your snail mail address to me so that I can send out your autographed CD to you! At the moment I only have the Highland Farewell and Legend CDs. Please tell me which one you would prefer.

The Topic was "How many of you have felt the call of Scotland or visited Scotland after listening to Steve's music?"

"I've always liked Scotland, and even participated in a living history museum as William Wallace when I was younger. I've listened to Steve's music for many years now, and I think he captures the mystery and beauty of Scotland very well. I've enjoyed it very much and my girlfriend does as well. We plan to get married and have thought about going to Scotland for our honeymoon.

Robert Van Groll"

Congratulations, Robert!

And thank you to everyone who participated!! I loved reading your thoughts!

Anyone who missed them, you can read them in the Forum Topic Archive.

September's Forum Topic of the Month is: After visiting Steve's Bio page and listening to his track "Reflection" from "The Riddle and the Rhyme"-- Do you like the song? And would you like to hear more from that album?

Please keep those Forum Questions for Steve coming! He loves to hear from you, and answers all your questions. There are two pages on the Forum, one for questions for Steve (please keep your forum questions to only being about his music, albums and gigs/tours) and one for Topic of the Month. If any of you have any ideas for the Forum Topic of the Month, please write to me and let me know them.

Check it all out at [www.stevemcdonaldfanclub.com](http://www.stevemcdonaldfanclub.com)

## **This Month's Sweepstakes Winner:**

Drum roll, please!

Congratulations to Eyvette Birrer, the lucky winner of August's contest! You've won an autographed Highland Farewell CD! And hey, that's even better than a trophy! <grin>

Please contact me at

[jackie@stevemcdonaldfanclub.com](mailto:jackie@stevemcdonaldfanclub.com) with your snail mail address so I can send your autographed CD to you! Those of you who didn't win should not despair. I've still got plenty of prizes, and I'm going to continue to give one away each month, which means more opportunities to win! So if you've been putting off entering, now is the time!

There is a new song for the Sweepstakes! Here is the lyric:

"Oh, the summer time is coming

And the trees are sweetly blooming"

And I bet those of you who have listened to the Sons of Somerled CD already know the answer! Best of luck to everyone who enters (I wish it could be all of you!).

One entry is good for each monthly drawing, so if you haven't entered yet, what are you waiting for?

Click on over to [www.stevemcdonaldfanclub.com](http://www.stevemcdonaldfanclub.com), click on the Sweepstakes button and get your name in the contest.

Best of luck to you all!

# Member Spotlight

## Anne Outterson

In the early 1970s I read a wonderful trilogy of novels about King Robert the Bruce by Nigel Tranter. These books sparked an interest in Scotland and her history which has stayed with me ever since and I have since bought all his historical books. Fortunately when I married Malcolm in 1978 he shared my passion for Scotland and her past. Nowadays we visit Scotland every year for a fortnight in June exploring historic sites and enjoying the beautiful scenery. It was during one of these holidays in 1998 that we visited Dundonald Castle in Ayrshire. As we walked round the opening exhibition Sons of Somerled was playing in the background. We bought the album before we left and have since bought all Steves Celtic music and play it frequently.



With the author Nigel Tranter at his home in Aberlady on the shores of the firth of Forth in 1990.

My other main hobby is genealogy and family history. My fathers family come from Yorkshire in England. My mothers family originated in Scotland but she was born in Ireland as her family left Scotland during the Highland Clearances. Malcolms family came from the Scottish borders. Learning about the lives of your ancestors helps you understand the social history of the area they came from and also helps give you roots and a sense of your own identity. And visiting the places they lived, worked and worshipped is an emotional and fulfilling experience. I am very lucky to be an adult tutor and teach family history, and also computing.

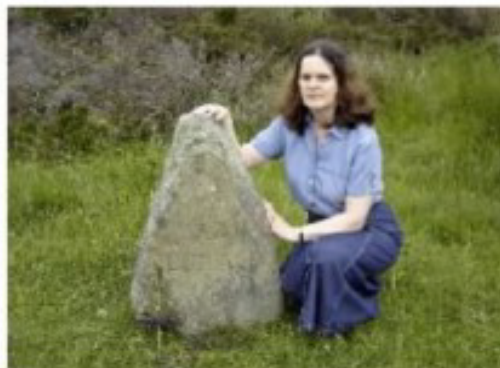
And for me the best thing to come out of this fanclub website? Getting to know Jackie, a lovely lady whose friendship I value highly.



Glencoe, the Valley of the Weeping. This photograph was taken in June in sunny weather but when the members of Clan Donald were massacred in February 1692 a blizzard was blowing through the glen. Living in Britain means I can easily visit the historic places about which Steve sings on his Scottish albums.



Glenfinnan, the site of the start of the 45 rebellion of Bonnie Prince Charlie which ended so tragically at Culloden. The monument you see in the background was erected in 1815 as a tribute to the clansmen who fought and died in the cause of the Stuarts.



Culloden. The 45 rebellion ended here. After the battle the dead of each clan was buried in a separate pit. If you look closely at the stone marking this burial site, it commemorates the fallen of Clan Donald. The battlefield is very atmospheric.

