

# STEVE McDONALD NEWSLETTER

<http://www.stevemcdonaldfanclub.com/>

<http://www.etheremusic.com/>

STEVE McDONALD FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER #10  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2006



## WHAT'S NEW:

Steve's birthday package is bundled and tied and ready to send. I will be mailing it today. A great big thank you to those of you who participated, by sending pictures, cards and well wishes. The collage turned out very nicely, and there is a blue t-shirt with the McDonald crest, and a plaque with the McDonald tartan and crest from Armadale, Scotland. Also the various other gifts and cards that you all sent. Shhh! Don't tell him! It's a surprise!

Please check out the website on September 9<sup>th</sup>, Steve's birthday.



## ~ FROM THE EDITOR ~

*Hello Friends and Fan Club Family,*

*I hope you're all having a wonderful summer, and listening to Steve's music! There have been many new fan club members in the past month, and I'd like to extend a warm welcome to you all, and a big HI to old friends!*

*This newsletter promises to be short and sweet. I'm sending it out early this month because we'll be leaving for Merry Olde England and our beloved Scotland on the first of August, and I want to be sure to give our contest winners time to get back to me with their info, so I can get their prizes out to them before we leave!*

*"Oh yes, I know my heart belongs to Scotland"*

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## A WEEEE NOTE FROM STEVE

*"The new album is coming along nicely, I am over halfway through the writing side of things, and Dik Darnell and I are sorting out the 'probables from the 'possibles'. The theme of this album will be more along the lines of the big romantic ballad type, with "lashings" of Celtic influence. Hope to have a release date of late spring, early summer. Will keep you informed. Cheers for now,*

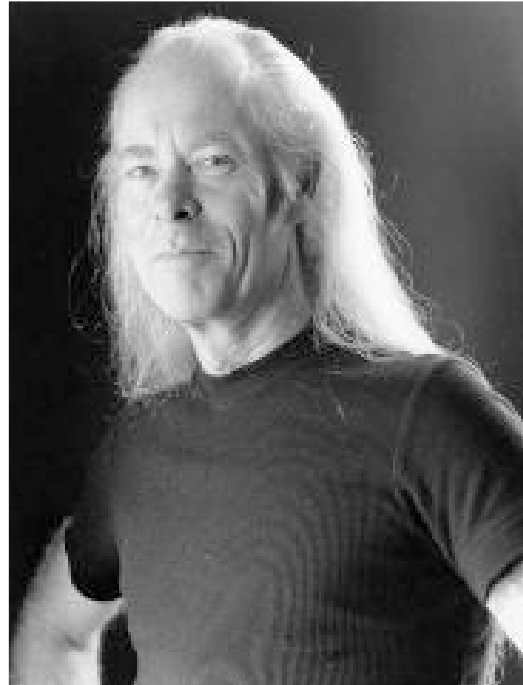
**STEVE McDONALD**

# CONTEST NEWS

## ON THE ROAD TEAM WINNER



The winner for the month of August is **Mary Macari, of Bellingham, Washington** Congratulations! Thanks so much for your enthusiasm. Please email me your full address at [jackie@stevemcdonaldfanclub.com](mailto:jackie@stevemcdonaldfanclub.com) and tell me which of Steve's CDs you would like so that I can get it in the mail to you as soon as possible! And for those of you who haven't joined the Road Team yet, what are you waiting for? Join now at [www.stevemcdonaldfanclub.com](http://www.stevemcdonaldfanclub.com)



## SWEEPSTAKES WINNER



Gerry Cross

Your photo mug is on its way to you! There's a new contest for this month, so please check it out at [www.stevemcdonaldfanclub.com](http://www.stevemcdonaldfanclub.com) and click on the Sweepstakes link.



## OTHER WEBSITES TO CHECKOUT

## ON THE ROAD TEAM INFORMATION

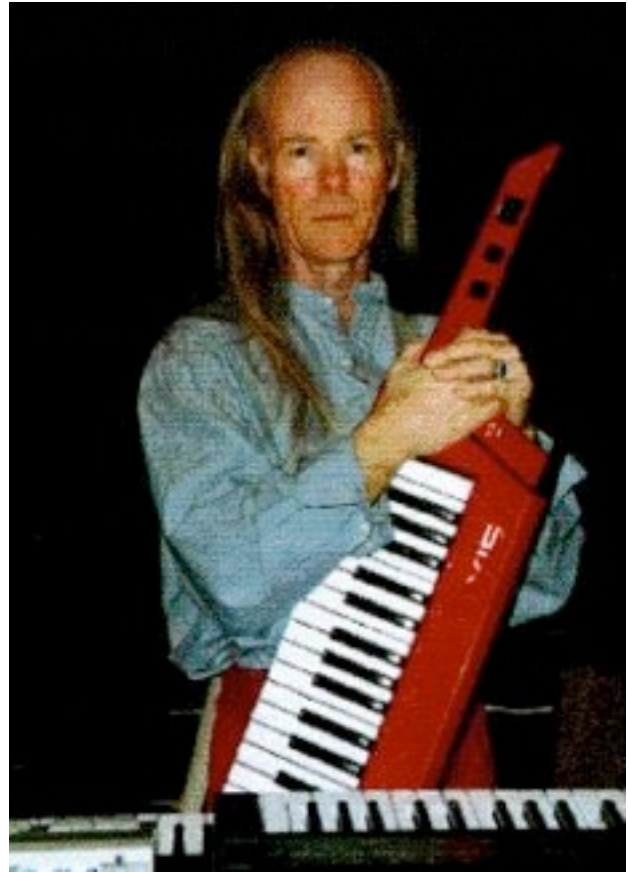


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[www.cafepress.com](http://www.cafepress.com)

In case you're wondering what this is all about, the On The Road Team is a very special group of fans who help promote Steve's 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 music in stores. Thank you for your efforts! We're thrilled by your support, and we'd love to encourage you to continue to spread the word about Steve's music. On The Road Team membership is open to all of Steve's fans, and benefits include your name listed on the front page of the On The Road section of the website, and a chance to win autographed CDs in a monthly drawing for On The Road Team members only. Joining is easy; just visit [www.stevemcdonaldfanclub.com](http://www.stevemcdonaldfanclub.com) and click on Please Come and Join The Fun to see what you need to do. Whether you decide to join the team or not, we appreciate your support!

## NEWS FROM ETHEREAN



"You'd expect to hear Steve's music at any Scottish festival or Celtic concert, Barnes & Noble listening wall, and certainly in your own stereo player. But recently Steve's talent has ventured into some new territory...would you believe into the hard street beat of urban hip-hop? DMX (Darkman X who's real name is Earl Simmons) just released his new album this month on Sony Urban Music titled "Year of The Dog...Again." And on track 11 called "Blown Away" he chose to sample some music from the songs "Light From A Distant Shore" and "Fallen Flowers" written by Steve and performed by Hollie Smith. Before you rush out to purchase or download the music, please be aware that DMX material is not for the faint of ears. Reviewers use one word to describe DMX's music: RAW. They call his lyrics and delivery "unfiltered aggression". And only the best audiophiles will be able to discern Steve's samples lying beneath the layers of rhythm and rap. Both Steve and Etherian Music are thankful DMX chose this music because it brings in extra capital to keep Steve going as an artist and help fund Steve's music. Steve's new album (now in production with Dik Darnell) is Steve's highest quality recording to date including full orchestra and state-of-the-art recording. We think all of Steve's fans are going to love this one; and, unlike the DMX album, the new CD won't come labeled with an Explicit Content/Parental Advisory sticker!"





MORE  
GOOD  
NEWS

Julian Wilson, one of our fan club members, has been good enough to send me a discography of Celtic Warrior. It is one of Steve's first Celtic CDs that was only re-released in New Zealand. Please check it out on the Discography page at:

[www.stevemcdonaldfanclub.com](http://www.stevemcdonaldfanclub.com)



STEVE McDONALD

Celtic Warrior

(only released in New Zealand)

1. The Celtic Warrior
2. I Will Return
3. Scotland The Brave\*
4. Connla And The Fairy Maiden
5. Wild Mountain Thyme\*
6. Soldiers Lament
7. Green Alba
8. The Harvest
9. Freedom
10. Skye Boat Song\*
11. Journey Of The Warrior Soul

SHOPPING  
CAFE PRES



Women's Pink T-Shirt

\$15.99

INFO

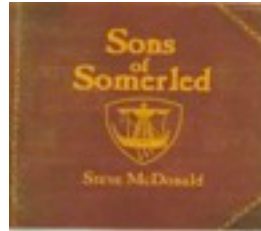
Show your softer side or be pretty sexy in pink. Our 100% cotton, Hanes Her Way Tee is ultra-comfortable, preshrunk and durable -your choice for girly gear with an edge.

- 5.6 oz. 100% cotton
- Standard fit



AVAILABILITY: In Stock, will ship in 2 business days  
Product Number: 60439476

MORE  
GOOD  
NEWS



STEVE McDONALD  
Sons of Somerled

Etherean music 1996  
Catalogue number: 9734776012  
15 tracks.

- 1/ introduction (2:34)
- 2/ sons of somerled (3:47)
- 3/ live on my warrior son (3:52)
- 4/ all you can know (5:17)
- 5/ loch lomond (4:53)
- 6/ soldier's lament (5:45)
- 7/ come to the isle of skye (6:15)
- 8/ scotland the brave (5:20)
- 9/ celtic segue (1:42)
- 10/ celtic warrior (4:56)
- 11/ i will return (6:06)
- 12/ wild mountain thyme (4:56)
- 13/ per mare, per terras (3:45)
- 14/ lordship of the isles (4:35)
- 15/ journey of the warrior soul (4:49)

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Steve McDonald is someone whom we have long sought after for a "Featured Artist of the Month" focus at the Celtic Cafe, ever since a couple of our chat community regulars, Peter and Lisa, starting raving about "Sons of Somerled." Slowly but surely, more of us became exposed to the music and we all then joined in telling others about how terrific Steve McDonald is. Finally we were able to track him down, resulting in a special interview conducted by Peter and Lisa, our Dutch friends responsible for the joy we get when we hear this astoundingly-gifted musician's CDs.

His current release is "Highland Farewell," the last in a trilogy of sorts, starting with the aforementioned classic, "Sons of Somerled." That led to "Stone of Destiny," and in between was a departure of sorts, "Spinfield," released on the "Hearts of Space" label. (His first recording was included on the Hearts of Space Celtic Twilight CD.) The Hearts of Space music I would put into more of a "New Age" music category, while his work for Etherean Music is crying out for a Highland Dance touring show featuring the trilogy! We all know of the success of Riverdance and Lord of the Dance as far as Irish dance is concerned, but there has been no major show featuring Highland Dance, with the possible exception of the two limited runs in Toronto of "The Needfire." If there were a way to put together a Highland Dance show with Steve McDonald's compositions included, I daresay that the major Irish dance shows would have quite a rival! Listen to the trilogy about Scotland.

and tell me that you wouldn't LOVE to see a stage production using this incredibly rich, powerful and moving music!

Highland Farewell is the story of the Great Clearances of Scotland as seen through the eyes of Steve McDonald... himself a grandchild of Scotland born in New Zealand, many generations after "the clearances." For many, born as a result of those dramatic times, the Highland Farewell will be a striking revelation into who you are, why you are, and where you are.

Beginning in the early 1700s, not long after the battle of Culloden, and finally ceasing in the late 1800s, "The clearances" saw the demise of the Highland Clans. English landlords replaced the people of the land, known as "Crofters," with Cheviot sheep which returned a higher income. Those not killed at the hands of English forces fled to places like Glasgow and London. Others were herded onto boats and sent to unknown lands, separated from family and loved ones. "The clearances" saw Scots travel to places such as Canada, where they created communities in Nova Scotia, various parts of the United States, and onward to Australia, and New Zealand.

"The offshore Scots" had become a scattering of proud people, deprived of their heritage, and exiled from their homeland by their own people. Many parts of Scotland, to this day, still feel the effects of "the clearances," the population of certain areas having never recovered. Although unknowingly, many people in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are direct descendants of these people.

Interview with Steve McDonald by Peter Koif and Lisa Veldkamp.

Q: Can you tell us something about yourself?



A: I was born and raised in Wellington, New Zealand where from the age of 5 I have been learning and playing music -- I had a classical piano upbringing but very quickly got into pop/rock music. In my first two bands I played drums, but once I started writing my own music I reverted back to keyboards. I was one of (if not the) first people in New Zealand to own a synthesizer (showing my age here!), writing and performing many styles of music.

Q: When did you start writing?

A: About 1966 - 1967. At the time I was still playing drums but more and more leaning my way back to keyboards as my compositions became more musically demanding.

Q: How and when did you discover being a member of Clan McDonald and what does that mean to you?

A: It wasn't until 1992 that I became interested in my ancestry when a friend sent me a scroll containing a brief history of the name McDonald and where it came from, etc. I was so taken by the powerful history of the whole clan system I decided to put the history to music and so wrote "Sons of Somerled." Clan McDonald have been very

receptive to my music and sent me a mountain of information which has enabled me to compile a trilogy of albums about the amazing history of Scotland. Being a McDonald, I feel I am a part of the history and therefore it has been very important to portray the story of Scotland as accurately as possible.



Q: Knowing your music on the "Spinfield" CD, being instrumental synthesizer music which I like very much, what made you switch over to Celtic songs and why?

A: The Spinfield albums are another side to my music and I hope to continue to produce albums in that genre, but after I discovered my Scottish roots I became very focused on my Celtic Connection.

Q: How did you experience your trip back to Scotland?

A: That was somewhat of a revelation to me. "South Pacific Scot."

Q: We find the album "Sons of Somerled" a great translation of the story behind the McDonalds, are there any songs on which you would like to tell us more, to understand better, and if yes, which ones?

A: To me the songs that epitomize my true sentiments are Per Mare Per Terras which was the first song I wrote for the album, because it conveys the

standpoint from which I approached the project and that is, as a "grandchild" of Scotland. "Sons of Somerled" was special to me because of the story of Somerled which is typical of the great stories that have come out of Scotland. All the songs have a story behind them and I have tried to relay those stories as accurately as possible.

Q: What songs do you like most?

A: My favorites are "Come to the Isles of Skye", "Per Mare Per Terras" and "Live on my



Warrior Son"

Q: Can you tell us how the Clan McDonald felt about you writing about the McDonalds?

A: The Clan centre helped me greatly to keep the whole project on the tracks and certainly saved me a lot of time with all the research required. I'm very grateful to Rob McDonald Parker who was then the International Director for the Clan, for all his help in the early stages of research.

Q: We also got "Stone of Destiny" a while later, can you tell us something about the story that inspired you for writing this follow-up CD, as they call it?

A: During my research I came across the story of the Stone of Destiny and was fascinated with its turbulent history.

Strangely enough, it was just before the release of that album that the English returned the Stone to Scotland which historically was a significant event in the Scottish history as every monarch since the Tenth Century had been coordinated on the Stone. It was taken from the Scots by Edward the First of England (the first battle featured in the film Braveheart) so its return was rather special. The Stone is believed to have special powers that have been revered for centuries.

Q: Now we know that there will be a new album, "Highland Farewell," is this also a follow-up on the former two albums?

A: "Highland Farewell" is in a way the final chapter for my research, so I look at the three albums as a trilogy.



Q: Can you already tell us something about this CD, and what it's about?

A: It is about the highland "clearances" which saw the demise of the highland clans. The wealthy landlords evicted the tenants of the land by the thousands, and some who refused to go were burned alive in their houses. In many cases they were herded onto ships and sent away to Canada and the United States with only the shirts on their backs. The ones who survived are the people responsible for bringing the way of Scotland to the "New world," hence there are people

like myself born at the other end of the world with the name McDonald, so I guess I have come full circle.

Q: Will you continue writing Celtic songs or go back to the synthesizer?

A: I'm not sure at this stage. I feel I would like to take the Celtic thing a stage further. I do have some ideas but I'm not willing to discuss them at the moment, but I can say that what ever I do next will be in context with what I have done in the past. It's all links in the chain - I do what I am sincere about.

Q: How do you experience the reactions coming from the Celtic population?



A: I've had very good reactions on the whole, the hard core "purist" may have some problem with my big production, in-your-face approach, but I've had some good feed-back from people who are passionate about the history of Scotland. I think it's all about personal perception.

Q: Are there more CD's available you think we should know about?

A: Not really, there were other recordings which are probably not relevant now.

Q: Will we be able to see you performing live on stage? We would like to know more about touring dates and the countries you're going to perform.

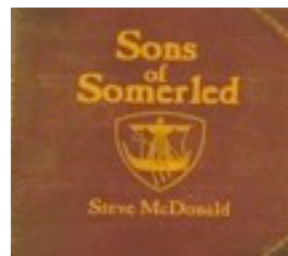
A: This year I am touring the USA. In September - October, with Hollie Smith opening, then back to New Zealand, but we are looking at a UK tour next year and would love to take in some European cities as well, I will keep you posted on this.

Q: Is there a web site on which we can follow you, or any links of interest?

A: Etherean Music has a web site with most of my information on and certainly any touring information will be on that.

Q: It seems there are different versions of "Sons of Somerled," one with a multimedia part and one without; is there a second version?

A: The one with the multimedia part is the international release, the other is the New Zealand version which contains two or three songs not otherwise released. The same with another



album I released only in New Zealand called the "Celtic Warrior" which is a compilation of some songs from the USA "Sons of Somerled" and "Stone of Des-

tiny." It's all rather confusing, from now on all releases will contain the same material.



# JACKIE BISHOP

I started the club because I was dying to know more about Steve--and see him play his music, which I never have. But every time I wrote to Etherean and asked, Dorie said, "no, there's not a fan club". So one day I thought, why don't I start one. I asked Dorie, and she said it was fine if I wanted to. So I asked her for some pictures, and she said she would send me some. I waited and waited, and reminded her. Finally I looked on the back of the Legend CD and called Etherean and talked to her. We talked for quite a while and she asked me lots of questions,



then she said she wanted to talk to Steve about it and make sure it was all right with him. The next day she called me back and said he was all for it, and was it all right if she gave him my email address....well, after I picked myself up off the floor, I said YES!!!! He emailed me, and I told him what I wanted to do with the website, and he said GREAT! I found someone to help me get started, and teach me about having a website, and finally got it up late last September. So the Fan Club Website is a year old this month!!

I really love the fan club and the people in it, and enjoy doing the website so much! It's lots of fun! I love hearing from people, getting their input and hearing their suggestions. I try very hard to do the things they want, and answer all their questions. I really love it!

Our trip to Scotland and England was the vacation of a lifetime! Dan and I stayed with friends, Lynn and Larry, in Liverpool. Lynn and I started writing 40 years ago, and have been friends ever since. We visited a lot of places I had wanted to see most of my life, and listened to Steve's music throughout the entire trip. Hearing Steve sing **Loch Lomond** as we

stood on the "bonny bonny banks" was an awesome experience, and **Per Mare Per Terras** has new meaning for me now. We went through Glasgow, stayed in Stirling and visited the Wallace Monument (246 steps straight up a winding stone staircase) and Stirling Castle, where I purchased some of Steve's CDs. Then we went to Perth, to visit my own ancestral castle, called Huntingtower Castle. (If you like history, look it up on the internet, along with the Ruthvens, my ancestors, who were a dastardly bunch) After our own private tour (complete with another stone spiral staircase), we headed for Edinburgh, which is the most beautiful city I have ever seen. We toured Edinburgh Castle, where I purchased more of Steve's CDs, (and climbed more spiral stone steps) then Dan and I walked the Royal Mile (which seemed like the Royal Two Miles, walking the crowded and cobbled street) to Holyrood Palace (where one of my ancestors committed a very dastardly deed in the time of Mary, Queen of Scots). That night



we saw the Edinburgh Tattoo, on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle. It was a beautiful and moving experience none of us will ever forget.

Next we set our sights for York, England, where we met with Anne Outterson, a fan club member and new friend, and her husband, Malcolm. They showed us around their beautiful and historic city. We had a wonderful time together, but it was over much too soon. We said our good-byes and headed back to Liverpool for a day of rest.

We boarded a train the next day for London, where we rode the London Eye, high above the Thames River, and saw Big Ben, Trafalgar Square, Tower Bridge, the Tower of London and Westminster Abbey. We rode the "underground" everywhere, and each time as we stepped from the platform into the "tube", we heard a resounding "Mind The Gap!" London was amazing! But after a couple of days in London, we boarded the train again, and set off for Liverpool once more.

The next day was my birthday, and we did something I have waited 40 years to do--we Ferried Across The Mersey! Lynn brought champagne, and we had a toast to dreams coming true! That night we went out to a pub meal with friends and her family--and it was the most

fantastic birthday I ever had!

The following day we drove to Wales in the ever present rain, and visited the walled town of Conwy, and Conwy Castle, both old and awesome and full of history.

Next we were off to Warwick Castle, in the city of Warwick. Fortunately the sun shone on us that day. There was a joust scheduled for one of the events, and I didn't want it to be rained out. I love a good joust! And it was! And the castle was fantastic, too! Unfortunately, I had the



brilliant idea to walk on the ramparts, and Dan went along with everything I wanted to do, so we joined the queue. That's when it began to rain. As we entered the dark passageway and began climbing that stone spiral staircase I began to wonder if I had made such a smart decision. The steps went on forever! At last we reached level ground--and it was pouring with rain, and no shelter! So back into another passageway of relentless climbing to the next level--not much of a choice, climb steps or stand in





the rain. I was so grateful to get back down on the ground, but my legs were wobbly and I could hardly walk! We spent the night in Warwick, and our last excursion was not far away, William Shakespeare's House in Stratford-On-Avon. Another amazing little place, curiously mingled with the past and present side by side. We spent the next few days visiting with Lynn's family and our new friends, includ-



ing BBQing, and a night out on the town with music and dancing. It was a perfect holiday to remember. But it was also good to get back home to our own family.

Dan and I have been married 20 years. We have 3 children, Kerri, Robbie and Ryan, and 2 granddaughters, Taylor (4) and Kirsten (22 months).

