

# STEVE McDONALD NEWSLETTER

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

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

STEVE McDONALD FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER #7



*Debbie and Craig Martin*

*We have seen Steve perform heaps at pubs and parties he was our regular musician. Our daughter is 14 and she was barely walking when she was partying to Steve's music.*

*We also had the privilege of having Steve play at our wedding reception.*



*Janie at party Nov 1992 in which Steve played, this is the other photo, and a photo of Craig and myself.*



## ✧ Steves' Blurb ✧

*"While the world around us seems to get crazier each day, music seem to be one of those 'rocks' of our culture that can take us away from the worries of the world. Shakespeare said that "he who hath no music in him was not a man to be trusted." I wonder how we would get on if we sent our enemies songs instead of bombs? At least it's possible to like a song! just a thought.....it is with much regret that management has decided to cancel the proposed U.S. tour this year. I'm still working on the new album and it has a long way to go before completion, and I really need the new product to launch the tour with. Next year will be a definite and I will look forward to meeting as many of you as I can then.*

*"Cheers!"*

*---STEVE*



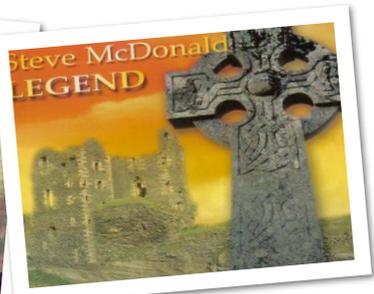
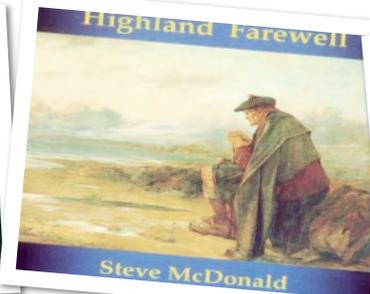
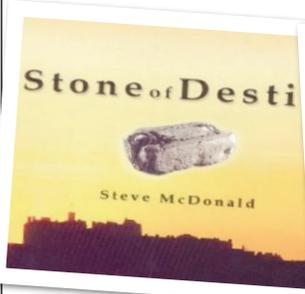
## A WEEEEEE NOTE FROM STEVE

It would seem that most people interested in my music, are taken by the heritage or lineage of the music. That's great as that's the reason how I started with this genre. I think it's so important for people to have some kind of contact with their past as it explains why you are the person you are, the kind of people you came from and a geographical point to explore. The past talks to us all the time and by getting to know where we've been we get insight as to where we are going. All those who have shared with me (through their emails) their experiences with tracing ancestry, or visiting the home land of their forbearers, thank you. May the children pick up from where we have left off. ".....so forget ye not the departed ones, for the souls they live on in the blood of the sons" from The Legacy, Sons of Somerled. (sons also means daughters!)

Best Wishes

STEVE McDONALD





## puzzle pages

We have some new puzzles on our **Puzzle Page**! One of our wonderful fan club members sent me pictures of the CD covers that were released in England. Thank you so much, Anne!

I asked Steve why the covers were different in the different countries, and here is his explanation:  
***“The different covers for the various U.K. releases was the Scottish companies idea. They felt that the covers would be better accepted than the U.S ones, just as Etherean chose to use a different cover for Sons.. than I used on the New Zealand release. It has caused confusion. The few different tracks on the U.S release was again Etherean’s choice and***

***was made from a mixture of tracks from the original Sons of Somerled and the Celtic Warrior, that way Celtic Warrior became extinct and we had a stronger Sons album (hope your not totally confused??!! )”***

Steve also gave permission to put some of his music on the site that was on his original Sons of Somerled CD released in New Zealand. There is one track that is not on any of his albums, **Somer Mist**, and a few that have a different arrangement than what was released on his albums with Etherean. The woman who sings with him is Wendy McMillan.

There has also been a few new items added to the fan club store. Please check them out!

### MEMBER Spotlight

Send us a picture and tell us about yourself! If you have ever seen Steve perform, or had your picture taken with him, please send that along, too!.

If you have any ideas on something that you would like to see on this website, please let me know. Thanks. Anyone who has joined the fan club, but not received a newsletter, please e-mail me again, and let me know. Thanks.

We are now offering Steve's SPINFIELD CD for sale. Go to the Steve McDonald Fan Club Store and buy it now! Also check out the other items -- we have t-shirts, sweatshirts, camisoles, mousepads, tote bags, mugs and "Who is Steve McDonald?" buttons and magnets. Spread the word!





## ITEMS AT THE STORE

<http://www.cafepress.com/stevemedonald>

### GUEST BOOK

Come and look around, the web page and sign the Guest Book. If you'd like to join the Fan Club, or receive a monthly e- newsletter, or even send Steve and e-mail, please visit the Fan Club section.

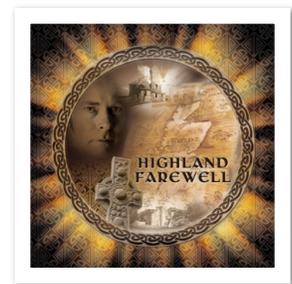
### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

There is also now a MEMBER SPOTLIGHT page, where you can tell a little about yourself, and post pictures of yourself, as well.

### WINNER

This month's winner of an autographed CD by Steve McDonald is Matt Tanner

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



## NEW VIDEO FROM NEW ZEALAND NOW ONLINE

### ALL ABOUT STEVE

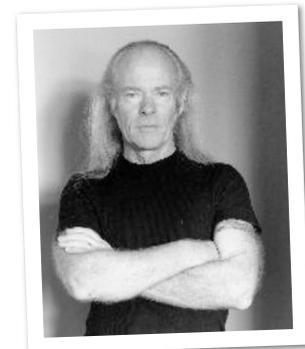
Steve McDonald has been a prominent figure in New Zealand music for the past twenty five years. His early days in the Wellington scene include the bands, "Dizzy Limit" (four top ten recordings) "Timberjack"

(Gold Disc nominees). Later he would join the Auckland legendary band "Human Instinct. His real rise to prominence came in the '80's when he won several significant song

writing awards, including the ABU Asian Pacific Song Contest, in which twenty countries participated. From there he wrote many soundtracks for TV, including the American Cup Challenge and many other sports themes. In the early 90's he produced his most successful work yet with his Celtic music of which he now has recorded five albums. They have sold collectively over a million copies in the U.S. alone. He tours the U.S. regularly, and in 2005 has signed up with a major recording label which will take him on extensive touring over the next few

years. His live one man band show is unrivaled, performing classic hits of the 60's, 70's, and 80's, plus his own compositions. He is New Zealand's top solo act,

**NOT TO BE MISSED!**





### Steve McDonald Interview

Published by: [Admin](#) , On: Dec-29-2005

**Q** When did you first discover you had a special singing voice?

**SM.** Well, I don't really see my voice as special, rather I think if you have a voice it's a matter of creating the right music around it. Your voice is a musical instrument like any other and it can feature well in certain styles of music better than others. Finding that style can take forever, it's easier though if you write your own music because you tend to write around the voice you have.

**Q** How did your music career begin; what were some of your 1st gigs like?

**SM.** I started learning piano at the age of five. That was a terrifying experience. I was scared stiff of the teacher because she would make me very self-conscious by gazing at my hands as I played...waiting for a mistake, then the guillotine would come down. Even to this day I get nervous when people are up close watching. It wasn't until I took up drums that my passion for music became apparent. I just loved getting out there with the band playing my favorite songs (mostly Beatles). The early gigs were so much fun, the only thing that mattered in life was the next gig.

**Q** What is one of your favorite instruments and why?

**SM.** There's a few, but if I had to choose it would come down to two: The saxophone because it is so expressive and full of "feel," and the electric guitar because it is totally unique in its sound and ability to create new music. The electric guitar

changed the face of modern music and forged a whole generation and direction in music.

**Q** What does being a Scot mean to you?

**SM.** Firstly I refer to myself as a South Pacific Scot as I was born in New Zealand and so were my parents. My connection to Scotland came through my family name that started me on the road to writing about Scotland. It's in your blood, and, over the generations, you still feel that attachment to it both genetically and spiritually. New Zealand has a high percentage of Scottish and Irish blood so the connection is strong.

**Q** What about Scottish history continues to 1) delight you? 2) haunt you?

**SM.** I love the thousands of stories handed down through the generations. I can pick up a book and find out new things all the time. The Scots are very passionate about their history and that passion is still around today.

The haunting aspects fall on the more tragic side of history. The Scots have had an age-old battle with the English and even though nowadays these things belong in the past, there are not many Scots who are not haunted by the past. It will always be in the blood.

**Q** Are there quite a lot of Scottish people living in New Zealand? If so, do they have the equivalent of the Highland Games and/or Scottish Festivals?

**SM.** Yes, there are a lot of ex-patriot Scots living here, but, more so, the Scottish connection is one of the children and grandchildren of Scotland. The South Island has most of the Scottish heritage. In fact the city of Dunedin, located toward the bottom of the east coast of New Zealand, is the old name for Edinburgh, and even the streets are the same names and virtually in the same location as Edinburgh in Scotland.

Again yes, we have Highland Games festivals and our pipe bands have, on several occasions, gone to Scotland and won the World Champ pipe band contests.

**Q** What is it like as a Scottish recording artist living in your native New Zealand? How are you supported and revered by the Scottish community in New Zealand?

**SM.** I have had excellent support from various Scottish societies in New Zealand. I play at some, though not a lot of, Highland Festivals. Because New Zealand is a small population country, you have to diversify in order to keep afloat as a full time musician. I think I am regarded as a little bit "way out" by the more conservative Scots, but I've never had a bad gig at such places.

**Q** Do you have plans for another U.S. tour?

**SM.** Yes, Yes, Yes. We are working on that and do hope to get a result for next year. I have had a hard time securing tours in the U.S. in the past as not many agents seem to know how to classify my performance. But I am confident we will do something in the States next year! Watch this space!

**Q** When you imagine your highest inspirations for your music and career, what does this look like?

**SM.** The perspective has changed somewhat in recent times compared to how I saw things when I was say 20 years old. My vision of success is not so much one of being the biggest thing since sliced bread, but one of reaching people through the music. I learned this relatively recently. I was playing at a gig and a woman came up to me and told me about her daughter who had a motor neuron disease and was confined to a wheelchair. She said they were at a shopping mall watching a street performer who used my music as a background for his show. The young girl was really taken by the music so they went to the local record store and bought a copy. The woman said that since then, even now, every night the young girl will not go to

sleep until that song is played, and by the end of the song she is asleep, and this is every night for over three years. That is definitely success. that is always appreciated!



## spotlight



**Jorene Miller**

Welcome, to my little corner of the world.

My name is Jorene Miller. My husband Fred and I have been married for 14 years.

These are our babies, Jake & Mollie. They are Border Collie



Australian Shepherd mix.

As you can see they really do love each other.

We live in Idaho. We both work at a consumer paper industry. I make bathroom tissue. Fred makes household towels.

Jake and Mollie just work at keeping the squirrels and birds out of their yard. They are seven years old now. We came by Steve's music in 1998 while traveling in northern Idaho at Sandpoint. Walked into a shop and heard the most entrancing song, 'Soldier's Lament' playing and found that they were selling the cd's and bought one. We had to wait until we got home to listen to it as we did not have a cd player.

I have since bought or received all seven of Steve's cd's. I even went so far as to order and purchase his first solo lp, 'The Riddle And The Rhyme'.

That makes eight. If you want to hear a different side of Steve I would recommend this highly. I am patiently waiting for his new cd to come out.

We are looking forward to having Steve come to the States to tour hopefully close by.

By the way Fred has Scottish ancestry and I have Irish and Jake and Mollie have Scottish and American lineage.

Those squirrels are just plain nuts for coming into the dogs domain. Keep up the good work Steve. I never get tired of listening to your music.





## SPINFIELD PRODUCTIONS

Hi, this is Steve McDonald.

On behalf of Jackie Bishop (slot secretary) and the crew at African Music, welcome to the slot.

About ten years ago, a friend of mine in Australia sent me an ancient looking scroll containing a brief outline on the history of the name McDonald.

I was so taken by the turbulence and passion of the Scots, and their battle for identity over their two thousand year history, that I decided to delve deeper into my own past. This inspired me to write and now four albums of music later, I'm still writing about it.

I am a Kiwi of Scottish heritage and I urge people of all cultures to seek out their roots. It is amazing what you can discover about yourself through the journey of your ancestors.

We are, past and every one of us, the sum result of all those who came before us.

"..... so forget ye not

the dependant ones,

for the Scots they live on

in the heart of the name" www.mcdonald.com

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# LOCH LAMONDE



Measuring twenty-seven and a half square miles, Loch Lomond is the largest single inland waterway in Britain. It is a haven for tourists, being only 20 miles north-west of Glasgow and on one of the main routes north.

## Balloch Pier



Loch Lomond was formed during the Ice Age by the action of glaciers. Later it was at the junction of three ancient kingdoms, Strathclyde, Dalriada and Pictland. The loch also crosses the highland fault line, noticeable in its changing character and more rugged terrain moving from south to north. The highest mountain in the area and the most southerly Munro, Ben Lomond (3195ft), sits on the loch's eastern shore.

There are 37 islands in the loch, some having seen habitation: they made perfect retreats for early Christians. One island, Inchmurrin, takes its name from the missionary St Mirrin who spent some time there.

The main tourist focus is on the western shore of the loch, along the A82 and at the southern end, around Balloch. Here is the place to head for boat trips around the

loch or to view the pleasure craft. This is also the home of Maid of the Loch, an authentic paddle steamer currently undergoing restoration. Near by, the new Loch Lomond Shores development is attracting large numbers of visitors. Balloch Pier is also used by Loch Lomond Seaplanes as the departure point of some of their flights.

Most picturesque of Loch Lomond's villages is Luss on the west bank. Its streets are laid out in a linear pattern and were originally part of the planned estate village built by the Colquhouns. Recently restored, they present a pretty sight, as does the parish church with its interesting central altar. But most striking are the views from the loch-side walk and pier, extending uninterrupted along the loch.

Also on the western side are the villages of Arden, Tarbet and, most northerly, Ardlui. Arden boasts Scotland's most beautiful Youth Hostel, housed in a grand turreted building complete with ghost. Tarbet, 17 miles north of Balloch, is on the West Highland line from Glasgow to Mallaig as is Ardlui at the mountain-framed head of the loch.

From Inverbeg, halfway between Luss and Tarbet, passenger ferries cross Loch Lomond to Rowardennan on the eastern side. Here there is a hotel and a Youth Hostel. This is the quiet side of the loch and few tourists venture north of here.

The eastern side carries the West Highland Way on its route north to Fort William from its start point at Milngavie just north of Glasgow; and from the car park at the end of the public road just beyond Rowardennan Hotel, is the start of the 'tourist route' up Ben Lomond.

The main place of habitation and also of tourism on this side of the loch is the village of Balmaha, at the end of the B837. Sitting directly behind it is Conic Hill, a humpy mound that marks the geological line where the highlands begin. This is a busy place in summer, being the stepping off point for boat excursions round Loch Lomond's islands.

