

Curriculum Vitae

NAME William Wallace

ADDRESS 9 Crossgar Road,
Dromara.
Co. Down
BT25 2JT

E-mail william@whwdesign.co.uk

MOBILE No. 07711 885033

DATE OF BIRTH 05 July 1970

QUALIFICATIONS RSPBA Advanced Certificate in Piping [Awarded 1995]
RSPBA Intermediate Certificate in Piping
RSPBA Elementary Certificate in Piping
Trinity College of Music Grade 5 in Music [Piano]

EXPERIENCE

Player

I have over 35 years of practical experience playing the Great Highland Bagpipe. I was taught by Joe McAdam then by Thomas Robinson. I was fortunate to live near two great teachers and greatly appreciate their influence on my piping career to date; helping to mould me into the player and teacher I am today.

I started to learn in Waringsford Pipe Band near Dromore while travelling to Ballynahinch Pipe Band for further tuition. Under the tutelage of Joe I entered solo competitions becoming a regular prize-winner. Thomas Robinson began to teach Waringsford Pipe Band and they entered in to the competition scene proving to be very successful in the lower grades.

I joined Upper Crossgare in 1989 who were a very successful band in Grade 2 and won every major honour from Provincial, All-Ireland, Scottish, British, European and World titles. Over many years Upper Crossgare enjoyed success and I grew and matured into a role whereby I helped to structure, harmonise and bridge the competition pieces. I would eventually become Pipe Major. In 2011 I joined Ravara.

Teacher

I began teaching beginners on practice chanters in Waringsford Pipe Band from 1985. At that age I was a senior player in the band and was responsible for instructing beginners the basic rudiments.

Having transferred to Upper Crossgare Pipe Band I taught learners the basic exercises and rudiments on the practice chanter. Also concentrating on the general theory of music I ended up also teaching more accomplished players.

In 1999 I was approached and accepted an invite to teach in the Northern Ireland Piping and Drumming School in Newry High School. This was very rewarding, with larger classes and a mixture of young people and adults from all backgrounds including those travelling from the Republic of Ireland.

I then began to teach a structured Saturday morning class in Waringsford targeting pipers at all levels in both the practice chanter and bagpipes. These students progressed into competitive playing where they all won prizes.

In 2004, I then moved my teaching programme to Upper Crossgare where I had been installed as pipe major and band leader. I established a training programme for all local young people to allow the band to be successful, long term and competitive. This involved three school-like terms with an annual intake each September and a structured curriculum ensuring progress and advancement was being achieved and monitored. I am proud to say that every single student I have taught from the very beginning has gone on to become prize winners either in solo or band competition.

In 2006 I approached the Ulster-Scots Agency seeking support for a summer scheme for local young people. After co-ordinating and consultations between the Agency and myself, this was duly granted and indeed, following my initial contact the Agency developed a pilot scheme which was delivered throughout the province that summer. In the first year I developed a programme which taught bagpipe playing and other facets of Ulster-Scots culture to over local young people. This scheme was then replicated each year until 2009. Bourne from the success of my tuition programmes and summer schemes I taught a group of young people that formed a junior pipe band who in 2010 became Ulster, All-Ireland, Scottish, European and World Champions in their grade. From this success I have been invited to teach at other summer schemes and after schools clubs throughout Ulster over the past number of years. Over the last number of years I have given various demonstrations, exhibitions and talks to wide audiences. This has involved schools, community groups, international visitors and special needs schools.

From 2013 I have been an instructor in the RSPBA School teaching the foundation, Levels 1 and 2. I enjoy teaching this level immensely and understand the importance of teaching at this level giving the pupil strong foundations in the practical and theory knowledge of music.

Aspirations

I enjoy teaching at all levels and seeing the progression and improvement in individuals and bands. I see adjudication as a natural progression in my own development and will help and aid bands to raise the standards of pipe band music.

Conclusion

I feel I am professional and approachable. I am very proud of the results from my pupils. This indicates that I am a good teacher and communicate well and inspire confidence within young people. I enjoy various types of music and play several instruments including the guitar, piano and whistles. I am employed by the Ulster Scots Agency to travel to events such as schools, demonstrations, concerts, presentations, after school clubs, exhibitions, summer schemes and festivals. This is something I enjoy immensely and look forward to continue.