

# An Invitation

## FOR MUSICIANS

**D**o you play an instrument? Do you remember your childhood piano lessons fondly? What about the violin sitting on your closet shelf?

If you'd like to learn more about the music for Scottish country dancing and learn to play for classes and dance parties, contact Liz Donaldson at [liz@us.net](mailto:liz@us.net). All instruments and skill levels are welcome! Ask your non-dancing musician friends if they would like to expand their horizons (and opportunities!) into music for SCD.

# Beginner's Boost

## FEBRUARY 13

**A**dmit it – whether you've been dancing for 2 weeks or 40 years, you still wonder whose hand goes on top in 4 hands across, how to phrase an allemande properly, and how to finish a 6-bar reel neatly. With beginning dancers in mind, but genuinely valuable for dancers of all levels, Elaine Brunken will reinforce basic SCD steps and figures during the Beginners' Boost workshop at the Durant Center on February 13. Be sure to attend this fun afternoon to improve your technique so you can relax and enjoy upcoming SCD parties and other events. If you have had at least one or two SCD classes, or you are familiar with other kinds of dancing in lines and squares (English country dancing, American square dancing, Irish ceilidh dancing, and others), make your way to the Durant Center on February 13.

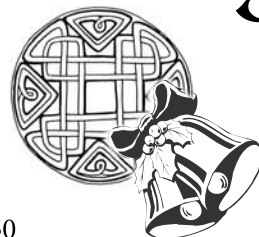
# ARE THOSE SKIRTS???

**G**ood Scots know that those gorgeous swinging pleats belong to kilts, not skirts, and that men look great in kilts! In order to introduce a wider audience to the magic music of Scotland and to explore the history of the region, Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews and Jim Stevenson-Matthews don their "skirts" and present a concert featuring many of their favorite Scottish ballads in "Two Men in Skirts – A Journey Through Scotland in Song and Story."

Come to the Lyceum in Alexandria on the afternoon of March 6 to hear their unique blend. This will be a concert, not a dance (the Snowdrop Ball happens later in the day!) so invite your friends who don't dance but who love good music.

Want a preview? Check them out online at [www.twomeninskirts.com](http://www.twomeninskirts.com)

# Upcoming Events



The new year is full of dancing!

**Sun, Jan 17**  
2:00 p.m. \$15 / \$7.50  
Silver Spring Presbyterian Church, Mechanicsburg, PA  
Live music with David Knight, Liz Donaldson, and Dan Emery.  
contact 717-285-4946

**Harrisburg Twelfth Night Dance**

**Wed, Jan 20**  
8:00 p.m. \$5  
Durant Center, Alexandria, VA  
Live music with Mike Dunn and Liz Donaldson

**Northern Virginia Burns Night Celebration**

**Sat, Jan 23**  
Dance at 1:00 p.m., dinner and ceilidh 6:30 p.m. \$18 dance \$38 dinner  
Dance at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Ivy, VA  
Dinner and ceilidh at Michie Tavern, Charlottesville, VA  
Live music with Thistle House - David Knight, Dave Wiesler, and Dan Emery  
Advance reservations required. contact Bob or Celia Belton at 434-979-0939 or [trouto@embarqmail.com](mailto:trouto@embarqmail.com)

**Charlottesville Burns Night Celebration**

**Sun, Feb 7**  
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. free  
Fairfax, VA, near Fair Oaks Mall - contact [dance.lawless@gmail.com](mailto:dance.lawless@gmail.com)

**Lawless Sunday Social Dancing**

**Sun, Feb 13**  
2:00 p.m. Basic technique workshop for all dancers  
Durant Center, Alexandria, VA. Taught by Elaine Brunken  
contact 703-548-8031

**Beginner's Boost**

**Sat, Mar 6**  
Save the date!  
Concert, the Lyceum, Old Town Alexandria  
Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews and Jim Stevenson-Matthews

**Two Men in Skirts**

**Sat, Mar 6**  
8:00 p.m., ball review at 7:00 p.m.  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA  
Live music with Elke Baker and Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews

**Northern Virginia Snowdrop Ball**

**Sun, Mar 7**  
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. free  
Fairfax, VA, near Fair Oaks Mall - contact [dance.lawless@gmail.com](mailto:dance.lawless@gmail.com)

**Lawless Sunday Social Dancing**

**Sat, Mar 13**  
Church of the Epiphany, Richmond, VA  
live music with John Turner and Dave Wiesler  
contact 804-282-5482 or 804-778-4708

**Richmond St. Patrick's Day Dance**

**Fri – Sun, Apr 9 – 11**  
Kensington Town Hall Armory, Kensington, MD  
teacher: Mary Murray  
live music with Laura Risk, Nicholas Williams, and Dave Wiesler  
contact [www.capitalweekend.org](http://www.capitalweekend.org)

**A Capital Weekend**

**Sat, May 1**  
8:30 p.m. free (donations accepted!)  
Stamp Student Union, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

**Terrapin Spring Ball**

# Over the Water



January 2010  
New Year Edition



A regular publication of the  
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
of the Greater Washington DC area  
[www.rscds-greaterdc.org](http://www.rscds-greaterdc.org)

Offering Scottish Country Dancing  
for all levels of dancers

We are waiting to welcome you!



# SCOTTISH WALK

2009



Washington-area dancers braved the authentic Scottish weather to dance the streets of Old Town Alexandria during the annual Scottish Christmas Walk parade on December 5th. Jigs and reels and smiles delighted the snowflake-spangled crowds lining the streets to enjoy 200 Scottish bands, clans, and other groups mixed in with civic leaders.

The weather outside was frightful. But the dancing was so delightful! Those who stayed were rewarded with an ensemble of pipes, pets, and politicians—and a few pas de Basques from us! Jeff McLean's Mini provided reels on wheels to fuel our soles. Whoops and hollers followed all through the parade route! The end of the parade is hardly the end of the day, the warmth of the Tea Dance at the Durant Center beckons!



Our intrepid Walkers

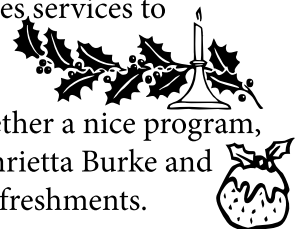


## Exemplary Eye Contact



Following the snowy Scottish Christmas Walk on December 5th, the Northern Virginia Branch welcomed the holiday season at the Alexandria Christmas Walk Tea Dance. The snow flurries did not deter a lively group of dancers, who gathered to enjoy the music of David Knight and Pete Campbell. Yvonne Yang compiled a highly enjoyable program, which kept five sets of dancers active on a dance-floor decorated with Christmas lights and holly. The Nutcracker Prince presided over the tea table, laden with delicious home-made treats. It was a wonderful afternoon of music and fun, and put everyone into the Christmas spirit. The Northern Virginia Branch again contributed to the ongoing work of Alexandria's Campagna Center, which provides services to women and children in the city.

Many thanks to Yvonne Yang for putting together a nice program, to David and Pete for great music, and to Henrietta Burke and Jacqui Hepburn for beautiful and delicious refreshments.



## Class Schedule

In the Washington area, you can dance almost every night of the week. See the website for details! [www.rscds-greaterdc.org](http://www.rscds-greaterdc.org)

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Bethesda, Baltimore, Frederick</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Greenbelt, Charlottesville, Richmond, UMBC</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>U Maryland, Alexandria</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Williamsburg</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Bethesda</b>
<b>1st Sunday</b>	<b>Fairfax</b>

## happy feet!

2010 promises to be a great year for dancing in the DC area, full of classes and special events. All the area groups are continuing with their regularly scheduled classes, which means that every weekday evening you can benefit from the best SCD teaching and music. January brings Twelfth Night and Robert Burns celebrations, February has Valentine romance, March delights with the Snowdrop Ball and St. Patrick's Day, April's cherry blossoms bring A Capital Weekend, and May will see the Terrapin Spring Ball and Your Basic Tea Dance. On the first Sunday afternoon of January, February, and March, Barney and Helen Lawless will open their home for social dancing mixed with great food and conversation. All these events, and we're not even halfway through the year!

Be sure to mark your calendars with two extra-special events coming soon – the Beginners' Boost in February and a special concert by Two Men in Skirts in March. See the chart below for a listing of upcoming area events.

If classes or events are cancelled because of bad weather, our superlative Webmistress will attempt to keep the Web site updated as quickly as possible. For the Alexandria class, when the Alexandria City public schools are closed, the Durant Center is usually also closed. Make sure your local class membership coordinator has your current e-mail and phone number so you can get the latest information.

## This dance is Cromdel Hill!

Many thanks to Cecily and Geoffrey Selling for identifying the soggy mystery dance printed in the Argyle issue of *Over the Water*, found on a scrap of paper in the Wards' flooded basement. The dance is *Cromdel Hill* from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Book, a 32-bar reel for 3 couples. Fluff up the petticoats and we'll dance it soon!

1st couple set and cast off one place.  
In promenade hold, 1st couple dance up and cast off around 2nd man, then dance through the center to dance around 3rd woman.  
1st couple lead up and cast off.  
1st couple and 3rd couple dance 4 hands round and back.  
2nd couple and 1st couple dance rights and lefts.

## A Song for Carol

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D G A

Bm F#m Em A

D Em F#m A/E

D G A A7

D Em F#m A7

D G D G

D G D

D.C. al Coda

D G D G

D G D Gm D

Written in honor of Carol Porter (d. 2009).  
Beloved dancer, teacher, and staunch supporter of  
Scottish Country Dancing, particularly in Northern Virginia.