

## JOHN CAIRNS BIOGRAPHY

John Cairns comes from a piping family that has a long and prestigious musical history, and is recognized today as one of the World's top bagpipers.

John has studied under the best teachers in both Canada and Scotland and as a soloist, has won almost every major prize in North America, including:

- Eight Pipers' and Pipe Band Society of Ontario Champion Supreme designations,
- Three North American Champion titles,
- The Bratach Gorm,
- The Piobaireachd Society Canadian Gold Medal, Bar to the Gold Medal and Former Winners March, Strathspey and Reel Contest,
- Three Livingstone Invitational Contests, and
- Three Fergus Gold Medals for Light Music.

In 1999, John achieved a feat that every piper dreams of - he became the 11th person in the history of piping and the only person from outside of Scotland to win the two Highland Society of London Gold Medals for solo piping at both Oban and Inverness, Scotland in the same year.

As a teacher, John holds the internationally recognized Institute of Piping's Senior Teacher's Certificate and has taught all over North America. John is also an accredited evaluator for the Institute of Piping. During his seventeen years in the Canadian Forces, he trained over ten thousand students in the Cadet Pipes and Drums Training Program and developed a methodology for teaching and a structured training program that is second to none.

John is the Pipe Major (director) of the Peel Regional Police Grade 1 Pipe Band from Toronto, Ontario. Before joining Peel, he spent twelve years as the Pipe Sergeant with the 78th Fraser Highlanders Grade 1 Pipe Band. John's experience in Grade 1 pipe bands dates back to 1982.

John adjudicates regularly throughout North America and is an accomplished composer. In 2000, his tune "The Lament for the Unknown Soldier" was selected in a nation-wide contest, and was played during the dedication ceremonies at Canada's National War Memorial in Ottawa to unveil the new tomb for unknown Canadian soldiers.

As the Director of a National Music Program in the Canadian Forces, John was able to determine the availability and standard of existing bagpipe educational products and services in the global market. Additionally, as a world-renowned performer, teacher and adjudicator, John was able to pinpoint those specific aspects that are viewed by the best international musicians as being critical to providing the highest quality and standard of bagpipe education.

John has combined his musical expertise and vast knowledge of the international bagpipe market with his extensive experience in management, business, finance, training and program development to form a business venture called *Bagpipe Solutions by John Cairns*. Specifically, Bagpipe Solutions by John Cairns was launched to provide professional bagpipe educational products and services that are accessible on a global basis and will satisfy both the existing and future international needs.