



ACHIEVERS INTERNATIONAL - GEORGIA

Clipped from: The Times-Herald – Coweta's Local Daily

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 1998

CULTURAL EXCHANGE



Courtesy News Channel 9

Wallace Galbraith, musical director of the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra, plays an antique violin once played owned by Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns. The recently restored fiddle will be played in Newnan during the orchestra's July visit.



Photo by Dean Jackson

Roddy Crooks and Wallace Galbraith of the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra, stand with Newnan Mayor Keith Brady in the entrance to Newnan's Wadsworth Auditorium. Galbraith and the Scottish youth fiddle orchestra will perform in the Newnan hall July 29, as a part of the city and county's relationship with the orchestra's home.



Scottish fiddlers promote concert

By DEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Several Newnan folks stopped and stared as the two jacketed fellows walked across Jefferson Street from the city Municipal Auditorium, one with a violin case tucked under his arm.

People didn't mean to be rude. It just isn't every day you see two men in tartan kilts in downtown Newnan.

The men — Wallace Galbraith, musical director of the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra, and Roddy Crooks, the youth orchestra's marketing director — were visiting Coweta in anticipation of their group's concert in Newnan and throughout the U.S. next summer. Both were decked out in full, formal Scottish attire, complete with the knee-length kilts.

"People have been very friendly," Galbraith said of his day visiting with local people to stir up interest in the concert tour. "But, when you meet them, they hold eye contact for about a second, and then it drops..."

Galbraith and Crooks were introduced around town and to civic organizations by Newnan Mayor Keith Brady, who was playing host on behalf of the city.

It was both men's first visit to Newnan, in anticipation of the July Newnan concert which will be held in the Charles Wadsworth Auditorium in the Municipal Building on Jefferson Street.

"The generosity of citizens and civic leaders has been fantastic," said Galbraith.

Their visit is part of an expanding cultural and educational relationship between Newnan and Coweta and the men's home of South Ayrshire, Scotland.

The youth orchestra's visit to

Scottish fiddlers promote coming concert

FIDDLERS

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Newnan and Peachtree City will be part of the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra's summer 1999 tour of Canada and America.

Galbraith and his wife, Alexis — both violin instructors — began the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra 16 years ago with 46 youth from around South Ayrshire. The orchestra has grown in size and prestige, with about 150 string and percussion musicians ranging in age from 10 to 23 years old.

Eighty of those young musicians will travel on the U.S. concert tour this summer.

The youth orchestra has toured internationally for eight years, traveling not only through the United Kingdom but also France, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Canada and the U.S.

This year, the orchestra will perform in Toronto, Ayr, Ontario, Vandalia, Ohio, Atlanta, Newnan and St. Pete Beach, Florida.

The concert tour is something of a "twinned communities" tour for the South Ayrshire-based orchestra. Vandalia is "twinned" (a sister city) with Prestwick, where half the orchestra's members live; the Passe-a-Grille Community Church in St. Pete's Beach is twinned with the Newton-on-Ayr church; and Ayr and South Ayrshire are twinned with Newnan and Coweta County, respectively.

"Our visit to Newnan and Coweta is perhaps the cornerstone of our tour," because of the new and increasingly close relations between the Georgian and Scottish communities, said Galbraith.

"We look forward to cementing the relationship between Ayr and South Ayrshire and Newnan and Coweta," said Crooks.

Galbraith said he was impressed with the downtown Newnan auditorium's acoustics. The Wadsworth Auditorium has just completed a multi-year restoration which included an acoustic remake of the facility as well as a renovation of the Art Deco hall.

The summer concert visit will be a part of the growing relationship between the local community and South Ayrshire, which began with the Achiever's International Scotland Project, a trade and business-education program linking local schools with Scottish schools.

The Achiever's program has spread outside Coweta to high schools in Fayette County, Columbus and elsewhere in Georgia. The relationship it spawned between Newnan and the Scottish community has grown as well.

A television interview with Brady and his guests will play on Newnan Utilities News Channel Nine this Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m.

AMERICA 1999

The Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra has previously undertaken seven international tours, visiting France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Canada and America. In July and August 1999, 92 members of the Orchestra will give performances in **Toronto, Ayr (Ontario), Vandalia (Ohio) - Prestwick's Twin Town, Atlanta & Newnan (Georgia), and St. Pete Beach Florida** where we will be the guests of Passe-a-Grille Community Church which is twinned with Newton-on-Ayr Church. Our visit to Georgia will be of special significance because of South Ayrshire's recent twinning with Newnan and our developing association with that area.

Thanks to the National Trust for Scotland I am being allowed to play the "Gregg" violin on the Tour. This is the recently restored instrument which was played by William Gregg at the Bachelor's Club in Tarbolton when Robert Burns attended dancing lessons and on which the Poet probably played himself.



As in the past the members of the Orchestra will prove to be great ambassadors for themselves, their community and Scotland. **Such a tour is a costly venture - in this case around £130,000.** £50,000 will be paid by the players leaving £80,000 to be raised by activities such as a Swimathon, Prize Draw, 24 hour Play-In and hopefully by sponsorship from Civic and Commercial sources.

Our pre-Tour build-up will be widely covered by the media - the Ayrshire Post have already generously agreed to promote events and the tour itself will receive extensive Radio and TV attention in America both locally and nationally. **We would welcome the opportunity to discuss aspects of the Tour which could be mutually advantageous with any Companies that were interested.** I would be delighted if you would contact me at the address or telephone/fax number given at the bottom of the page.

R. Wallace Galbraith
Musical Director
Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra

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