

## Seniors Meeting July 2017

The summer meeting, on Thursday 13th July, saw the welcome return of **Ryan Corbett** who first visited three years ago as a pupil of Douglas Academy's School of Music (Milngavie), now returned as a young man, having completed a year at St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh. Ryan had a surprise for us, he brought with him not one but two accordions, one tuned for Scottish music and the other tuned for Classical pieces.



Ryan began his program with a beautiful haunting slow air by Phil Cunningham, *Loch Katrine's Lady*, part of the Trossachs Suite, introduced at 2001 the Celtic Connections, and followed this with a lively set of foot-tapping jigs and reels. He then played *Sonata in F major*, one of over 500 sonatas composed for the harpsichord by the brilliant Italian, Domenico Scarlatti. We were informed that Scarlatti left Italy and joined the Spanish Court at the request of his pupil, a Portuguese princess, who married Ferdinand VI. This was followed by another classical piece *Capriccio* by Russian composer, Albin Repnikov. Ryan won 3rd prize in the Under 18 category at the 54th International Accordion Competition in Klingenthal, Germany. [Anyone wishing a reminder of this challenging work can see Ryan playing it on YouTube.] Another sonata by Domenico Scarlatti followed, this time in F minor, then *Don Rhapsody* by Russian composer and music Professor, Viacheslav Semionov. This piece also helped Ryan win his prize at the 54th International Accordion Competition in Klingenthal [also available on YouTube]. These were incredibly intricate, technical and moving pieces, skilfully played.

Ryan took up his first accordion again, tuned for Scottish music, and gave us a selection of old favourites for a sing-a-long session including the *Skye Boat Song*, *I belong to Glasgow*, *Daisy Daisy*, *Roamin' in The Gloamin'*, *Stop yer tickling*, *Jock* and *I Love a Lassie*, after which Ryan warmly congratulated 'the singers' in the audience on their performance! To finish Ryan played a selection including *Highland Cathedral*, *The Bluebell Polka* made famous by Jimmy Shand, *The Dundee City Police Pipe Band* written by Jimmy Shand then Fergie MacDonald's *Runrig*, and finished with an Irish tune *Arthur Darley's Jig*, all tunes that Ryan plays with his brother in their Ceilidh band.

As on his last visit, Ryan played without a note of music even though his program was vastly more complex and technical. Ryan has a remarkable talent and wishes to study more of the Classical accordion that he loves ... Glasgow and Russia are the two best places where he can study. We wish him every success for the future and urged him not to forget us when he becomes famous.

Before closing the meeting, our Organiser made the usual announcements but the last was a very poignant one. **Ruth Beattie**, Honorary President of Glasgow Branch and initiator of the Seniors' Group, is leaving Glasgow and moving to Kenilworth to be near her family. In appreciation and on behalf of the members of the Seniors' Group, Ruth was presented with a lovely arrangement of flowers, a couple of emotional speeches followed and most people had a tear in their eye as the afternoon drew to a close.



Maureen Daniel, Seniors' Group Member