

# A WEEK IN PARADISE BAGPIPE SCHOOL



## *June 20th - June 24th, 2011*



Part of Ian Whitelaw's passion is to bring world class musicians—leaders in their field—to his piping schools. **"A Week In Paradise School of Bagpipes"** is held annually each summer in Palos Verdes, California and also features **Murray Henderson**, the legendary piper from Scotland (also the creator of the Strathmore Bagpipe) as the guest instructor at the school.



Ian has great passion for helping others improve their musicianship and their ability to play the bagpipes better and this is achieved by developing the student and providing the tools necessary. The areas of study that are available at his schools are:

1. The study of bagpipe sound
2. The study of light music – both competitive and non-competitive
3. Piobaireachd
4. Reed manipulation – chanter reeds and drone reeds (specializing in cane reeds but synthetic are addressed)
5. Arranging of musical settings
6. The art of performing – competition form and all other forms of performance

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## Where is the school located?

A Week in Paradise Piping School takes place right on the cliffs of South Rancho Palos Verdes at the **St. Peter's By the Sea Presbyterian Church.**

Address: 6410 Palos Verdes Drive South Rancho Palos Verdes, Ca.

## What are the accommodations like?

The accommodations are located in the gated, dorm community of the **Marymount College.** Each townhouse unit consists of a living room, kitchen, 1.5 baths, and two bedrooms. The bedroom areas are furnished with two twin size beds, small closets, writing desks and drawers. Sheets and towels are available through the college in addition to the rooming fee for \$30.00. **Double Occupancy Rate: \$45.00** per night per person - 2 people and 2 twin beds in one room. **Single Occupancy Rate: \$80.00** per night per person. 1 person and 2 twin beds in one room

## Are meals included?

Meals are not provided at the dorms or school location. There is a large variety of restaurants and fast food locations near the dorms and school. With the dorm amenities including a full kitchen,

*A Celtic Traveler Bagpipes*

many students purchase grocery items to bring to the dorms.

## What is the daily schedule ?

Instruction begins each day at 8:00am and continues through 4:00pm each day with a one hour lunch break.

Ian and Murray provide a guided balance between practice chanter work and bagpipe playing. Students are grouped with others within their same level of talent to provide the most comfortable and efficient learning environment possible. This allows for the "newest" player to excel as much as an experienced player.

Instruction includes introduction and teaching a variety of tunes, technique, and implementing this on the bagpipes. Instrument set up, maintenance, and reed manipulation are also key topics.

**Tuition: \$ 550.00**

*\* not including accommodations*

## Contact Information

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This school provided a minimum of a year's worth of world-class instruction on piobaireachd playing as well as Ceol Beag.

I have been playing the pipes for 20 years and have competed as a soloist for 19 years. I have also attended other piping schools. I have found that it is rare to find instruction that is applicable to one's entire style and repertoire. However, this school provided just that type of instruction! I have been able to apply the principles taught at the school to not only the myriad of tunes that were taught at the school, but also to all of my preexisting tunes as well as new ones. I now have the knowledge and skills to approach any type of tune with confidence using a pragmatic, consistent approach that is relatively easy to apply.

In my opinion this is a combination of teaching/learning goals that is very difficult to achieve; especially in a one-week course.

Mr. Whitelaw and Mr. Henderson achieved it with their expertise, patience, and ability to explain music theory, Scottish piping idiom, piobaireachd interpretation, as well as one's overall approach to tune-learning and practicing.

And of course, everyone in the course walked away from it with a professionally set-up set of pipes with other-worldly tone. Big stuff.

I recommend this course to anyone truly interested in improving his/her piping."

**Melissa Bautz, Lander, Wyoming**

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