

Sean McKeown – Bio

Sean began piping in 1993 with lessons from Gail Brown, in Milton Ontario. Years later, he received tuition from Bill Livingstone, and has recently been receiving instruction from Roddy MacLeod.

Sean has been fortunate to win some notable solo prizes include the Canadian Gold Medal, and Bar to the Gold for Piobaireachd twice; the overall winner of the Livingstone Invitational three times; winning the Silver Medal for Piobaireachd Inverness, and 2nd at Oban in the same year; two 2nd placings in the Gold Medal at Oban and Inverness the following year; winning the Golden Axe for piobaireachd and the light music at the Lochaber Gathering; winning the A-grade Hornpipe and Jig at Inverness; and numerous prizes in the A-grade light music, and gold medal competitions for piobaireachd at Oban and Inverness. Sean has won Ontario solo piping Champion Supreme in grades 5 to 2, and the professional grade.

In pipe bands, Sean was a member of the Milton Optimist Pipe Band, who won the 1994 Juvenile and 1997 Grade 3 World Pipe Band Championships. He was a member of the 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band, and the Toronto Police Pipe Band, where he was Pipe Major of the grade 1 band from 2015-2018. In 2016 and 2017, Sean was invited to take part in the '87 Live in Ireland concerts held in Glasgow and Belfast, and in 2019 joined the Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band in Northern Ireland, placing 2nd in the World Pipe Band Championships in 2019, 2023 and 2024, and winning the Grade 1 Pipe Band World Champions in 2022.

Outside of competition, Sean has assisted other local pipe bands, recorded his compositions and performed with a ceilidh band called the Tartan Terrors, and performed live with Bryan Adams, Natalie MacMaster, and his own brothers' rock band, Black Pistol Fire.

Sean has a Physical Health and Education degree from the University of Toronto, and works as a Detective Constable with the Toronto Police. He is a father of two, and has started teaching his son the bagpipes.