



To the Peer Assessment Committee,

On behalf of the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, I am pleased to nominate Bruce Gandy for the Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts. For over 25 years, Bruce has made his full-time living performing, teaching and composing the music of the Great Highland Bagpipe.

The bagpipe tradition was passed on to Bruce from his father and at an early age it became apparent that he was a child prodigy becoming the youngest musician to play in a Grade 1 professional pipe band at the age of 12. Since then, Bruce has performed every major recital and won every major contest in the world. Literally, he is one of the most accomplished bagpipe players in recorded history to date.

Bruce is a master player and teacher of piobaireachd, the classical music of the bagpipe. The word is Gaelic for 'pipe playing' and is also known as céol mor or 'the big music' which separates piobaireachd from the céol beag or 'small music' idioms of jigs, strathspeys, reels and other traditional Scottish folk and dance music.

As a top tier professional competitive bagpiper, Bruce's artistic merit is continually under acute scrutiny by the most respected adjudicators. His technical execution, musical phrasing and tone have won him the top prizes including the Bratach Gorm (Blue Banner), the highest prize given by the Scottish Piping Society of London. This contest is exclusive to only the very best and requires an invitation that can only be acquired by winning three other major world class prizes.

As an entertainer, Bruce is continually in demand for performances and prestigious recitals around the world. Not only is Bruce a master of the classical bagpipe idiom and a staunch competitor, but he is also equally skilled as a performer of céol beag and often collaborates with other instrumentalists across many genres.

Bruce's impact on the traditional music of the Highland Bagpipe has been and continues to be monumental. As a performance artist he has raised the quality of playing and the public perception of the Highland Bagpipe as a respected musical instrument.

As a music educator he has taught thousands of people around the world keeping the music traditions alive and well. Bruce is responsible for developing young players in Nova Scotia and across Canada into top tier professional players including his own son Alex. In fact, Bruce and Alex made history in 2015 when they became the first father and son to compete against each other for the prestigious Silver Star prize at Inverness, Scotland.

Perhaps Bruce's most significant impact as a creator lies within his compositions. A prolific composer with over 200 pieces of music written his innovative and exciting approach has changed the face of modern bagpipe music resulting in increasing the relevance of an ancient tradition in a modern world.

In his mission to raise the public profile and accessibility of the artform, Bruce has selflessly become a builder through the founding of the Bruce Gandy Bagpiping Development Society. The Society aims to increase accessibility to music education and raises funds to provide instruction to youth who otherwise could not afford the associated costs.

Bruce has taught students from all walks of life from all corners of the globe and works passionately to increase accessibility to music and music education. From Halifax to Hong Kong. From Belgium to Brazil. From New Zealand to Nebraska.

I strongly encourage your consideration of Bruce Gandy for the Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts. His artistic merit, impact and relevancy have been and will continue to be extraordinary.

### **About Scott Long**

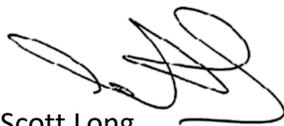
Scott has successfully executed many roles as a professional in the performing arts including touring musician, recording artist, tour manager, technical director, artist manager, cultural industries NGO management and government investment administration.

Scott has worked on stage and behind the scenes with many international high-profile events including: Nova Scotia Music Week, East Coast Music Awards, Juno Awards, Music West, Canadian Music Week, North by Northeast, South by Southwest, National Association of Recording Merchandisers, National Association of Campus Activities, Canadian Organization of Campus Activities, 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics, 2011 Canada Winter Games, the New York City Marathon, and the Breeders Cup.

Scott served as the Executive Director of Music Nova Scotia for over 10 years and was responsible for building Nova Scotia's music export brand with partners worldwide and building Music Nova Scotia as one of the largest music industry associations in Canada. Scott has also served as President of the Canadian Council of Music Industry Associations, Chair of the FACTOR National Advisory Board, Nova Scotia representative for the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and is a past member of the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council. Scott also serves as Chair of the Link Performing Arts Society, the non-profit wing of the new Lighthouse Performing Arts Centre.

In his current role as managing director/executive producer of the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, Scott provides leadership to the largest show of its kind in the world.

Sincerely,



Scott Long  
Managing Director/Executive Producer  
Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo