



Kathleen Fraser-Collins *piano* (Canada)

Kathy was born in Ste. Anne de Prescott, Ontario, Canada in a farming community near the Scottish settlement of Glengarry County where she grew up surrounded by fiddlers, pipers and highland dancers. She began playing the piano at age 5 and was soon playing with a number of the local fiddlers and dance bands.

In the early 1970's, Kathy made the career choice of music educator and went on to receive a B. Mus from McGill University and a B. Ed from the University of Toronto. In 1976 she met Bobby Brown and spent the next 35 years touring and recording with The Scottish Accent and Cape Breton Symphony Fiddlers. During this time she found herself in a variety of musical roles including piano, bass, second box, vocalist, bagpipes and even managed a few saxophone solos!

Kathy taught high school music from 1980 to 2009, retiring from her home town school in Vankleek Hill, Ontario and along with her husband Fred, remains very involved in the local music scene. They perform and compete with their local pipe band and also play for many ceilidh and Scottish Country dances in Ontario with their recently formed "Torridon Scottish Dance Band".

In the past several years they have had a number of opportunities to perform throughout North America with Judi Nicolson and Ian Muir and are always thrilled to work with these fantastic musicians! Kathy was recently inducted into the Glengarry Celtic Music Hall of Fame and was honoured to be named Music Director for the 2015 and 2016 TAC Summer School.

2019 will see Kathy's first trip to Australia, as a member of the music staff of the Melbourne RSCDS Winter School.