

ROBERT BURNS DINNER



January 21st, 2006

Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis 34th Anniversary Program



The Archibald Skirving Portrait of Burns, 1759 -1796

Robert Burns was the eldest son of a professional gardener and struggling tenant farmer in Ayrshire. Growing up to a life of demanding physical work, poverty, and acute awareness of social disadvantage, he began to write poetry and songs in an attempt to find some kind of counterpoise to those adverse circumstances. Burns has an international reputation, founded on his passion for life and nature, falling in love, freedom, democracy, and human rights. His is an exceptionally personal kind of literary fame, and it is in his ability to express widely shared feelings simply, and memorably, that we find the roots of his extraordinary popularity. Burns was a very down-to-earth creative genius, a friend to the common man, and a great champion of Scottish culture. Each year on or near his birthday, January 25th, people meet at Burns suppers all over the world to celebrate his life and works, just as we are doing here tonight at the Frontenac Hilton Hotel. We hope you enjoy this evening dedicated to the memory of Robert Burns, and full of the traditions that Scots carry with them, the world over.

The Star Spangled Banner

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
what so proudly we hailed
at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars,
through the perilous fight,
o'er the ramparts we watched,
were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air
gave proof through the night
that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

God Save The Queen

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen;
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious, happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the Queen!

The Flower of Scotland

O Flower of Scotland,
when will we see your like again?
That fought and died for
your wee bit hill and glen,
And stood against him,
Proud Edward's army,
and sent him homeward,
Tae think again.

Those days are past now and in the past they must remain, But we can still rise now and be the nation again, That stood against him, Proud Edward's army, and sent him homeward, Tae think again.

The Selkirk Grace

Some hae meat and canna eat, And some wad eat that want it: But we hae' meat and we can eat, Sae let the Lord be thankit.

The Star of Rabbie Burns

There is a star whose beaming ray is shed on every clime;
It shines by night it shines by day and ne'er grows dim wi' time.
It rose upon the banks of Ayr it shone on Doon's clear stream.
A hundred years are gane and mair yet brighter grows its beam.

REFRAIN

Let kings and courtiers rise and fa' this world has many turns, But brightly beams abune them a' the Star of Rabbie Burns.

Though he was but a ploughman lad and wore the hodden gray,
Auld Scotland's sweetest bard was bred a-neath a roof o' strae.

To sweep the strings of Scotia's lyre it needs nae classic lore;
It's mither wit and native fire that warms the bosom core.

On fame's emblazon'd page enshrined, his name is foremost now.

And many a costly wreath's been twined, to grace his honest brow.

And Scotland's heart expands wi' joy, whene'er the day returns.

That gave the world it's peasant boy, IMMORTAL RABBIE BURNS.



A Russian postage stamp honoring Robert Burns

Toast to the Immortal Memory

A last request present
we here,
When yearly ye
assemble a',
One round, I ask it
with a tear,
To him the Bard
that's far awa'.

Dancing Demonstration by the Highland Mist Dancers

President's Welcome : Iona Baldwin Master of Ceremonies : Dr. James McLaren

Toast to the President: Donald McLaren "The Star Spangled Banner" led by Pam Davis

Toast to the Queen: Elaine Martin
"God Save the Queen" led by Vicki Dohrmann

Toast to Scotland: Christopher Fulton
"The Flower of Scotland" led by Alex Sutherland

Accompaniments by Diane McCullough

Invocation and Selkirk Grace: Rev. John Carothers

Address to the Haggis

Anna L. Duffy
The Haggis piped in by Pipe Major Matt Pantaleoni; Chef Jerry Jester

DINNER

(wine may be purchased at the table)

Traditional Scottish Haggis.

Charlotte's House Salad with Field Greens, Sliced Granny Smith Apples, Crumbled Feta Cheese and Walnuts Served with Strawberry Balsamic Vinaigrette and Balsamic Vinaigrette

Sirloin with Mushroom Cap, Red Wine Sauce, Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Carrots

Lemon Sponge Cake & Lemon Mousse with Raspberries

* * * INTERMISSION * * *

Dance Caledonia - under the direction of Sandra Brown

Toast to the Lassies: Pete Belcastro Reply for the Lassies: Elisabeth Belcastro

The Immortal Memory

Richard W. Lodge

"The Star O' Rabbie Burns" led by Alex Sutherland and Bill Nicoll

Alex Sutherland & His Cronies in Concert

The Pipes and Drums of the St. Louis Invera'an Pipe Band Pipe Major - Matt Pantaleoni, Drum Sergeant - Charles Cablish Announcer: Bill Nicoll

Scottish Country Dancing to Peat Fire Flame & Auld Lang Syne

Address to a Haggis

Fair fa' (good luck) your honest, sonsie (cheerful) face, Great chieftain o' the puddin race! Aboon (above) them a' ye tak yer place, Painch, (intestine) tripe or thairm (guts): Weel are ye wordy (worthy) o' a grace As lang's my arm

The groaning trencher (plate) there ye fill,
Your hurdies (buttocks) like a distant hill,
Your pin wad help to mend a mill
In time o' need,
While thro' your pores the dews (juice) distil
Like amber bead (scotch).

His knife see rustic Labor dight (wipe),
An' cut you up wi' ready sleight (skill),
Trenching (digging) your gushing entrails bright,
Like onie (any) ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm reekin' (steaming), rich!

Then horn (spoon) for horn, they stretch and strive:

Deil (devil) tak the hindmost! on they drive,

Till a' their weel-swall'd (swelled) kytes (bellies) belyve (soon)

Are bent like drums;

The auld Guidman, maist like to rive (burst),

"Bethankit!" hums.

Is there that owre his French ragout,
Or olio that would staw (sicken) a sow
Or fricasse wad mak her spew
Wi' perfect sconner (disgust),
Looks down wi' sneering scornfu' view
On sic (such) a dinner?

Poor devil! See him owre his trash, As feckless (weak) as a wither'd rash (rush), His spindle (thin) shank (leg) a guid whip-lash, His nieve (fist) a nit (nut); Thro' bloody field to dash O how unfit!

But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed
The trembling earth resounds his tread,
Clap in his walie nieve (strong fist) a blade,
He'll mak it whissle;
An' legs an' arms an' heads will sned (trim),
Like taps o' thrissle (thistle).

Ye Pow'rs, wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking (watery) ware
That jaups (splashes) in luggies (bowls);
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer,
Gie her a Haggis!

We are pleased to welcome our very own Alex Sutherland & his Cronies

Alex was born and raised in Edinburgh, Scotland. His first memory of Scottish folk singing was as a wee laddie in his Granny's parlour at Hogmanay, listening to her singing her favorite songs. As a teenager the folk scene of the 60's had a big influence on him. On moving to St. Louis in 1989 with his wife, Carrie (and their sons Mark and Alastair) and joining the Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis, Alex began singing Scottish folk songs again, and "Alex Sutherland and his Cronies" was born.



Tonight he is accompanied by Carrie, and Peter Wollenberg (and maybe even a special guest Cronie). Alex and his Cronies sing a mixture of historic, nostalgic and fun Scottish songs, as well as a fine selection of the songs of Robert Burns. The group's CD called "Auld an' New – Volume One", is available here tonight!

Membership Information

Information about joining the Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis may be obtained at the foyer table, or call Alex Sutherland at: (314)771-0119

St. Louis Scottish Games

The 6th Annual Games and Cultural Festival will be held October 6-7, 2006 at Forest Park. For information, visit the table in the foyer, or call: (314) 821-1286.