

The Band for the 2023 Ball - The Tartan Players



The Tartan Players are a highly popular and talented Vancouver band. They are known for their lively playing and signature sound. We are delighted to welcome them back to Victoria again.

Julie Smith (piano/bandleader)

Lukasz Wieczorek (fiddle)

Joe Condie (bass)

Carole Berger (flute/whistle) Not playing at the Ball this year

Deborah Jones (fiddle)

Julie Smith on piano

If you asked Julie Smith about her life she would probably say: "Music is my life!" And is, whether playing the piano (from classical lessons as a child, to playing for church, and for the last 15 years playing Scottish Country Dance music), directing choirs at both church and in the schools, and teaching music in the public school system. She has attended Pearl Holmberg workshops, in Vancouver, two Dance Masters Workshops for Teachers and Musicians in Sonoma, California, and TAC Summer School musicians' workshops to develop the technique required to play for dancing. Julie has been invited to play for many workshops in the Vancouver area and Vancouver Island and plays for the Tartan Players. As a dancer herself, she knows how important the music is to good dancing.

Lukasz Wieczorek on fiddle

Lukasz started playing violin at the age of 8, studying classical music, and eventually receiving his ARCT in Violin Performance. Musical highlights include travelling with the West Coast Fiddlers to Scotland in 2008 and playing in the International Youth Symphony Orchestra in Bremen, Germany in 2010. Lukasz currently plays the viola in the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra and West Coast Symphony.

Joe Condie on bass

At University of Calgary, Joe was founding producer and music director of their musical theatre. After a four-year stint in the Calgary Philharmonic, he moved to Vancouver, earned his B.Mus., and spent four years playing wind music for the Renaissance on period instruments. Ceasing music as an occupation, he continues to play folk-dance music with a variety of bands including Gammel Dansk.

Deborah Jones on fiddle

Deborah began playing fiddle for traditional dancing (international and Scandinavian) in 1981. Since 1986, she has played in Gammel Dansk and other traditional Scandinavian dance bands. In 1990, she attended a concert featuring Alasdair Fraser and Concerto Amabile. This inspired her to join the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra, which immersed her in Scottish Country dance music. She joined the Tartan Players in 2012 and loves the small ensemble playing. She is a retired librarian and has worked as volunteer Rain Gardens Coordinator for Cougar Creek Streamkeepers (North Delta/Surrey BC) since 2006.