

## The Tartan Players



## The Band for the 2024 Ball

**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.

**Deborah Jones** (fiddle)  
**Lukasz Wieczorek** (fiddle)  
**Julie Smith** (piano/bandleader)  
**Joe Condie** (bass)  
**Leslie Uhlig** (flute & piccolo)

**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.

**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 has been playing with the Tartan Players since 2012 and also currently plays the viola in the West Coast Symphony. In his professional life, Lukasz works as a Pension Analyst for an HR consulting company.

**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.

**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 of 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.

**Leslie Uhlig on flute & piccolo:** Music has been part of Leslie's life from a young age – Kids Chorus Club, flute and piano lessons, youth symphonies, musical theatre orchestras, concert bands, and flute choirs. Playing flute has been her long-time pursuit, and she is currently active with Scottish and Scandinavian folk music groups, and enjoys playing with these smaller ensembles. [When Leslie lived in Vernon, BC from 2013 to 2016, she danced with the Scottish Country dancers and became familiar with the reel, jig and strathspey dance steps.] It was a great honour to be invited to play with the Tartans in 2023 at the Van Isle Ball, and Leslie is looking forward to playing for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball this year. She is a retired Environmental Biologist and, as a Master Gardener, she coordinates volunteers to grow food for a local food bank and assists with the Surrey Seed Library.