

## **John Turner, David Gardner, and Cliff Williams**

A prodigious and enduring performer, Master Fiddler John Turner is the only ten-time winner on record of a National Scottish Fiddling Championship. He has played a major role in the revival of interest in traditional Scottish fiddle music over the last three decades. As a recording artist he is featured on seventeen recordings and has contributed tracks and/or compositions to more than one hundred and three additional recordings. On stage, radio and television, Turner has performed throughout the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Japan and the Middle East. He has performed for six U.S. presidents, Queen Elizabeth II, other members of Britain's royal family and many other heads of state from around the world. He has been featured on the popular radio program "Thistle and Shamrock", "BBC Highland", "Pebble Mill at One" and a host of other programs.

As a composer he has produced more than three hundred tunes many of which have been recorded by other artists. His recordings and tunes have been used for numerous traditional, modern and interpretive dance programs both on stage and on video. Turner has published two books of music and written numerous articles concerning traditional Scottish music. As a teacher, he has influenced thousands of students of all ages interested in this style of music. He is the founder and director of the Jink and Diddle School of Scottish Fiddling, now in its twenty-sixth season, bringing instrumentalists of all ages to the mountains of North Carolina each summer. He performs regularly in Williamsburg, Virginia and across the U.S., teaches privately, conducts workshops and serves as an adjudicator for fiddling competitions. In 2002 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Performance degree by Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina for his contributions to Scottish culture and the performing arts.

David Gardner apprenticed with Dr. John Turner in the 1980's, absorbing the idiom and style of 18<sup>th</sup> century Scottish fiddling, as he performed the music of the Gows, Mackintoshes and Marshall. From his grandfather, Gardner had acquired a fascination with Scottish music, and under Turner's tutelage, became a specialist in the performance of 18th century Scottish music using bows and instruments set up as they would have been in Neil Gow's day. Since those early years, Mr. Gardner has performed on innumerable occasions, both in colonial taverns and on stage, with Dr. Turner. Mr. Gardner is currently a German teacher for the public schools system in Williamsburg, VA. In this capacity, for teaching excellence, Mr. Gardner was awarded a Fulbright Teacher Exchange Scholarship to Germany in the summer of 2003.

David has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of William and Mary. In years past he performed with various classical ensembles including the Richmond Chamber Players and the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra. He is currently a member of the nationally recognized musical trio, The Virginia Company, with whom he has performed at the Bethlehem Music Festival, Longwood Gardens, The Kennedy Center, The National Geographic Society, Plymouth Plantation, Monticello, and Mount Vernon, among other venues.

Cliff Williams is a very talented operatic baritone and guitarist who has performed and recorded with both Turner and Gardner for many years in Williamsburg and around the world. During his international operatic career he performed in opera houses across the U.S. and Europe with leading roles in Barcelona and Vienna. He has made a particular study of accompanying Scottish traditional music with the guitar.

