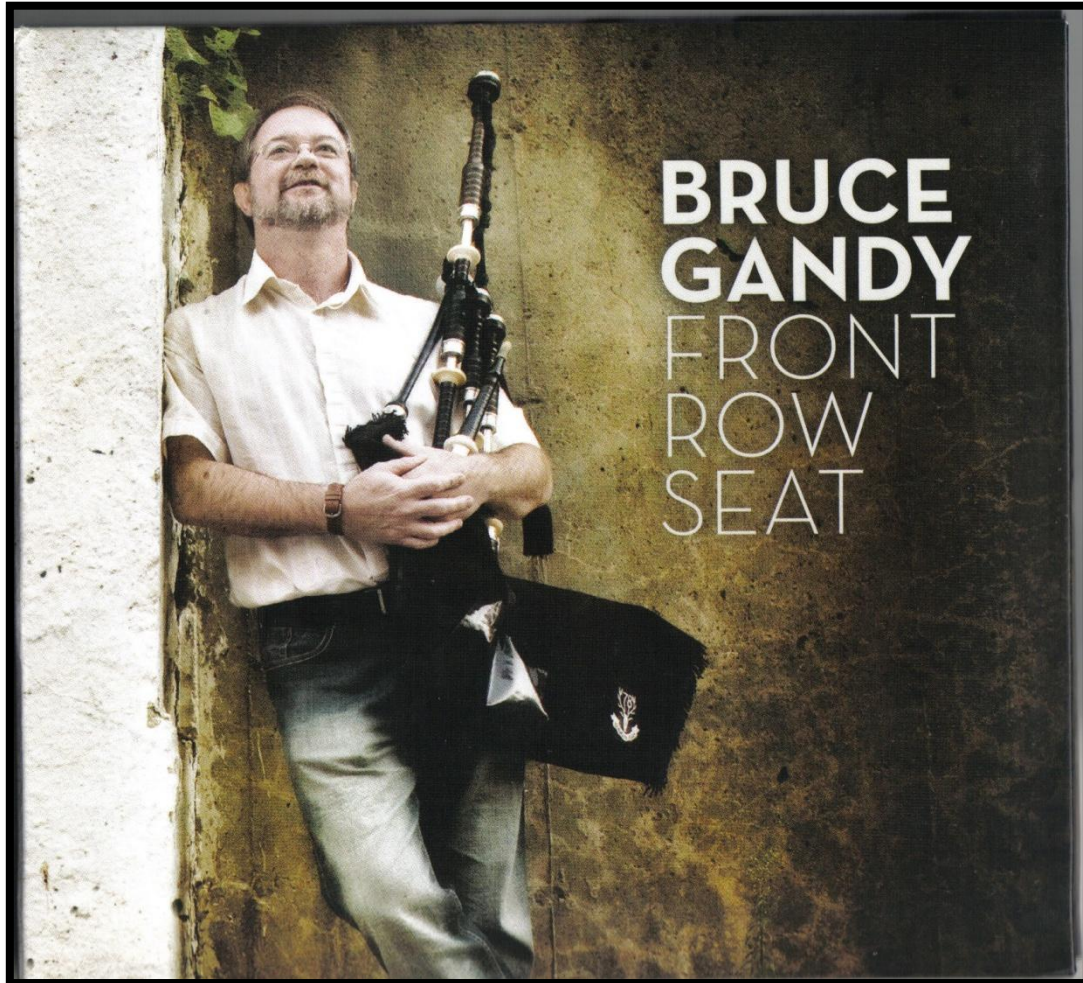


Bruce Gandy's "Front Row Seat" CD Review

By Brett Tidswell

Bruce Gandy needs no introduction to the piping community, his results over the years have seen to that. Bruce has now set up his Bagpipe Development Foundation to help put back into the community that has given him so much. The proceeds from the sale of the "Front Row Seat" album go toward the Foundation.



The packaging and cover design are very attractive with a card sleeve rather than the traditional CD cover. Each tune has been recorded at a different major piping event. The recording quality and locations vary, but the mixing has been superb and the sound from some of the tracks is quite spectacular indeed. A small booklet with a brief note on each tune is supplied that is most interesting to read. The album is 100% Piobaireachd for which I think there is a developing market.

The tunes themselves are well chosen. The “The Big Spree” (played at Maxville Ontario) is a classic piece that is not particularly easy to play musically. “The Rout of Glen Fruin” (which was played at Inverness in 2002), “Lord Lovat’s Lament” (played at the Glennfiddich in 2009), “Battle of Waternish” 9 (played at the Canadian Gold Medal Contest in 2009), and “The Unjust Incarceration” (played at the Bratach Gorm, London in 2009). Not unique or unusual tunes, but all classics, played by a master at his peak.

My favourite was “The Big Spree”, although not a setting I would choose to play, it was well phrased and executed very musically but the bagpipe sound was exceptional. Played at Maxville Ontario the venue is one of those that really enhanced the sound of the bagpipe.

This album is a must have for the Piobaireachd enthusiast and indeed anyone who enjoys piping. The instrument is exceptionally nice to listen to and the playing is wonderful. A most enjoyable recording indeed!

Available from <http://www.brucegandymusic.com/>

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