

Margaret MacLeod

Margaret was born in Edinburgh although her mother was from Point and her father from Tolsta Chaolais in the Isle of Lewis. When she was ten years old, her family moved to Peterhead. She began singing the next year, and she won first prize for traditional song at the first mòd that she went to, in 1959 in Dundee. In 1962 she won the National Mòd Silver Medal and in 1970 she won the National Mòd Gold Medal in Oban. In 1971 Margaret brought together the group Na h-Òganaich (the young ones). This consisted of herself, her brother Donnie (Donnie Dotaman) and Noel Eadie. They went to the Sterling Mòd and they won the competition there for singing groups. Na h-Òganaich sang throughout Scotland, Europe, and the other Celtic countries, as well as the Faroe Islands, in Canada, and the USA. Margaret also made Cur Car, the first Gaelic children's program on Grampian TV. In the 80s, Margaret began working with the group Albany and doing tours that lasted four months each time, throughout America and Canada. She has sung in Abu Dhabi and Dubai and she is the first woman to receive permission to sing in Oman from the Sultan. Her singing has also taken her to Australia and New Zealand and places like Sarawak and Brunei. She spent nine years working in Eden Court in Inverness in the Show of the North, and she has done TV and radio programs throughout Britain. She has made many recordings, by herself, with Na h-Òganaich and with the group Albany. In 2008 Margaret won a prize for the Best Guest Artist of the Year and in 2009 she and Na h-Òganaich for the service that they have done for Gaelic music. In addition to singing, Margaret teaches Gaelic in Glasgow, in Greenock, and in Falkirk. She is married to a Skyeman, a Nicholson from Portree, and she is proud that her daughter and her grandchild are following the lifestyle of the Gaels, even if they are in Australia today

