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## The Icons of Scotland 2006

Fourth Annual Icons of Scotland Awards in New York at the Tavern on the Green.



The 2006 Icons of Scotland Awards were held on April 5, 2006 at Tavern on the Green in New York, where Jerry Dixon, a piper from The New York Caledonian Club played to welcome guests.



For the past four years, [Scotland Magazine](#) has hosted the Icons of Scotland Awards, which recognizes individuals and groups that "have served as ambassadors, either formally and informally, showcasing the artistic and cultural wealth of Scotland".



The Icons of Scotland Awards began with a festive start with music by the Celtic rock band, Mac Talla M'or, followed by Damian Riley-Smith, Publisher of Scotland Magazine welcoming the guests, and introducing Roddy Martine, Contributing Editor of Scotland Magazine. After a short film presentation about Scotland, Highland Dancers from the New Hampshire School of Scottish Arts took to the stage to perform traditional

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dances, followed by the Haggis Ceremony, called the "Address to the Haggis."

Ewan McGregor, past recipient of the Spirit of Scotland award, and his family were definitely in the spirit, as they wore the "New Yorker" tartan, made in Japan by Didoh Limited; anything is possible at the Icons of Scotland Awards.



Three US Scottish organizations are celebrating major anniversaries this year and were recognized for their achievement:

Jim Winchester accepted the award for the American Scottish Foundation - 50 years.



George Campbell accepted the award for The New York Caledonian Club - 150 years.



Duncan Bruce accepted the award for the St. Andrew's Society - 250 years.



The following Icons of Scotland awards were presented "to the best "Scot" in each category:



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Alistair Reid, described as a "Galway Lad" born in 1926, received the Creative Icon of Scotland. After receiving his award, Mr. Reid read his poem, 'Scotland', and with a brogue in his voice, brought a wee bit of Scotland to the Tavern on the Green.



Brigadier Melvin Johnson accepted the Heart of Scotland award for The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, which began in 1950 on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle, and now is a spectacular presentation with a cast of 1,000.



The actor Tom Conti received the 2006 Icon of Scotland award. Speaking in Italian, he said that he was completely baffled as to why he was receiving the Scottish Award, since his father was Italian and his mother was Irish. Then speaking in English, he repeated what he said, but said that he was happy to receive the award. Mr. Riley-Smith said that this was an international country, with an international flavor, and that Mr. Conti does indeed represent Scotland.



The award ceremony ended with the recipients linking arms and singing Auld Lang Syne. For information on the Icons of Scotland, please visit: [www.scotlandmag.com](http://www.scotlandmag.com).

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