



# Carl Peterson

Scottish Folksinger/  
Entertainer

Darach Recordings  
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# Carl Peterson

## Biography

Carl Peterson was born and raised in Greenock Scotland, on the banks of the river Clyde. He grew up learning the traditional folk songs of Scotland, and also the songs of Ireland, England and America. He now delights in sharing these songs with people across USA and Canada.

Carl has a talent for engaging the audience and has charmed audiences all across the USA and Canada with his warmth and humor while presenting the songs of Scotland. Telling stories and jokes among the songs, and encouraging audience participation, it is truly like an relaxed evening 'round the fire with friends.

As a folksinger one naturally becomes a historian and Carl Peterson has always had an interest in discovering, and telling, the history behind the songs he sings; that interest has expanded as he pursues the history of American music and it's Scottish and Irish influences.

Carl began performing in folk music groups after immigrating to Canada in the 1960's. After 20 years of successful performing and recording music in Canada, Carl immigrated to the USA.

Carl has been performing at Scottish Festivals since 1985. It didn't take him long to find success at the festivals. Over the years Carl has performed at over 60 different Scottish festivals across USA and Canada, and he is often invited back year after year. He has also performed at many Irish and Folk Music festivals.

In 1994 he was signed by Community Concerts of New York. After five years with Community Concerts Carl spent two seasons with Allied Concerts from Wisconsin. Carl performed in over 200 cities in USA and Canada during this time.

Carl has performed in every US state except Rhode Island and Alaska, and in every province in Canada except Prince Edward Island.



Where Music is Our Roots

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# Carl Peterson

## Fact Sheet

- Born and raised in Greenock, Scotland
- Currently lives in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, USA
- Has been singing and entertaining since the 1960s
- Has been performing at Scottish Festivals across USA and Canada since 1985
- 5 seasons with Community Concerts of New York
- 2 seasons with Allied Concerts
- Concerts in over 200 cities in USA and Canada
- Has also performed at numerous Robert Burn's Day Suppers, Tartan Day Celebrations and Clan Banquets.
- Plays a 12-string Guild guitar at performances
- Can also play banjo, mandolin, cello-mandolin, harmonica
- Over 25 albums, recorded for Darach Recordings, Carl's own label, and Nesak International.
- Carl won the 2007, 2008 and 2009 Vintage Album of the Year award, from Southern Music Heritage Association, for his album *Songs of the South: Bagpipes and Banjos*.
- He has written a book on the history and music that connects the spirit and the background of the Alamo defenders, and the Texas Revolution of the 1830's, to Scotland; also recorded a companion CD to the book.
- Carl's web site is [www.carl-peterson.com](http://www.carl-peterson.com)



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# Carl Peterson

## Reviews

One man. One guitar. One incredible concert. ... The lone artist had a beautiful voice and a manner that made him instantly likable. ... Sometimes when an artist asks an audience to play a role, the reaction is one of hesitancy. This was not the case Friday. People readily joined in and seemed to take great pleasure, particularly in the singing. Peterson made them feel comfortable. So did the music. At concert's end, he was presented with a standing ovation.

### **Goldsboro News-Argus, NC**

Sweet may not be the correct term to describe his concert, but it was just that! ... As a single performer, Carl proved he could carry our auditorium which can seat 2000 people.

### **Joy Novato, President, Live at the Civic, Helena, MT**

Carl Peterson elevated the 7th Annual Southern Heritage Conference to a new level with the addition of the Confederate Ceilidh. For the many Southerners of Scots descent, Peterson pulled together the Southern/Celtic connection with his music in a special way. His blending of traditional Scottish songs using 19th Century Southern words, that appear on his albums, *Songs of the South*, *Bagpipes and Banjos* and *Scotland Remembers the Alamo* brought clearer meaning to the Southern/Celtic connection.

### **Southern Heritage Conference, Laurel, MS**

There is always such delight in hearing and watching a true professional with his masterful stage presence and infinite good humor. Not to be negated is Mr. Peterson's wonderful voice and his expertise as a guitarist. Each song was prefaced with a story, historical or whimsical, delivered in such a way as to capture the hearts and sensibilities of the concert goers. ... Interesting to this reviewer were the glimpses of history and origins of songs. Mr. Peterson made them all so interesting as well as melodic. The artist closed the program with the anthem recognized as the national anthem of Scotland, "The Flower of Scotland." Although he commented that it was not necessary for us to stand during the playing, we were moved to stand in tribute to a beautiful country so well represented by Carl Peterson.

### **Oroville, (Calif) Mercury-Register**

Probably for the first time in the 60-year history of the Concert Association, the audience enthusiastically participated in a sing-a-long with Peterson.

### **Norwich Evening Sun, NY**



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## Sample of songs from Live Repertoire

Annie Laurie  
Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond  
Coming Round the Mountain  
Coulter's Candy  
Danny Boy  
Darcy Farrow  
Fiddler's Green  
Flower of Scotland  
I Belong to Glasgow  
I Love a Lassie  
Lord of the Dance  
Mairi's Wedding  
Massacre of Glencoe  
Loch Tay Boat Song  
Northern Lights of Old Aberdeen  
Railway Porter  
Roamin' in the Gloamin'  
Scotland the Brave  
Scottish Soldier  
The Skye Boat Song  
Tom Dooley  
Wild Mountain Thyme



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# Carl Peterson

## Long Biography

Over the last 20 plus years Carl Peterson has undeniably become the most successful and busiest Scottish singer in North America, performing at numerous festivals and concerts, and creating nearly 30 recordings. He was the first singer/entertainer to appear in most of the east coast Scottish festivals, opening up a market for other singers and musicians.

Carl was born and raised in Greenock, Scotland, on the banks of the River Clyde, where a great shipbuilding industry flourished for hundreds of years. In the 1800's, many Irish came to these lowland shipyards looking for work, joining the throngs of Scottish Highlanders who had been chased from their hills and glens. Seafaring men from other nations as well, joined the ranks in the Clyde Valley shipyards. One of these adventurers, a Swedish sailor, married a highland lass in Port Glasgow - they were Carl's great-grandparents. Thus, Carl was born four generations hence, a Nordic Scot, with Swedes on one side and Highlanders on the other; an ancestry sprinkled with surnames such as McLean, McBryde, Caithness, Duke, and somewhere an Irish McGuire.



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Before coming to the United States in 1983 Carl had already left a legacy in Canada where he was a member of two highly successful groups. The first was The Patmacs, from 1964-1965, a quartet of folk musicians singing songs of Scotland, Ireland, England and USA with a smattering of calypso thrown in. This group performed on, and produced, singer Johnnie Forrest's first two record albums for the Don Messer Jubilee show, one of Canada's top national TV shows. Carl was offered a spot on the show but declined for a chance at a different kind of music.

At the beginning of the British invasion in 1965 Carl was talked into "going rock" by long time friend Ron McLachlan who had newly arrived from Scotland. They were joined by another Scot, Alan Cramsie, and two Canadians to form The King Beezz. This group would go on to set trends in Canada with 4 hit songs, tours across the country and performances on many of the top pop shows nationally. Although they were based in Canada they were considered part of the British Invasion.

Following the break up of The King Beezz Carl turned his attention to folk once again, reforming The Patmacs this time with two lovely young ladies from Edmonton, an Irishman, an Englishman and another Scot. After a few short months of performing at live shows and TV appearances they were signed by Capitol Records of Canada and almost immediately embarked on a 2 year tour that took them clear across Canada with live performances and national TV shows. The group was also offered a permanent spot on another popular national TV show, All Around the Circle, from St. John's, Newfoundland but declined in favor of continued touring. Two websites document the history of both The Patmacs: [www.patmacs.com](http://www.patmacs.com) and The King Beezz: [www.kingbeezz.com](http://www.kingbeezz.com)

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# Carl Peterson

## Long Biography (cont.)

After the breakup of the 2nd edition of The Patmacs Carl went solo and settled in Montreal where he released 2 solo LPs. While in Montreal he spent two very successful years with fellow Scot Gordon Lee. They regularly "packed them in" for months at The Irish Lancer and for two years at The St James Pub.

Eventually Carl turned his attention south to America. It didn't take him long to find success in Scottish festivals. Then in 1994 he was signed by Community Concerts of New York. Apart from averaging about 40 festivals a year, Carl was handling between 40-60 concerts a year from Maine to Hawaii. After five years with Community Concerts Carl spent two seasons with Allied Concerts from Wisconsin, performing mostly in the upper midwest states. The only two states Carl hasn't performed in are Rhode Island and Alaska. He has performed in every province in Canada except Prince Edward Island.

One of Carl's favorite festivals is the Grandfather Mountain Games, in Linville, North Carolina, where he has performed not only all day on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday but also at the ceilidhs on Friday and Saturday evenings, hosted by Flora MacDonald the Younger. Many notable names have graced that stage over the years, including Bonnie Rideout, George Hamilton IV, Mike Seeger, Jamie MacDonald, John Turner, The Highlandaires to name just a few. Carl's son Devin and daughter Kirstin have joined him on stage frequently. Both Carl and Devin have participated in the athletics at Grandfather Mountain. While Carl has only taken 2nd and 3rd in the kilted mile, Devin has taken many firsts in highland wrestling and one year took Athlete of the Day in track and field.

Over all these years Carl has released over 25 recordings, 1 video and published one book. In 2007, 2008 and 2009 Carl's CD *Songs of the South with Bagpipes and Banjos* won the Vintage Album of the Year award from The Southern Heritage Music Association. It was with the release of his highly acclaimed double CD, *Scotland Remembers The Alamo* and the follow up release of the companion book *Now's The Day And Now's Hour* that Carl has taken an interest in writing. The double CD and the book chronicle the strong influence of the Scots and Scotch-Irish at The Alamo and in early Texas history.

Carl has recently cut his festival schedule to about two a month from April until November so that he has time to focus on other pursuits. He is working on his 2nd book, a fiction/ fantasy book tentatively titled *Ewan Colin Coupar and a Touch of the Fae*. Apart from writing, Carl has been enjoying his days playing golf, sailing and kayaking, jogging and orienteering.

Carl's recordings continue selling worldwide as he works on new releases at his studio in Pennsylvania.



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