

ABT ALBERTA BAIR THEATER

EDUCATION GUIDE



Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 12:30PM
Wednesday, April 1 at 9:30AM

Recommended for Grades 5-12
Tickets: \$7.00 per person

Jane Wallace ABT Student Matinee Series

ABT Education Partner

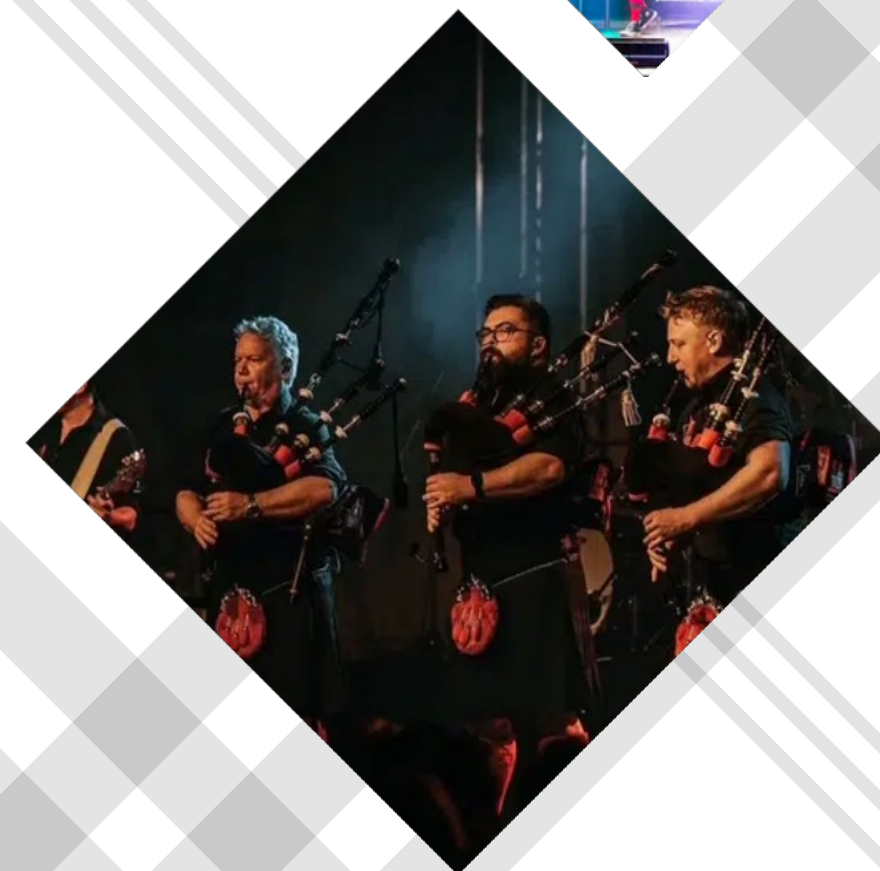


Alberta Bair Theater for the Performing Arts
2801 Third Avenue North • Billings, Montana 59101
406.294.5206 or 406.256.8915
www.AlbertaBairTheater.Org



THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS BAGPIPE BAND

Education & Outreach Guide



ABOUT **RED HOT CHILLI PIPERS**

& no, NOT 'the PEPPERS'

- **Celebrating 25 Years of Music & Touring in 2027**
- **Pioneers of the “BAGROCK” musical genre** (fusing Rock Music with Bagpipes)
- **Founded in 2002 by MASTER Bagpipers in Edinburgh, Scotland - United Kingdom**
- **The band features 3 of the world's greatest bagpipers, multiple world-champion drummers, a brilliant vocalist, bassist, keyboardists, electric guitarists and percussionist**

**A HIGH-ENERGY COLLISION OF ROCK & POP ANTHEMS,
PROUD SCOTTISH HERITAGE, BAGPIPES & DRUMS**



KEY BAND ACCOLADES

- **Over 50,000,000 YouTube views**
- **Over 400,000 Facebook Fans**
- **Songs featured in Disney's animated film: 'Brave' and Dreamworks' 'How to Train Your Dragon'**
- **2007 Winners of BBC TV's hit competition show 'When Will I Be Famous?' in 2007**

"These are my boys!"

-Sir Paul McCartney (The Beatles, Wings)

"Gotta get me some of that Red Hot Chilli Pipers! I WANT some!"

-Samuel L. Jackson (Actor)



HISTORY OF THE BAGPIPES

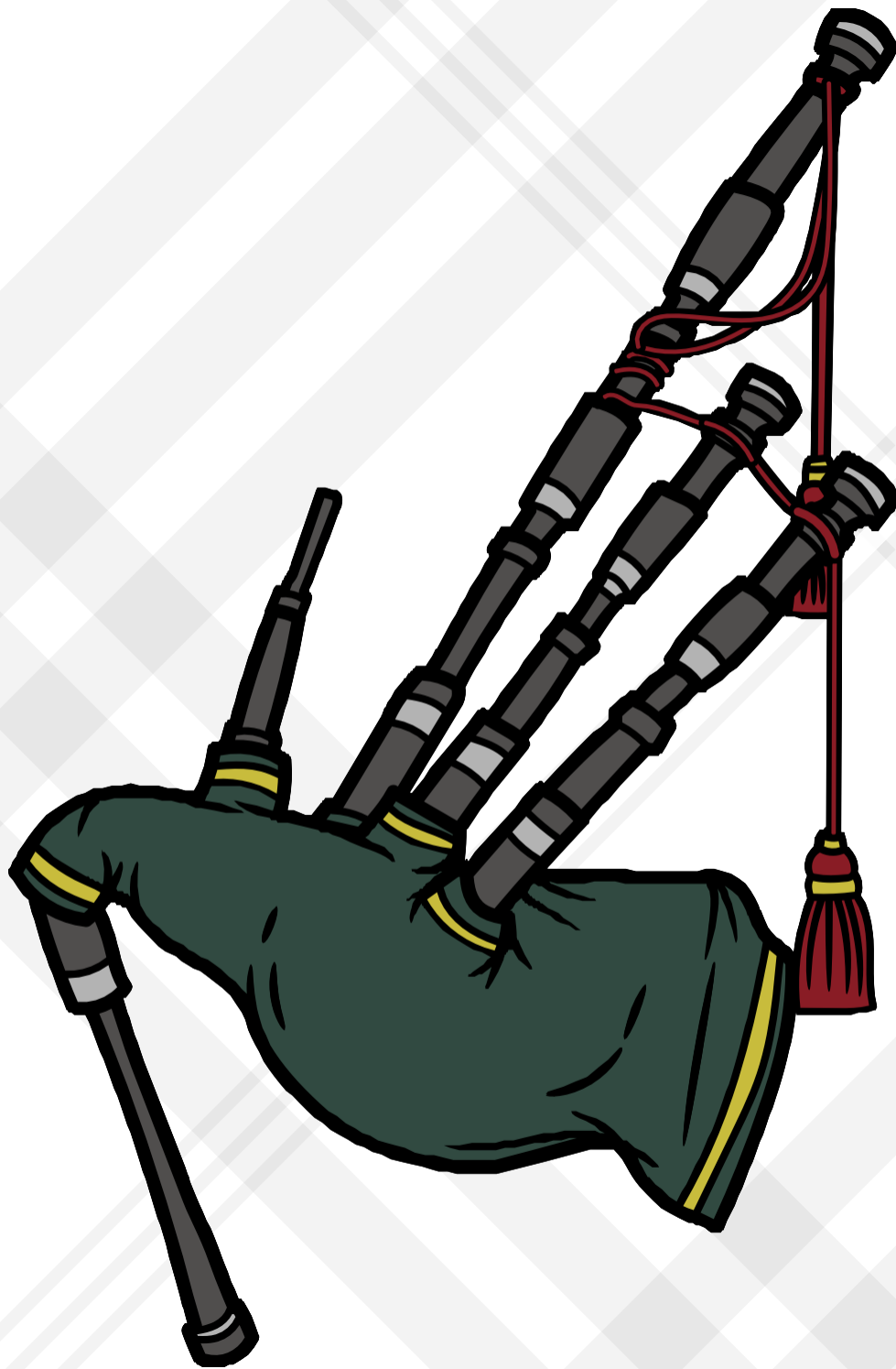
The bagpipes are Scotland's national instruments...but they didn't actually start in Scotland!

It's a very old instrument that came from the Middle East and spread through Europe as civilizations grew. The earliest known bagpipe is carved on a stone slab from around 1000 B.C. in what is now Turkey. The Bible may also mentions them in Genesis and in the story of King Nebuchadnezzar.

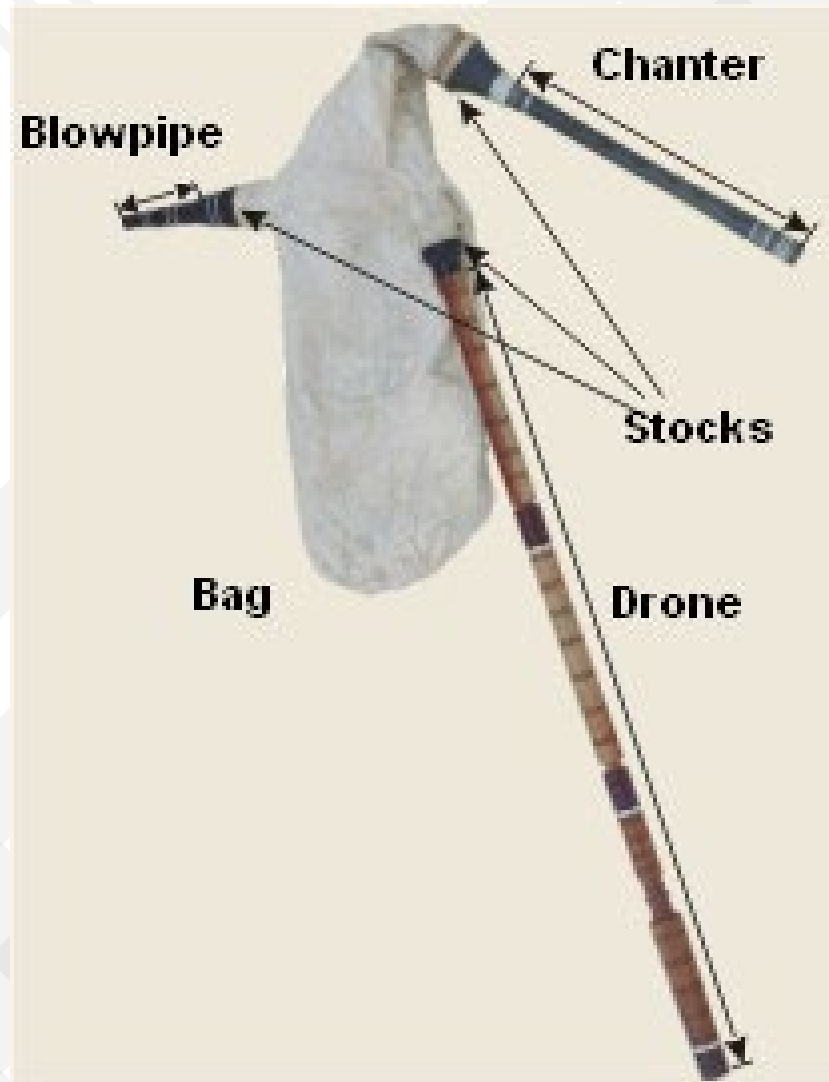
The first pipes were simple "pan pipes" made from reeds or bamboo—basically hollow plants. Drums came first in history, but pipes came soon after.

The Romans made a big improvement by adding the air bag (or reservoir), calling their version the tibia utricularis. Coins even show the emperor Nero playing the bagpipe—not the fiddle, as often told.

From there, different kinds of bagpipes spread all over the world. Each region had its own version: the Volynka in Russia, the Bock in Germany, the Zukra in North Africa, the Gaita in Spain and Portugal, the Zampogna in Italy, the Cornemuse in France, and many more across Europe, Asia, and Africa. You can see examples today in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and also in old paintings by artists like Breughel and Durer.



ABOUT THE BAGPIPES



Bagpipes are a unique kind of musical instrument that use both air and reeds to make sound. They have several parts that work together:

- **The bag:** This is usually made from animal skin or a synthetic material. It acts like an air tank, holding the air so the player doesn't have to blow nonstop.
- **The blowpipe:** This is the tube the player blows into to fill up the bag with air.
- **The chanter:** This is the main pipe with finger holes, like a recorder or flute, and it plays the melody.
- **The drones:** These are long pipes that rest on the player's shoulder and make a steady humming sound in the background. They give bagpipe music its deep, powerful tone.

To play the bagpipes, the piper blows air into the bag and then squeezes the bag with their arm to push air through the pipes. This way, the sound keeps going even while the player takes a breath. The chanter plays the tune, while the drones hold a constant note that blends with the melody.

Bagpipes are usually made from wood for the pipes, reeds (which vibrate to create sound), and either animal hide or modern fabric for the bag. Together, these parts create the rich and powerful sound we connect with Scotland—but versions of the bagpipe are found all over the world.



Make Bagpipes from a garbage bag and recorders!



This instructable is how to make a simple bagpipe like instrument out of basic household materials. Granted, it does not sound all too much like a bagpipe, but it works similarly and is fun to mess around with. At the most basic level, bagpipes have 4 parts:

- A bag to hold the air
- A blowpipe to blow air into the bag
- A chanter to play a melody
- and a drone which plays a constant note

Step 1: Basic Construction of Bagpipes



Make Bagpipes from a garbage bag and recorders!

Step 2: Materials

- 1 Garbage Bag or large plastic bag
- 2 Recorders (or 2 PVC Recorders: <https://www.instructables.com/id/PVC-Recorder/>)
- 2 Pens (You can also use a decent sized straw or a piece of hose)
- Scissors
- Tape



Make Bagpipes from a garbage bag and recorders!

Step 3: Make the Blowpipe

To make the blowpipe out of pens, just take the pens apart and tape them together.



Make Bagpipes from a garbage bag and recorders!

Step 4: Trim the bag



We won't be needing an entire garbage bag, so trim it down some, maybe 3/4 the size of a regular garbage bag.



Make Bagpipes from a garbage bag and recorders!

Step 5: Attach Blowpipe to Bag



Tape the blowpipe to one side of the open bag.
I like to put the blowpipe in a good inch or two into the bag
to make sure no air escapes.
Go ahead and tape up 1/4 of the open part of the bag too.



Make Bagpipes from a garbage bag and recorders!

Step 6: Attach the Drone



Take one recorder, which will act as the drone, and tape it near 1/4 of the bag length down from the blowpipe. Make sure you do not cover up the whistle part of the recorder and that the mouthpiece is in the bag. Go ahead and close up the rest of the open part of the bag, making it airtight.

Make Bagpipes from a garbage bag and recorders!

Step 7: Attach the Chanter



Cut a hole in the corner of the bag that is on the same side as the blowpipe.
Attach the other recorder to the hole and this will act as the chanter.



Make Bagpipes from a garbage bag and recorders!

Step 8: Modify the Drone



Tape up some holes on the drone to make it sound like how you want it to. This is the part that plays a constant note, so try to make it a note that doesn't make you want to find earplugs. Covering up all the holes works the best I think.

Make Bagpipes from a garbage bag and recorders!

Step 9: Have Fun!



Go ahead and play with your new bagpipes. Look for videos on the internet to learn how to play, the main difference is you play the chanter like a recorder.

Check for any leaks and fix them with tape.

The bagpipe in the video looks a bit different because I made it larger than the one I did in the instructable, I find it works better if it's a little on the big side. Also you will notice I have no idea how to play a recorder, but someone with some musical talent should be able to get some nice melodies out of this.



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Bagpipes & Drumming Masterclasses

60 - 120 Minutes

A hands-on workshop with the world's top pipers and drummers in your hometown!

Students learn about bagpipe technique, traditional snare drumming patterns, and how these instruments fit into both folk and modern music.

Focus on rhythm, breathing, and ensemble-playing.



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

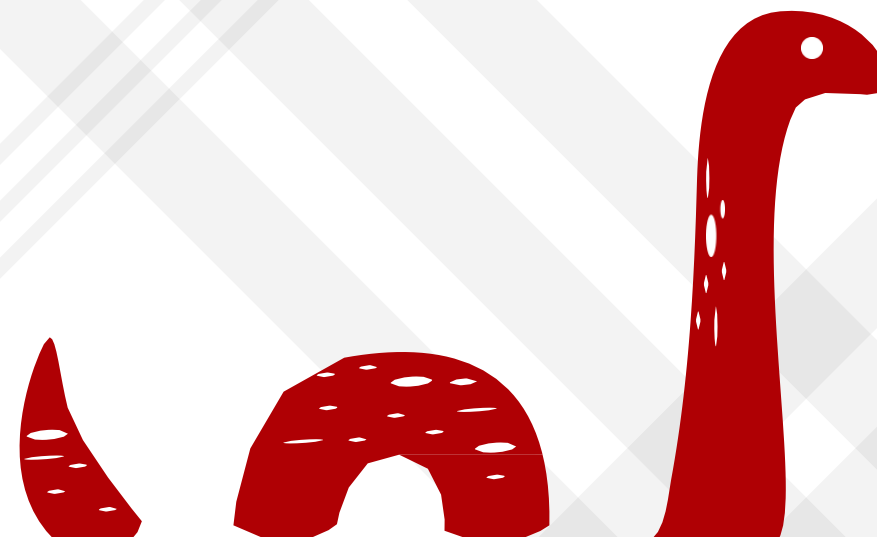
SCOTTISH CULTURAL HERITAGE CONVERSATION

45 - 60 Minutes

An engaging discussion of the bagpipes' historical and cultural significance in Scotland.

Exploration of how traditional Scottish music has influenced and blended with contemporary genres.

Connections to history, geography, and cultural identity.



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

On-Stage Student Performance Opportunity

- **Select students (bagpipers, drummers, ensemble groups or Celtic dance troupes) may perform live with the Chilli Pipers during the evening concert**
- **A once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience professional stage performance.**



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

THROUGH PARTICIPATION, STUDENTS WILL:

- Gain an appreciation for Scottish cultural traditions.
- Understand the mechanics and artistry of bagpipes and drums.
- Explore the intersection of heritage and contemporary music.
- Develop teamwork, confidence, and performance skills.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- Music: Rhythm, instrumentation, ensemble performance.
- History & Social Studies: Scottish cultural heritage, migration of traditions.
- Arts: Innovation in performance, blending traditional and contemporary art forms.



SEE YOU SOON!



**RED HOT
CHILLI
PIPERS**

