

Turlach Ur 4th Annual Fall Dinner and Concert

to Feature Guest Artist Debby Pohlson

The Turlach Ur Pipe Band will host its 4th Annual Fall Dinner and Concert on Saturday October 8. A complimentary wine and cheese reception kicks off the evening at 5:00 at the Grinnell Arts Center. Dinner begins at 6:00 at the Grinnell United Methodist Church, with a full concert to follow. Debby Pohlson of Grinnell will perform with the band as a guest vocalist.

Founded in 2007 and based in Grinnell, Turlach Ur performs and competes throughout the Midwest. The band is known for the innovativeness of its concerts, which typically include singing; non-Highland instruments and virtuoso solo playing in addition to the more familiar pipe band arrangements of traditional Scottish music. Just last month, the band performed on the main stage when RAGBRAI stopped over in Grinnell, and members of the band played with local favorite Whiplash on a well-known AC/DC tune featuring bagpipes.

Turlach Ur's founder and leader, Rob Clower of Grinnell, notes that the band will not be performing any AC/DC numbers at its fall dinner concert. "This show has a slightly different tone," says Clower, "but that doesn't mean our performance will lack energy." Clower explains that a lot of that energy will flow when the drum corps of the Turlach Urchins, the organization's youth band, performs its new fanfare for the first time in public. The piece was written especially for the Urchins, who next will perform it at the prestigious Winter Storm concert in Kansas City this coming January.

This year's special guest artist is Debby Pohlson. "Most people aren't aware that Debby knows a little bit about playing bagpipes," says Clower. "However, most are well aware that she knows quite a lot about singing. We're really looking forward to having Debby on stage with us this year."

The entire dinner this year will be prepared by Grinnell Heritage Farm, and, as always, will feature locally grown produce with both meat and vegetarian options. "We always try to go with a somewhat Scottish theme for this dinner," notes Andy Dunham, who operates Grinnell Heritage Farm with his wife, Melissa, "but we make some adjustments in order to keep ingredients as local as possible. I actually think we could do haggis as an entirely local dish, but we're not going to tackle it this time. Maybe we'll get to try it next year for Turlach Ur's fifth anniversary dinner."

Clower notes that the event has sold out every year. He suggests early purchase of tickets and urges those attending not to miss the reception before-dinner. Goat milk cheeses from Reichert's Dairy Air of Knoxville will be served, along with wine and British-style beers. "The reception was a big hit last year," says Clower. "It really got the evening off to a great start."

Proceeds from the event benefit the band's ever-growing player development programs, which include local workshops and participation at events such as Winter Storm.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students, and are available at Brown Shoe Fit, McNally's and the Grinnell Art Center. Turlach Ur is a program of the Grinnell Area Arts Council. Contact the Arts Center at 641-236-3203 for more information.

CAPTION - The 4th Annual Turlach Ur Fall Dinner and Concert will take place in Grinnell on Saturday October 8. Dinner will be prepared, and mostly grown, by Grinnell Heritage Farm. The evening's performance will feature a wide variety of music, including a performance by guest artist Debby Pohlson and the premier of the Turlach Urchins Salute to Winter Storm. Here, banner bearers Bethany Stratford and Emma Lang lead Turlach Ur from the stage following the band's main stage RAGBRAI performance.