



electronic bagpipes

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Newsletter 8/11



The ,Braveheart' of Scottish Folk-Rock'

Charlie Allan has truly earned the title 'braveheart'. It takes some courage to get in touch with an electronic bagpipe for the very first time and directly jump on stage with it. But for Charlie the redpipe Caledonia saved this evening. The bagpiper of the Scottish Tribal-Folk band Soar Patrol had an infect with an insistent coughing and normally the gig at the 'Spectaculum Festival' in Wasserburg (Germany) would have been cancelled under this circumstances.

But Charlie is a tough guy and doesn't give up soon. A night shift on behalf of Rolf Jost, the inventor and manufacturer of the redpipes and a special courier made it possible that Charlie and his band colleagues could perform their concert.

"It was a new experience to play electronically and remembering not to blow so much but I really warmed up to them the end of the day and the crowd didn't seem to really notice."

The adjustable air-management of the redpipe made it possible for Charlie to perform as energetic as always despite of his tattered health.

Soar Patrol is a Scottish band with three drummers, a bagpipe and an electric guitar having its roots deep into the celtic tradition and merging it with modern styles. They have been referred to as "The Motorhead of Folk".

Charlie got to play bagpipe while working as chief of the 'Combat International' agency, a company offering skilled combat and stunt performers for historical film productions playing in old Scotland. Charlie and his team participated in big films like 'Braveheart', the Ridley Scott films 'Robin Hood' and 'Gladiator' or 'King Arthur' with Russel Crowe.



„I started playing bagpipe in 1999 during the shooting for Gladiator. I bought a Great Highland Bagpipe and started practicing in a London hotel. My team was engaged as combat performers and I realized that my company had to offer all kind of great things

but no music. So I decided to change that and started to learn bagpipe.

From these beginnings the band Soar Patrol took form - first focused on medieval instruments and traditions. But soon the group evolved their music into a combination of traditional Celtic roots and modern elements. This was mainly due to the decision to take an electric guitarist on board.

Meanwhile the band performs in two different variations: the Tribal Pipes & Drums- or the Tribal Celtic Rock Act.

This was also the reason for Charlie Allan to prick his ears when a Canadian musician told him about the redpipe. An electronic bagpipe seemed to fit well to the new concept of the band and Charlie liked the thought of using new sounds and effects in combination with bagpipe and electric guitar.

His initial skepticism was gone when he saw that with the right amplification the redpipe was not to tell from the original GHB. He also recognized that it was a big relief for him to be able changing from his acoustic bagpipe to the redpipe .

„I play very hard and I am one piper with a battery of nine drums and three drummers, the energy we put into our performances wipes us out and we get pretty exhausted. I play non stop for 1 and a half hours and with oncoures it can be almost 2 hours. With the Redpipe I get a well deserved rest. Now it's even

more fun because I can change between both pipes and more different sounds."

But mostly I value with the red pipe the reliability and how they are not affected by temperatures and always in tune. Little or no maintenance and no fatigue!"



Charlie Allan is an enthusiastic traditionalist. His latest project with his other company, the 'Clanranald Trust for Scotland,' is the construction of a fortified medieval village as an educational facility where youths and groups can come and have "hands on" experience of early medieval life in Scotland.

But Charlie does not cling to the past too much. Seeing that his audience dances like always and is not taking notice of the fact that he is playing electrified made him relax.

"I made a comment to Desdemona of Schelmish, good friends of ours. I said to

her "I feel like I'm cheating" and she gave a hearty laugh and said "don't be silly you're fingers are still doing the work" so I just grinned - she is right after all.

<http://www.saorpatrol.com>

<http://www.clanranald.org>

<http://www.combatinternational.com>

Redpipes on tour

There are several occasions during the next weeks when interested bagpipers have the chance to get in personal contact with Rolf Jost and hear the redpipes live on stage played by international artists. Here are some dates where Rolf will be on location. If you interested to meet him just contact us under: rolf@redpipes.eu

25th of June Mosbach Neckarelz in Baden (Germany), Spectaculum Festival with **Soar Patrol**

1st and 2nd of July Folk Im Schlosshof Festival Bad Rappenau (Germany) with **Treacherous Orchestra** and **Enter the Haggis**

9-10th of July International Highland Games, Angelbachtal (Germany) with **Celtia**

14-17th of July Festival des Musiques et danses Traditionnelles, Chateau d'ars, Chateroux (France) with **Olle Gällmo**

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