

Professor John Duff

Chair Jack Taylor

It is my privilege to welcome Professor John Duff this morning. This is the second year in a row that we have had a music professor from USA talking to us – perhaps a sign the piobaireachd is trickling out there into the world of music generally. I hope so.

Professor Duff serves as the Director of the School of Music at the University of Florida. Prior to coming to Florida in 2002, he was Director of the School of Music at Southwest Texas State University, now known as Texas State University in San Marcos. During the 1990's, Professor Duff chaired the Department of Music and was professor of trombone studies at Western Kentucky University. From 1980 through 1991, he lived in Fairbanks, Alaska, where he taught at the University of Alaska.

Originally from the Northwest, Professor Duff received his baccalaureate degrees from the University of Washington where he studied conducting with Vilem Sokol and William D. Cole, and trombone performance with Stuart Dempster. After five years of teaching music in the public schools in Yakima, Washington, during the 1970's, he left for Michigan State University where he studied conducting with Stanley DeRusha, trombone with Curtis Olson, and music education with Robert Erbes and Robert Sidnell, earning his Master of Music and Ph.D. degrees.

As a teacher and conductor since 1973, Professor Duff has worked with musicians from junior high through professional levels in the areas of band and orchestra. He has conducted nationally and internationally.

His research interests include the life and music of Czech-American composer, Karel Husa, and Celtic music, including the

“classical” music of the Scottish Highland Bagpipe. He and his wife live in Gainesville and have two children and two grandchildren.

John began his piping hobby at the young age of 45. His particular interest is in piobaireachd and although starting late in life, he has had the privilege of being tutored by "Skip" Clevenger, Ken Liechti, Jimmy Bell, Roddy McDonald and James McIntosh.

We look forward to hearing about The Sister's Lament, a tale of beauty and the beasts.

Please welcome John Duff.