Bagpipe Association of Germany

http://www.bagev.de/

The Bagpipe Association of Germany e.V. was called into life in 1984 and officialy founded and registered in 1989.

The BAG is a non-profit organization. The Chairman is as mentioned Peter Brinckmann (Piper), Vice Chairman Jürgen Uhrig (Drummer), Treasurer Achim Wolsiffer-Maeding (Piper and the new Principal of the Summer Schools), and Secretary is Karola Brinckmann. The BAG understands itself as roof-association of the German pipers and drummers. Their main-concern is the mediating of first-class teachers and the exchange of addresses, to spread the Scottish music for solo pipers, solo drummers and pipe band members. What is learnd on the summer courses, could be tested at the BAG's competition in Ludwigshafen. This indoor competition was created in 1990 for soloists and quintets. Some judges hitherto: Murray Henderson, Roderick MacLeod, William MacCallum for the piping; Dean Hall, Robert Haynes, Tony Burns for the drumming. The continous rising of the standard within the German scene must be seen also as an outcome of the BAG's initiatives. The German price-winners today are Martin Kessler, Tim Lethen, Kristoph Kresse, Dr. Andy Fluck for the piping or Bert Anhalt, Henry Kresse, Ingold Schneider, Helge Johannssen for the drums - to name only a few. The scene grows. 1994/95 Uwe Hager, a pupil of Jackez Pincet of Britanny led some weekend seminars on the most southern end of Germany. In the name of the BAG both Bert Anhalt (Drums) and Peter Brinckmann (Pipes) gave several times pipe band lessons for free in Austria. Tim Lethen and Martin Kessler (who is now member of the Piobaireachd Society) are oganizing Piobaireachd weekends with Arthur Gillies since years. On wintertime there is also a knockout competition in Germany. At the moment the Bagpipe Association of Germany e.V. thinks over to organize a Pipe Band Association of Germany (PBAG), which consolidates its own school and own pipe band competition to check the skills of their students. In that way the BAG hopes to comply the particular wishes of Pipe Majors, Drum Majors, Leading Drummers and all band members concerning ensemble playing. In Germany at present there are round 30 pipe bands, tendency increasing. Nevertheless at the moment the scene develops further rather sliding. The interest-situation branches itself understandably only partwise into the music and the instruments of the Middle Ages, and further into the Celtic area and turns there itself for the music of the Great Highland Bagpipe - the old and the modern. Important to the author (Piobaireachd Society member since 1987) is that the authenticity remains, the standard constantly climbs and each piper knows where his music originally comes from and of which type they were.

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Year-Joined: 2012
UL Rank (1 is highest, 4 is lowest): 4

Date created: 10/04/2006