

# Band Origin

Starting in Fall 2017 with a group of 5 very dedicated and enthusiastic intro to piping students, the Kutztown Pipe Band has grown to include more than a dozen members, and has transitioned into a performance group, with the debut performance at the Kutztown Memorial Day Parade in 2019.

If you'd like to participate in the Kutztown Pipe Band but don't have any experience in piping, we want to help! Although we accept anyone into our group who has experience in Scottish piping and drumming, we grow the band primarily by offering free intro to piping lessons to anyone who is interested in learning to play the bagpipes.

Group lessons and private lessons are available upon request, with in person and online options available. Advanced chanter and pipe band members meet one night each week for group band practice.

Contact the band for time and location information if you are interested in participating in practices and being involved in the band performances.



## About the Band

The Kutztown Pipe Band was formed in 2017 as a student group at Kutztown University and a community group in the Borough of Kutztown.

Band members include faculty and staff from Kutztown University, staff and students from Kutztown Area School District, and residents of the Borough of Kutztown and nearby communities.

Each band member is at a different stage in their journey to becoming proficient at the bagpipes and pipe band percussion.

We are a learning and performing band, that offers bagpipe instruction to anyone wishing to join the band and embark on the lifelong journey to mastering the Great Highland Bagpipes.



## Contact Information



Performance:  
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Instruction:  
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Providing entertainment,  
education, and  
instruction with the  
Great Highland Bagpipes

<https://kutztownpipeband.com>

# Learning the Bagpipes

If learning to play the bagpipes is something you'd like to explore, you should expect the following:

- The first several months will be spent on a practice chanter. *Lessons through the Kutztown Pipe Band are free*, but you are expected to purchase your own practice chanter (generally around \$100).
- You should practice daily on your practice chanter - twice daily for 10-15 minutes is preferable in the initial stages of learning. It typically takes 6 months to a year to be ready for the transition to the bagpipes.
- To transition from the practice chanter to bagpipes, you should have a base of five substantial tunes memorized and played accurately on your practice chanter. You can expect to spend around \$1500 on a good set of bagpipes.
- The next phase of the journey is often the most challenging - building up the endurance to play the tunes that you know on the practice chanter on the Great Highland Bagpipes. It typically takes a year or more to become comfortable playing tunes on the Great Highland Bagpipes.



# Joining the Band

The Kutztown Pipe Band teaches bagpipes to anyone interested in learning through free intro-to-piping lessons. Students who go through the piping instruction program are encouraged to join the band when they transition from practice chanter to bagpipes.

Already established pipers and drummers are also welcome to join the band.



# Performance

Interested in having the Kutztown Pipe Band perform at your event?

Typical performances are up to one hour and can contain a mixture of:

- Traditional Celtic music, primarily Scottish, played on the Great Highland Bagpipes with Scottish snare, tenor, and bass drums
- Historical explanations of performance tunes
- Educational content about the Great Highland Bagpipes

Previous performance venues include:

- Kutztown Memorial Day Parade and service
- Kutztown Area Middle School
- Kutztown Folk Fest
- Muhlenberg River Fest
- Kutztown University Memorial Ceremony

Several local nursing homes including:

- Kutztown Manor
- Mosser Nursing Home
- Keystone Villa Retirement Home
- Lehigh Commons

