

# WeekendTicket



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The Tonga Defence Services Royal Corps of Musicians, from left, Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums and bagpipers are a few of the ensembles appearing at the 2011 Virginia International Tattoo. The three-day event at the Norfolk Scope Arena, presented by the Virginia Arts Festival, features performances by military bands, color guards, drill teams, fifes and drums corps, bagpipers and Scottish dancers from the U.S. and abroad. The groups perform individually and en masse, typically accompanied by dramatic lighting and choral music.

# MARCHING TO THE BEAT

## Military bands and bagpipers team up for the Virginia International Tattoo

During the 15 years that the Virginia Arts Festival has presented performing arts events, the annual Virginia International Tattoo continues to grow in popularity and cultural diversity. Though the format is similar, the cast of characters always changes. The 2011 tattoo will take place Friday through Sunday in Norfolk Scope.

For those who have not experienced this unusual event, the tattoo is a mass performance of military bands, color guards, drill teams, fifes and drums corps, bagpipers and Scottish dancers. The groups perform individually or en masse, backed by dramatic lighting and choral music.

The Virginia tattoo is patterned after similar spectacles in Nova Scotia and Edinburgh, Scotland. The musical

selections are a mix of patriotic marches, contemporary pop songs and folk favorites.

The majority of bands come from the United States and Canada, but units in past years have traveled from Germany, South Korea and countries in Africa. This year's most exotic group is a military band from Tonga, a group of islands located in the South Pacific Ocean.

For the first time, the arts festival is presenting "Tattoo Hullabaloo." Two hours before each performance, the plaza outside Norfolk Scope will feature dancers, musicians, a piping competition, food and beer and other activities.

—David Nicholson, *Daily Press*

### Here's a lineup of participants:

- Australia**  
The Scotch College Pipe Band
- Canada**  
The Massed Pipes and Drums of the Canadian Forces  
Paris Port Dover Pipes and Drums  
Schiehallion Highland Dancers
- Tonga**  
Tonga Defence Services Royal Corps of Musicians
- United Kingdom**  
Alisa Craig Dancers  
Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas
- United States**  
Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums  
Rhythm Project  
Scottish Dance Theatre of Virginia  
Tidewater Pipes & Drums  
Todd Rosenlieb Dance  
Air Force Heritage of America Band, Langley AFB  
Navy Ceremonial Honor Guard Drill Team  
Army TRADOC Band Fanfare Trumpets, Fort Monroe  
Fleet Forces Band  
Marine Corps Band, Quantico  
Marine Corps FAST Company  
Virginia Children's Chorus  
Virginia Symphony Chorus
- Multinational**  
Allied Command Transformation Multinational Ceremonial Detail

### Want to go:

**What:** Virginia International Tattoo  
**When:** 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday  
**Where:** Norfolk Scope  
**Tickets:** \$20-\$100 through Ticketmaster by calling 800-982-2787 or online at [vafest.org](http://vafest.org).

Right, finale of the 2010 Virginia International Tattoo, an evening of military bands, gymnastics teams and bagpipers.

