

# Daily Press



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

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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 & 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 other 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.

Here's a lineup of the 2011 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

**Multi-national**

Allied Command Transformation Multi-national 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 **<http://www.vafest.org>**.