
The Center for Irish Music

December 2006

Class Notes:

Happy Holidays to our students and their families! We've had a fantastic 2006 and we know that 2007 will be the best year yet. We are working hard on the *Young Irish Musician's Weekend* which will take place June 22-24, 2007. So many of our students have progressed this year, some on to new tunes, some on to new instruments. Congratulations also to all our students who have received awards this year at various music competitions and in regional and local scholarships and grants. Will 2007 find some more Center for Irish Music students at the Fleadh Ceol in May? I hope so! We hope to bring a bigger group down for competitions this year. You'll be hearing more about that next month.

Be sure to check in with your instructor(s) as to lesson schedules during the week of Christmas and New Years. The Fall semester should be wrapping up in mid to late January. Our spring schedule is attached to the back of the newsletter. Call with questions! Thanks! - Kate D.

Celtic Tenors Christmas Concert at the Fitzgerald, December 5 - CIM Ensemble Performance

This concert was a benefit for the Irish Fair of Minnesota. The Center for Irish Music student ensemble performed a 45 minute set to open for the Celtic Tenors. What an honor for them to be able to play on the famous Fitzgerald Theater stage. They did a fantastic job. One of the ushers commented that a patron stated that she would have paid just to see the student performance. Maria Flynn-Conway, organizer of the event had this to say:

"Just to see young people so obviously enjoying what they do and the talent and professionalism they all showed was incredible. When we put the event together we had no idea how this would evolve and I can certainly see them becoming a great part of many other events, they are great ambassadors for the future of Irish music. You can both be very proud of what you have accomplished in a short time and I wait to see what the next few years will bring."

Thanks to all the hard work you do, students. It really does pay off sometimes, right? For more information and to support the Irish Fair of MN visit www.irishfair.com For CDs of the Celtic Tenors visit: www.celtic-tenors.com



Center for Irish Music students pictured with the Celtic Tenors, December 5 at the Fitzgerald Theatre

Back row: Amanda Hogan, Mattie Ernst, Tenor Matthew Gilsean, Bonnie Hogan, Tenor James Nelson, Ceallach Gibbons, Meagan White, Tenor Daryl Simpson, Rebecca Garrigan, Jode Dowling, Colleen White
Front Row: Kate Dowling, Soprano Deirdre Shannon, Rowan Garrigan, Ben Hogan

The Center for Irish Music at The Saint Paul Conservatory of Music
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IMDA Ceili honoring musician Martin McHugh, Sat. January 13, 2007

The Irish Music and Dance Association (IMDA) is hosting an Irish ceili dance and celebration honoring the contributions of musician Martin McHugh for his years of playing in the Twin Cities community. On January 13, 2007, Martin McHugh will be the guest of honor for the 2006/2007 IMDA "Honoring our Traditions" event. Martin McHugh, native of Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon, Ireland, has been a resident in St Paul since the 1960s. With his accordion, he has shared his love of Irish music and culture with countless musicians in the Twin Cities area performing for events, dances and at sessions. Martin's repertoire forms the basis for many of the tunes played in the local community. Please join us to say thank-you to Martin for all he has given us. It will be a special night featuring dancing (called by Mike Whelan) and music -- with surprise guest artists from near and far. You'll also get to meet the winners of the 2006 IMDA Educational Grant Program who will perform that evening. A full cash-bar is on the premises. Bring your favorite desert to share and help us make this a very special evening for a very special friend. The event details are:



Irish Music and Dance Association Ceili and Celebration
Honoring our Tradition: Martin McHugh
Saturday, January 13, 2007
Eagles Club, Minneapolis
2507 25th Street East
Minneapolis, MN 55406
Doors open 7pm, \$5 donation requested at the door

Proceeds will benefit the IMDA's Educational Grant Program
Inquiries directed to Jan Casey at 651-699-8937 or email jcaseymn@msn.com

Failte Minnesota Green Tie Fundraiser Event – November 18 – SOLD OUT!

Failte (*fall-tcha*) means "welcome" in Irish. Failte Minnesota is a non-profit organization that is committed to establishing an Irish Community Center in Minnesota. The Green Tie Event, which was co-hosted by the Irish Music and Dance Association, is part of an ongoing effort to raise funds to build a home for our local Irish heritage. The Doon Ceili Band performed well as The Center for Irish Music Student Ensemble. We had the honor of meeting the mayor of St Paul, Chris Coleman. The student ensemble executed an outstanding performance to resounding applause. Good luck to Failte and their mission.



Pictured at right: Ceallach Gibbons and Meagan White playing fiddle during the Failte performance

John Williams – Repertoire Class and Accordion Workshop, November 30



The repertoire class was a big success. Thanks to all of you who came. John really enjoyed teaching in this new format. He is such a versatile instrumentalist that he was the perfect candidate for going beyond the boundaries of his own instrument and teaching tunes and talking about the history of the music in broad terms. I believe there were five or six different instruments represented.

I know everyone there learned a great deal more about Irish music in general and picked up a number of new tunes. We hope that we can continue to offer such special, intimate classes with acclaimed artists. We've been so fortunate to have the likes of John Williams, Fintan Vallely, and Patrick Ourceau share their music with us this year. Thanks to all of you who have participated.

NOTE! December Family Session Date Change – December 19! And – NO JANUARY SESSION!

Due to the Celtic Tenor's Concert and the CIM's involvement in that event (see above), we needed to change our December family session to Tuesday, December 19 from 6:30-8pm. We hope to have a special December family session on December 19. Please bring a treat to share. We'll have a surprise for you all as well. Dress comfortably!

We will NOT have a January Family session. The next family session will be February 6, 2007. Thanks!

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Community Ceilis with the Doon Ceili Band - December 10 & January 14 - Ceili AND Sets

The Ceilis on second Sundays with the Doon have been a great success. The December 10 ceili had almost double the number of dancers as the first ceili in November. Thanks to all of you who've come out to enjoy the tunes, the chat and of course the dancing! If you still haven't checked it out, please do!

Here are the details:

Doon Ceili Band Community Ceili AND Set Dancing

Sundays, Dec 10 & Jan 14

7:30pm -- \$5 suggested donation

Eagles Club

2507 E. 25 St. (corner of 25th and 25th)

Minneapolis, MN 55406

for more information: 651-489-7044



Charladies Christmas Concert, December 11 - Lowry Theater - SOLD OUT!

This was a lovely event. Congratulations to Laura MacKenzie for a sold out house! For information on Laura's cds and other upcoming events visit her website at www.lauramackenzie.com

As always

Please contact us if you have any questions about anything! Kate & Jode Dowling 651-493-2022 and irish.music@comcast.net