

The Center for Irish Music

Newsletter for April 2006

Class notes

We hope everyone is enjoying the Minnesota spring weather. It's a great time for our wooden instruments – they love the humidity of spring! You may hear the tone of your instrument open up. As we come closer to the end of our Spring Semester, please check with your instructor as to how many more classes you will have. Some groups may be ending in May, others in June. Private lessons are ongoing, as arranged between you and your instructor. We may need to update contracts, however. Please check out our exciting Summer Workshops and Masterclasses listed below. Sign up now – we hope they will fill up soon.

Center for Irish Music Open House & Family Session Featuring Daithi Sproule Tuesday, April 4, 6:30-8pm

On the first Tuesday of every month we have a family session in-lieu of classes. It's always a lot of fun for everyone! We are using our April Family Session as an open-house for people to visit and get a sense of what we're up to at the Center. We will play some tunes, chat about music, eat biscuits and drink tea.



April's session will feature **Dáithí Sproule**. Daithi is the very much the commuting guitarist: born and raised in Derry, he has lived for many years in Minnesota. After first inspirations from the Beatles, Daithi's first traditional Irish songs were learnt from his friend, Sean O hEili and from singers in the Gaeltacht of Rannafast. Daithi's first album was with Triona, Maighread and Micheal O Domhnaill (Skara Brae) Daithi got seriously into accompanying the instrumental music when he began to sit in on the traditional sessions in the Four Seasons in Capel Street in Dublin during the 70's, where he received a great grounding in the traditional music of the whole country (and very much including Donegal tunes) from the fiddle-playing of John Kelly, Senior, and his sons James and John. Daithi first went to the US to record and tour with James Kelly and accordion-player, Paddy O'Brien, and since has recorded and performed with many wonderful musicians,

Including Tommy Peoples, Seamus and Manus McGuire, Liz Carroll and Billy McComiskey (in the group Trián) and Peter Ostroushko. Daithi is perhaps best known as a member of the group Altan. See www.altan.ie for more information.

The Family Session is ALWAYS the First Tuesday of the Month, October – June. The next dates for 2006 will be April 4, May 2, June 6, October 3, November 7 and December 5. Mark it in your calendar and plan to bring the whole family!

The Center for Irish Music
at The Saint Paul Conservatory of Music
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Traditional Singer's Club Presents: Daithi Sproule, Sunday April 9

If you can't make the session or if you want to hear more, the Traditional Singers Club is presenting a solo concert with Daithi Sproule on Sunday April 9 at 3pm. Cost is \$10. The concert will be in the Recital Hall at the Saint Paul Conservatory of Music – same location as our Family Session! 29 East Exchange Street. Call Brian Miller 651-245-3719 or visit: <http://www.5milechase.com/singersclub/>

North American Comhaltas Convention – Chicago, April 20-23

There's still time to go, if you're interested! There will be workshops on different instruments and on all aspects of Irish music and culture. There are big ceili dances every night. It's a fun event – about 6 hours away. *Comhaltas* (pronounced cult-is) has a North American convention every year, but it has been about 10 or 12 years since it was so near to us. Take advantage of its location and attend if you can. LOTS more information is available at: <http://www.murphyroche.com/Conventions/Index.html>

Midwest Regional Fleadh Cheoil. St Louis, May 12-13, 2006

We have two students going this year! Good luck to Rebecca Gerrigan and Colleen White, both competing on tin whistle. If you would like to go and just "try" it out, see what it's like, for the first time ever they are offering a "Tir Na n'Og" program for students under the age of 10. It's a competition of sorts, but it is not qualifying to go on the worlds if you win. It's just to try it out with less pressure. PLEASE NOTE : register by April 15 to avoid late fees. The very last day to get your registration in is May 7. IF you are interested in competing, please talk with your instructor. Observers are always welcome at the fleadh as well, so don't be shy if you'd like to attend, but not compete. More information can be available from your instructor or at: <http://www.slia.org/Fleadh/index.htm> or from the organizer, Laura Crites, at 314-821-3682 or email ELCEACrites@sbcglobal.net

Doon Ceili Band CD Launch and Ceili, Sunday, May 14, 2006



The CDs are finally in and the plans for the launch are in the works. We believe the concert and ceili will be on Sunday, May 14 at the Lowry Theater in downtown St Paul. Check our website for further details: www.doonceili.com Four Center for Irish Music instructors are in the Doon Ceili Band: Jode Dowling, Kate Dowling, Sean Egan, Laura MacKenzie, Brian Miller. Guests Daithi Sproule and Paddy O'Brien are also members of the band. Hope you can make it to the launch.

Fiddle Masterclass with Patrick Ourceau Tuesday, May 16, 2006

The Center for Irish Music is working on details for a masterclass with fiddler Patrick Ourceau who will be in town performing with Chulrua www.chulrua.com. Patrick Ourceau is a virtuoso on the fiddle, and a particular specialist in the style and repertoire of Clare and East Galway. Originally from France, he has toured extensively in Europe and North America, and taught at many respected Irish traditional music schools.



The class will be held at the Conservatory during evening hours. Cost, exact times, etc are still being confirmed. Keep in touch and watch the newsletter for updates and further details.

Center for Irish Music Ensemble Performances

The Center for Irish Music will be visible at two public performances on Paddy's Day, March 17:

- Sat, April 1, Dubliner Pub, St Paul 1:3-2pm: Fundraiser for Loma Mor Irish Dance Club
- Sat, April 22, North American Comhaltas Convention, Chicago: performance (to be confirmed)
- Sun, June 4, Grand Old Day, St Paul: Parade and performance in front of Irish on Grand
- Sun, June 25, Hobgoblin Celtic Music Festival, Red Wing: performance (to be confirmed)
- Sept 16 & 17, Celtic Fest Chicago, Chicago: performances both days (to be confirmed)

Upcoming Local Events:

- Battlefield Band at the Cedar Cultural Center, April 9
- Daithi Sproule produced by the Traditional Singers Club, April 9, 3pm

As always, in case of any questions of any sort, please call or email Kate Dowling at 651-493-2022 or irish.music@comcast.net