

# The Center for Irish Music

Newsletter for May 2006

## Class notes

May is upon us – and lovely it is! So many Irish songs start out about “One morning in May ....” Or something similar, like walking in a meadow on a May morning ... It’s definitely an inspirational month for poets – and we hope you find it inspirational as musicians too! Check out all that’s happening as listed in this newsletter – and these are just Center for Irish Music events! 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. *Note: June 6 will be our last Family Session until October 3, 2006.*

## Family Session Featuring Martin McHugh Tuesday, May 2, 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 will play some tunes, chat about music, eat biscuits and drink tea.



May’s session will feature master accordion player Martin McHugh. Martin hails from Castlereagh in Co. Roscommon, Ireland. Martin has been instrumental in keeping traditional music alive in the Twin Cities since his arrival here as a young man. So many people in the Twin Cities owe their love of traditional Irish music, and the tunes they know and play, to him. Both Kate and Jode Dowling and John Winston have learned countless tunes and settings of tunes from

Martin’s playing. He’s a busy man traversing the ocean twice a year and it’s an honor to have him come and spend an hour with us.

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

## WE HAVE A WEBSITE!

[www.centerforirishmusic.org](http://www.centerforirishmusic.org)

Thanks to the professional efforts of voice instructor Shawn McBurnie and his lovely wife Carillon The Center for Irish Music now has its very own website! It’s been up for only a week now – so there’s a lot we are still working on! But, check it out: [www.centerforirishmusic.org](http://www.centerforirishmusic.org) If you’d like to try out our music download area (for students only) it is password protected. Check with us for the login information. We hope to put up tunes we are teaching in this area of the website.

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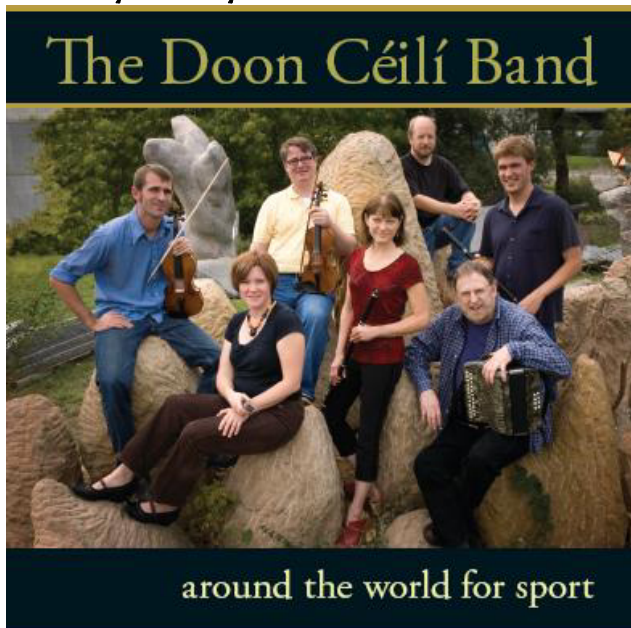
## Traditional Singers Club Presents: Julie Henigan, Sunday May 7

Julie Henigan will be teaching a Donegal Sean-nos (old-style, Irish singing) workshop followed by a concert on Sunday, May 7. Illustrated with both live and recorded performances, this lecture describes the genres, performance styles, and social background of the song tradition of West Donegal. Songs are in both Irish Gaelic (with translations) and English. The workshop starts at 3pm. The concert follows the workshop at 7:30pm. Both events will take place 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: [www.singclub.com](http://www.singclub.com)

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

We have FOUR students going this year! Good luck to Rebecca Gerrigan and Colleen White, both competing on tin whistle and Ceallach and Cait Gibbons competing on fiddle. 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: 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](mailto:ELCEACrites@sbcglobal.net)

## BRING YOUR MOM! Doon Ceili Band CD Launch and Ceili, Sunday, May 14, 2006



The stage has been set! The Doon Ceili Band CD release concert and ceili dance will be on Sunday, May 14 at the Lowry Theater in downtown St Paul from 3-6pm. Entrance is \$10. Mike Whelan is calling the dancing. Check our website for further details and directions: [www.doonceili.com](http://www.doonceili.com)

The CD will be available for purchase at the event. If you can't wait two weeks, you can pick up a copy through our website via CD Baby or at Irish on Grand. It makes a great Mother's Day gift!

Six Center for Irish Music instructors are in the Doon Ceili Band: Jode Dowling, Kate Dowling, Sean Egan, Laura MacKenzie, Brian Miller and Daithi Sproule. Hope you can make it to the launch!

## Fiddle Masterclass with Patrick Ourceau Wednesday May 24, 2006

The Center for Irish Music is happy to host a masterclass with fiddler Patrick Ourceau who will be in town performing with Chulrua [www.chulrua.com](http://www.chulrua.com) on May 25. **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 on May 24 in the Recital Hall at the Conservatory from 6:30-8:30pm and will cost \$30. You can call and register ahead of time 651- 224-2205 (this enables you to pay with credit card, if that's appealing) Or you can pay when you come! Checks payable to The St Paul Conservatory of Music. For info, call or email Kate at The Center for Irish Music.

## GNIPC 2006 Tionól, May 20 & 21, 2006

The Great Northern Irish Pipers' Club is to hold its Fifth-Annual Tionól May 20 and 21st, 2006. Tionól (pr. "chuh-nole) is Irish for "gathering" - in this case- a gathering of uilleann pipers. Our guest pipers/instructors will be Jerry O'Sullivan and Patrick D'Arcy, who (along with other guests) will be part of a concert Saturday May 20. The concert will be held at Cherokee Park United Church, 371 West Baker Street, St. Paul 55107. Concert tickets (\$10.00) are available in advance from GNIPC (an order form is available on the website: [www.gnipc.org](http://www.gnipc.org)), at the workshops during the day on Saturday, and at the door Saturday night. The concert gets underway at 7:00 pm on Saturday.



Patrick D'Arcy



Jerry O'Sullivan

The weekend workshop will consist of two days of piping instruction, reed making, and pipe maintenance classes. The workshops will be held at the beautiful and historic Landmark Center (75 West Fifth Street) in the heart of Downtown St. Paul (the Saturday evening concert will be at the Cherokee Park United Church). The workshops on Saturday will be located in the Schubert Club 2nd Floor Museum Gallery (room 201) from 10:00am to 5:00pm with a break for lunch. Registration begins at 9:00am on Saturday. Sunday's workshops will be from 11:00 until 4:00 and will meet in room 408. Workshops will be divided into beginner players and intermediate/advanced players. There will also be sessions on pipe maintenance and troubleshooting as well as reed making demonstrations. Cost of the workshop is \$45.00 (if payment is

Received by May 15) and \$50.00 after that date. Everyone is welcome....even if you have never touched a set of pipes in your life and have no instrument! This is a tremendous opportunity to rub elbows (if you will) with some of the world's greatest pipers, and meet members of our now thriving uilleann pipe community.

For additional information visit [www.gnipc.org](http://www.gnipc.org) or contact Tom Klein, The Great Northern Irish Pipers' Club [info@gnipc.org](mailto:info@gnipc.org) (651) 227-3367

## A report from the student ranks: A trip to Galena, Illinois

*First in a series of student submissions. Submitted by Ben Hogan*



We had a riotous drive down to the Irish Cottage Hotel + Frank O'Dowd's Irish pub, and arrived just in time to take a swim in the Hotel pool before the first performance. Taking turns performing with Pete Yeates and some Irish dancers, we stayed up until 12:00 midnight, enlivening the pub with tunes. Next morning, we all got up just barely in time for the free breakfast of taters, sausages, bacon, eggs, and other good food. Wandered around Galena, a lovely, quaint, small town, with absolutely nothing for a city boy to do. That night one

of our party suffered an injury to his knee. Tony went to the hospital, then refusing to miss a gig, came back and showed his grit, playing till late that night, with his leg stapled up. Amanda= Tin whistle, Ben= Bodhran, Erick= guitar, Tony= fiddle

## North American Comhaltas Convention – Chicago, April 20-23

We had a brilliant time down at the Comhaltas Convention in Chicago two weeks ago. Jode & Kate Dowling and John Winston represented the St Paul Irish scene. There were tons of non-stop sessions, workshops, dances and more dances, a banquet, lectures, performances ... I think there was one dance that went until 4am. The sessions were still going at sunup, so, as usual, the musicians had the dancers beat! We met a lot of old friends and made some new ones. People we sessioned with included: Liz Carroll (Chicago, fiddle), Marty Fahy (Chicago, accordion), John Carty (Cork, fiddle), Larry Reynolds (Boston, fiddle), Mike Rafferty (New York, flute) and Felix Dolan (New York, flute). And these are just the "name-dropping" names – there were so many wonderful musicians there. Next year's convention will be in Atlanta, Georgia same weekend in April 2007.



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## Center for Irish Music Ensemble Performances

The Center for Irish Music will be visible at the following public performances

- 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
- Thurs, Aug 10, MN Irish Fair Summer School: performance
- THIS JUST IN! August 11-13, MN Irish Fair, St Paul: performances
- Sept 16 & 17, Celtic Fest Chicago, Chicago: performances both days



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](mailto:irish.music@comcast.net)

### Get Well Wishes To:

- Meagan White – fiddle (broken wrist!)
- Tony Costello – fiddle (knee injury – see article above!)
- Brian Wade – bodhran (broken elbow – Kate’s brother in Chicago)

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