



# Center for Irish Music Newsletter - November 2008

*Dedicated to Handing Down the Tradition*

## Class Notes

Our Fall Term is half-way through! Time is flying! We are happy to report that CIM is now 80 students strong! Thanks for your interest and continued dedication to this great program! We heartily welcomed 35 new members to the Center this fall. Thank you for giving us a try! Currently we are about 50/50 on youth and adult students. If you know anyone who might be interested we'd love to have even more youth students our winter term! There are a number of events coming up yet this term – hope to see you at all of them! Details below!

**Winter term runs from January 5 through March 13, 2009**

**Registration will be available starting December 1, 2008**

**November 7-9, 2008 “Weekend of Irish Music & Song” featuring Sean & Clodagh Ryan and Donal Maguire. Special CIM member rates apply!**

***NEW! Register for Workshops and Buy Concert Tickets online!***

<http://centerforirishmusic.org/concert.shtml>



A special weekend of workshops for flute, tin whistle, uilleann pipes, fiddle, concertina and piano. And perhaps more – they may bring untold numbers of instruments with them! They are very talented musicians and teachers. Not up for a workshop, join us for a concert Saturday, November 8 at Kieran's Irish Pub, Titanic Lounge featuring these fantastic, All-Ireland winning musicians from Chicago.

*Here's the official press release:*

*October 2, 2008 St. Paul, Minnesota – The Center for Irish Music announces a special weekend of Irish music and song with concerts and workshops featuring internationally acclaimed traditional artists*

Sean and Clodagh Ryan and Dónal Maguire. Weekend events are held in co-operation with the Traditional Singers Club.

With the November “Irish Music & Song Weekend”, the Center for Irish Music & The Traditional Singers Club continue to bring the best traditional Irish artists from Ireland and the USA to Minnesota for workshops and concerts. In February 2008 CIM hosted a very successful event with Denis Liddy from Ennis, Co. Clare. Now we are welcoming Sean & Clodagh Ryan of Derry, N. Ireland / Chicago and Dónal Maguire of Lancashire, England for an equally educational and entertaining weekend. Classes and concerts are open to the public and accessible to all ages. Engagements with artists of this caliber are very rare and valuable to us in Minnesota. There are many phenomenal Irish musicians, like the Ryans and Maguire, who are less commercially known but whose instruction is vital to the continuation of the tradition. The “Irish Music & Song Weekend” is part of CIM's goal to provide excellent and varied opportunities for our students to

learn as well as for the general public to appreciate Irish traditional music in its truest forms.

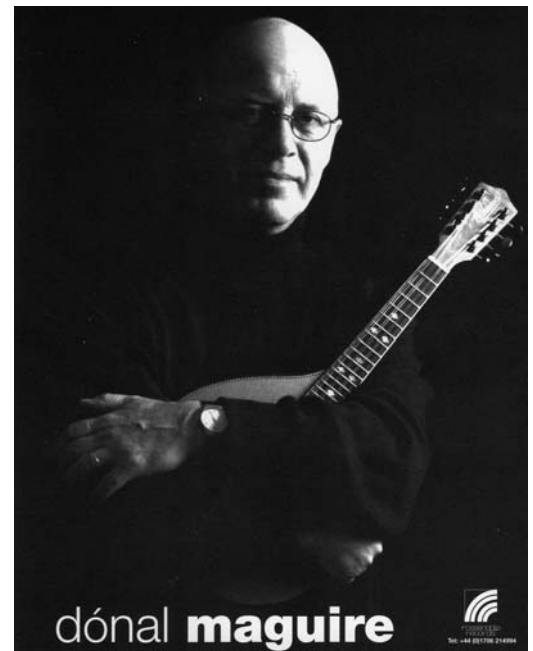
Sean & Clodagh Ryan will be teaching group workshops and private lessons on November 7 & 8 for uilleann pipes, fiddle, concertina, piano, flute and tin whistle. Workshops are open to all ages and levels. The Center for Irish Music is presenting Sean & Clodagh Ryan in concert on Saturday, November 8 at Kieran's Irish Pub, Titanic Longue. Full restaurant menu and cash bar available. Dónal Maguire will be teaching a singing workshop on November 9. Dónal is also available for a limited number of banjo and mandolin lessons. All workshops will take place at the Paul & Sheila Wellstone Center, 179 Robie Street East, St Paul, MN 55107. The Traditional Singer's Club is presenting Dónal Maguire in concert on Sunday, November 9 at the St Paul Conservatory of Music, 29 Exchange Street East, St Paul.

Clodagh Ryan grew up in County Derry in the renowned Boylan family, and began to play music at an early age along with her three brothers and three sisters. Clodagh has won multiple All-Ireland solo and group awards on fiddle, concertina and piano in Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, Slogadh and Scor na nÓg competitions in Ireland. In 1987, Clodagh and members of her family formed the Gleann an Iolair ceili band, which is still in high demand on the Irish set dancing circuit. Following her move from Derry to Dublin in 1993, Clodagh took part in Comhaltas (CCE) tours of Britain, North America and Australia. She joined the traditional Irish band "Providence" in early 2000, with whom she toured extensively in Europe and the United States. Clodagh's fiddle playing is featured on four recordings: 1994 – Echoes of Erin, CCE Tour of North America, 1996 – The Derry Boat, Gleann an Iolair Ceili Band, 1997 – Echoes of Erin, CCE Tour of Australia, 2001 – A Fig For A Kiss, Providence.

Sean Ryan, born and raised in Chicago, began playing the tin whistle and flute at age 6 and the uilleann pipes at age 15. He has won All-Ireland awards at the Fleadh Cheoil in Kilkenny (1988), Ballina (1998), and Enniscorthy (1999). In 1998, Sean became the first American to win the Senior All-Ireland championship on the uilleann pipes. On several occasions, Sean has been a featured soloist on the uilleann pipes at Chicago's Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center. He has performed at numerous concerts and festivals in the United States and Europe and is featured on a number of recordings. Sean and Clodagh first met at the Fleadh Cheoil in Listowel, County Kerry in 1986 (Sean was 14, Clodagh was 11). While living in Dublin, Ireland, from April 2001 to November 2002, they were members of the Na Comharsanna ceili band. They are currently members of the Chicago Broken Pledge ceili band and Errigal, a traditional Irish band they founded in 2002. Clodagh, a family physician, and Sean, a financial analyst, are the proud parents of Orla (4) and Liam (1). In their spare time, they teach music on a weekly basis to children in the Chicago area. Their students have been successful in both solo and group competitions at the Midwest Fleadh Cheoil for a number of years.

Born in Ireland's County Louth, singer Dónal Maguire's emigration to England as a 15-year-old paradoxically accelerated his interest in Irish music and culture. Like so many other young Irish kids in the 1960s, Dónal was greatly inspired by the charismatic Clancy brothers. He also admired the strident singing of Luke Kelly of The Dubliners. Soon, though, Dónal became equally enamored by the high style of the master-singers of the older generation like Joe Heaney, Paddy Tunney and Elizabeth Cronin.

The London Singers Workshop helped to develop his singing and he became a resident at the famous Singers Club there along with Ewan MacColl, Peggy Seeger, John Faulkner and others. Dónal moved to Lancashire in 1976 and released two critically acclaimed albums 'The Star of Sunday's Well' and 'The Clergy's Lamentation' in 1979 and 1980 before retiring from professional performing for 20 years. He returned to the traditional music scene triumphantly in 2001 with the release of his CD 'Gilded Chains and Sordid Affluence'. Dónal's current major project centers round the legendary Michael Davitt, one of the most celebrated statesmen in 19th century Irish history. Dónal toured England and Ireland



with a musically illustrated lecture "Triumph over Adversity" to celebrate the centenary of Davitt's death in 1906. Davitt, the supreme political organiser, social reformer and egalitarian, migrated to Haslingden, England (where, coincidentally, Dónal has lived since 1978) as a child from Mayo in the west of Ireland.

***Thank you to the Irish Fair of Minnesota, Legacy Fund, for their support of this project.***

## **EVENT SCHEDULE**

### **Friday, November 7**

- 6-8pm Uilleann Pipes with Sean Ryan
- 6-8pm Private lessons with Clodagh Ryan on fiddle, concertina or piano

### **Saturday, November 8**

- 10am-12pm Group fiddle workshop with Clodagh Ryan
- 10am-12pm Group flute & whistle workshop with Sean Ryan
- 1:30-3:30pm "Tunes & Techniques" all-instrument group workshop with Sean & Clodagh Ryan
- 3:30pm – 4:30pm Limited number of private lessons available with Sean Ryan
- 3:30pm - 4:30pm Limited number of private lessons available with Clodagh Ryan
- 7pm, Door. 7:30pm, Concert with Sean & Clodagh Ryan @ Kieran's Irish Pub

### **Sunday, November 9**

- 2-4 pm Singing Workshop with Dónal Maguire
- 7pm Concert with Dónal Maguire @ St Paul Conservatory of Music

## **COSTS**

### **Workshops**

- ALL workshops: \$18 each (CIM member rate \$15) or \$30 for ANY two (CIM member rate \$25)
- Private lessons \$35 per 30-minutes. LIMITED PRIVATE LESSONS AVAILABLE! No discounts

### **Concerts**

- Saturday, November 8 Instrumental Concert w. Sean & Clodagh Ryan @ Kieran's Irish Pub
  - \$12 (CIM members \$10)
  - \$35 for an entire immediate family
- Sunday, November 9 Singer's Concert w. Dónal Maguire @ St Paul Conservatory of Music
  - \$10
- **DOUBLE CONCERT PACKAGE!** Both Saturday and Sunday concerts!
  - \$20 (CIM member rate \$16)
  - \$50 for an entire immediate family

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## **Family Session – Sunday: November 2, 3pm**

Family Sessions are monthly community gatherings for all CIM students, all ages and levels. We play tunes together and learn new ones from each other. A few songs, stories and jokes are usually shared as well! Sunday: November 2, 3pm. Everyone Welcome! Bring your families!

NEW LOCATION! This month's family session will be at Evenstar Books <http://www.evenstarbooks.com/directions.html> run by a CIM mom – Teisha Magee. Thanks Teisha! The address is 2401 University Ave. W. St Paul, MN. 55114-1507, near University Ave and 280. We will have tea, coffee, juice and snacks. If you can bring a folding chair, great! But certainly bring your instruments and maybe even your tape recorders, just in case you hear a tune you'd like to take home with you. Everyone is welcome!

## All-School Recital & Session & CIM School Party, December 14, 2pm

Sunday, December 14, 2pm at the Wellstone Center! An opportunity for students to show their skills for their friends and families. Recitals are open to all CIM students, voluntarily. We'd also like to take this opportunity to have a party with all our CIM instructors and families. Please plan to bring a pot-luck dish to share! December 14, 2008 2pm. Mark your calendars: Spring Recital: May 31, 2009, 2pm.

## YIM Volume 1 LIVE! CD available on CD Baby!

We launched this CD at the 2008 Young Irish Musicians Weekend. This CD is a live recording from the 2007 Young Irish Musicians Weekend Concert featuring the music of James Kelly, Paddy O'Brien, Fintan Vallely, Tommy Martin and Daithi Sproule. The artists all donated their music for this cd. 100% of the proceeds go to funding programming at the Center for Irish Music. Pick up a copy today at CD Baby! <http://cdbaby.com/cd/centerforirishmusic>

If you have a copy, please take minute to review it on CD Baby! Thanks! <http://cdbaby.com/cd/centerforirishmusic>

## 1<sup>st</sup> EVER CIM FUNDRAISER CONCERT! Saturday February 7, 2009.

We want to celebrate with you the IRS's brilliant decision to award the Center for Irish Music tax-exempt 501c3 status. That means, donations to the Center are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. It also means that we can now raise tons of money to help our programming. Please mark your calendars BUSY for the evening of February 7 as you know you will be at this event. The concert will feature an All-Star, All-CIM lineup of ALL of CIM's fantastic teachers. It's the first concert of its kind and it's not to be missed! Details coming soon!



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Young Irish Musicians Weekend, June 19-21, 2009

Save the date for the next round of brilliant workshops for students of all ages!

CIM has a MySpace! Be our friend! [www.myspace.com/thecenterforirishmusic](http://www.myspace.com/thecenterforirishmusic)