
The Center for Irish Music

March 2007

Class Notes:

St. Patrick's Day season is upon us! As an Irish musician, there's always much to do during March and as a lover of Irish music there are always lots of performances to attend. Read about what some of our students and staff are up to in the **CIM IN ACTION** section of the newsletter. AND if you make it through the middle of the month and still need more, please come out to **our first ever All-School Recital, Sunday, March 25 from 2-5pm** at the St. Paul Conservatory of Music in the recital hall. Hear our students play solo, in groups and in ensembles. Thanks! And happy St. Patrick's Day!

IMDA Day of Dance and St. Patrick's Day Celebrations, March 11 & 17, 2007

The Irish Music and Dance Association (IMDA) is hosting a "Day of Dance" on March 11 from 11am-5pm at the Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul. The event showcases Minnesota's Irish dance schools. From 10am-7pm on March 17 you'll find the Landmark filled with music, dance, songs, children's activities, food – you name it, it happens there. For more information on the IMDA and to sign up for a membership visit: <http://www.irishmusicanddanceassociation.org/>

See the section **CIM IN ACTION** to read about student and staff performances at these and other St. Patrick's Day related events.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! CIM Information Booth Volunteers -- March 11 & 17, 2007

We need your help at the booths for the Day of Dance and the St. Patrick's Day celebration (see section above). We'll have an info booth at the Landmark Center from 11am-5pm March 11 and 10am-7pm March 17. We will provide all the print literature, some instruments for the public to put their hands on, a banner and a mailing list form. All you need to do is show up and smile and tell them all the wonderful reasons why they should come and be a part of the Center for Irish Music! If you have time to put your feet up and help out for a half-hour or more on those dates, please contact Kate Dowling. We really appreciate any time you can give us for these events. Thanks!

FIRST EVER! Center for Irish Music All-School Recital, March 25

We've been working away for a few years now. All of our students work very hard every week perfecting their tone, getting the turn in the tune just right and trying new selections. Now's the time to show off their abilities to all their friends and family. Please come out and support our students, from ages 6-80, as they perform pieces solo, as troupes, as small ensembles and as larger arranged ensembles such as the Youth Ensemble and the Adult Ensemble. If you can bring a drink or a treat to share, we would appreciate it!

Details: Sunday, March 25 from 2-5pm in the Recital Hall at the St. Paul Conservatory of Music.

March & April Family Sessions – 1st Tuesdays, March 6 and April 3 from 6:30–8pm

Mark your calendars! We have a family session the first Tuesday of every month. The next two sessions are on March 6 and April 3. ALL CIM students and their families are encouraged to attend. We are re-working the format of the session to allow for more playing and sharing of tunes to accommodate our students who have advanced so much in the last few semesters. Come check it out! Thanks!

Community Ceilis with the Doon Ceili Band – March 11 & April 8– Ceili AND Sets

Doon Ceili Band Community Ceili AND Set Dancing

Sunday, March 11 and Sunday, April 8

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



Irish Tales of Elves, Leprechauns and Fairies, March 17, 2007

Minnesota Public Radio presents **A St. Patrick's Day Children's Matinee: *Irish Tales of Elves, Leprechauns, and Fairies*** at The Fitzgerald Theater on Saturday, March 17th at 2:00 p.m.

You and your wee ones are invited to an afternoon of Irish stories, live music and assorted visual shenanigans. Artistic director **George Sand** promises a magical experience for the young and young at heart with narration by famed Minnesota author **Erin Hart** and accompaniment by renowned musicians **Laura MacKenzie** (CIM Instructor) and **Ross Sutter**. Narratives in the first half of the show will come to life as puppeteer **Eric Ruin** shadows and shapes the stories with his unique art and charming characters. The second half sees seats removed to make way for little dancing feet. Adding to the charm of the afternoon will be the works of Irish author **James Stephens**, who wrote many popular retellings of Irish fairy tales, plus numerous books and stories based on Irish fairy lore.

All tickets are \$10.00. There will be an additional \$2.00 facility fee added to the price of each ticket.



Travelogue - Brian Miller, CIM instructor extraordinaire



Brian Miller, Tommie Cunniffe and Donnacha

Norah and I were especially lucky in January to get the phone number for a flute player named John Hartnett from West Limerick (now living in Co. Tipperary). I had heard a recording of John's uncle John Joe playing and was looking for more information on him when a friend of a friend suggested I call John. John was very welcoming to Norah and me and he had us over to his farm house where he and his son swapped tunes with us and told stories about John Joe and music in West Limerick. It was a rare treat to learn about a little-known region and to get some unique flute music.

While in Cork, I was lucky to get asked by my button accordion playing friend Tommie Cunniffe to back him up on guitar for his debut solo album. Tommie and I have played lots of music together ever since I first met him while studying abroad at University College Cork in 2000. You will all have a chance to meet Tommie and hear his unique and wonderful playing as he is coming to Minnesota this Summer! We will be launching the new album here in the Twin Cities sometime on the weekend of June 16th. -Brian

Hello Everyone!

I was in Ireland this Winter from January 2nd through February 12th. It was a very busy, fun, music-filled 6 weeks! I was visiting Norah Rendell (who some of you may have met at the CIM session in November) in Limerick where she is a student in the Irish Traditional Music Performance Masters program at the University of Limerick. I also spent quite a bit of time down in Cork City catching up with the many friends I have made there over the years.

Norah (flute player and singer) and I did a bit of performing with concerts in Cork, Waterford and at the Temple Bar Trad Fest in Dublin. We also visited Glasgow, Scotland where her band The Outside Track was performing at the massive Celtic Roots Festival there.

Being in Ireland also gave me a chance to pursue a bit of tune collecting. Trips over there have always been a great opportunity to discover new tunes and new ways of playing old tunes.

CIM IN ACTION

Here is a list of upcoming performances by the Center for Irish Music students and staff:

March 11, 2-2:45 CIM Youth Ensemble – Landmark Center, St Paul
March 11, 8pm Doon Ceili Band – Set Dance and Ceili, Eagles Club, Minneapolis
March 14, 7pm CIM Youth Ensemble Members – Sunrise Assisted Living Community, Buffalo, MN
March 14, 7pm Doon Ceili Band – St. John's University, St Cloud MN
March 15, 6:30pm CIM Youth Ensemble Members – Eagles Club, Farmington, MN
March 16, 6-7pm CIM Youth Ensemble – Legacy St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Rosemount Community Ctr.
March 17, 10:20-11am CIM Youth Ensemble – Tearoom at the Landmark Center, St Paul
March 17, 11am Tara Hill – Main Stage at the Landmark Center, St Paul
March 17, 12-5pm The HiBs – Charlie's Bar at the Waterstreet Inn, Stillwater
March 17, 2pm Irish Tales of Elves (see above) – Fitzgerald Theater, St Paul
March 17, 2:30-3pm CIM Adult Ensemble – Tearoom at the Landmark Center, St Paul
March 17, 5:20-6pm CIM Youth Ensemble – Main Stage at the Landmark Center, St Paul
March 17, 6-7pm The HiBs – Main Stage at the Landmark Center, St Paul
March 25, 2-5pm CIM ALL SCHOOL RECITAL, St. Paul Conservatory of Music

Registration open for the Young Irish Musician's Weekend – June 22–24, 2007



FEATURING:

**James Kelly
Tommy Martin
Paddy O'Brien
Daithi Sproule
Fintan Vallely
Doon Ceili Band**

The Young Irish Musicians Weekend is going to be a brilliant experience for the whole family. You'll meet other people your age from around the country who are just as passionate about their art and culture as you are. Participants will engage with our internationally recognized master musicians, exploring not only music but Irish heritage as well. The weekend features classes, student performances and (of course!) loads of sessions. This exciting event is sure to inspire our next generation of musicians in a fun, safe, non-competitive environment. Come spend an entire weekend playing and listening to music and meeting new friends: be a part of the FIRST annual Young Irish Musicians Weekend!

Limited to the first 100 registrants under the age of 21. Early registration discount applies until 4/1/07.

Thanks to Nick Lethert and Moonhouse Design Studio www.nicklethert.com for logo & design services and to Shawn McBurnie shawn.rosemeadows.net for website administration and design. They did a lot of hard work!

Classes – Concerts – Ceili – Discussions – Sessions – Student Performances – Sessions – Interviews – Info on Studying in Ireland – Family Programming – and more!

Did I mention we'd have sessions?

SEE THE WEBSITE FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION:

www.centerforirishmusic.org

Upcoming Events

Put these on your radars and get your tickets early! These are great bands!

- **Altan**, March 4, 7:30pm at the Cedar Cultural Center, Minneapolis
- **The Chieftans**, Wednesday March 7, 7:30pm at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis
- **Flook**, March 9, 8pm at the Cedar Cultural Center, Minneapolis
- **Dervish**, March 18, 7:30pm at the Cedar Cultural Center, Minneapolis
- **Lunasa**, March 25, 7:30pm at the Cedar Cultural Center, Minneapolis

As Always – please contact us if you have any questions! Thanks, Kate Dowling

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