
The Center for Irish Music

April 2007

Class Notes:

As you know, the Center for Irish Music is expanding and filing for our 501(c)3 status. A big part of what we need to do as we take the next steps is find out where we can operate. At this time, we do not have any summer classes planned for 2007. Of course, there is the Young Irish Musicians Weekend - which is going to be a summer class to beat all summer classes! Planning for our Fall semester is underway and we hope to be able to give you news of our class locations in our May newsletter. We intend classes to begin the week of September 10, 2007.

Spring break is here for many of us this month. Please let your instructor know if you will be missing a week of classes. Have a pleasant spring time! I hope to see you at some of the events we have coming up, as noted below.

Thanks, Kate Dowling

St. Patrick's Day Performances – review



*Student Ensemble at the Landmark March 17, 2007
Photo credit: Adele Binning*

We had a busy St. Patrick's season this year. Center for Irish Music students and instructors performed at over 50 events during the weeks around St. Patrick's day.

Of particular note were student performances at the IMDA's events at the Landmark Center. Not only did our Youth Student Ensemble perform TWICE – including on the mainstage – our Adult Ensemble made its debut public performance! Congratulations to all of you and thanks to the IMDA for supporting traditional Irish music in the Twin Cities.

In addition to being in the student ensemble, two students, Colleen White and Tony Comeau, also had performances as a duet at Kieran's Irish Pub in Minneapolis and at Carmody's Pub in Duluth. Well done! We hope that this is just the beginning of our new generation of musicians giving their love of the music back to the community.

Thank you to all the individuals and families who changed travel schedules, who helped out at the booth, and who drove to gigs during the St. Patrick's season. We couldn't do it without you!

Center for Irish Music All-School Recital, March 25 – review

It was more a concert than a student recital. 34 fantastic, brave artists participated in solo and group performances. We had students from age 8 to age 68 up on stage playing tunes from memory. Some students chose to play unaccompanied while others had the delight of working with Brian Miller or Sean Egan for guitar or piano accompaniment. Bodhran instructor Todd Menton played his mandolin to allow his bodhran student the opportunity to play along. Another student played a set of tunes she had learned from one of the master classes CIM had offered last fall. All told, it was a very entertaining afternoon of traditional Irish music. Thank you for all your hard work, students.

A very big thanks to the St. Paul Conservatory of Music for use of the recital hall. And the biggest thanks of all goes to Brian Miller who organized the whole event and only laughed at me once when I asked him 10 minutes before the start "so ... how does a recital work?" Thanks Brian! May we all continue to live and learn every day!



Adult Ensemble students performing at the Liffey, January 2007

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FORMAT CHANGE for Family Sessions – 1st Tuesdays, April 3 and May 1 from 6:30–8pm

Mark your calendars! We have a family session the first Tuesday of every month. The next two sessions are on April 3 and May 1. ALL CIM students and their families are encouraged to attend.

We have a new format for the session. During the first half hour we will direct the session and have discussion regarding tune types, rhythm, style, ornamentation, etc and focus on our more beginner students. The second part of the session will be more open with students leading the tunes and calling the changes. This setting will hopefully accommodate our beginner, intermediate and advanced students. The format may be changing but the tea, cookies and chat will always be there! Come check it out!

Laura MacKenzie & Brian Miller in Concert, April 6

Traditional Music and Song of Ireland, Scotland and Minnesota

CIM instructors and renowned artists Laura MacKenzie and Brian Miller will be performing in a rare and intimate house concert on April 6. Many wonderful music events have been held at this welcoming home -- You are warmly invited, and we look forward to seeing you there! For information, call: 651-776-7184 (or Laura at 651-489-7044)

House Concert

1172 Bush Ave,

St. Paul, MN 55106

7:30 PM (doors open at 7 PM) \$10 at the door

EASTER SUNDAY: The Doon Social @ The Eagles Club – April 8

The Doon Ceili Band have been playing ceili and set dancing the second Sunday of every month for about 6 months now. We want to make sure that everyone knows that there is a lot more going on at these ceilis than just dancing. It's quite a social event. Come hang out, have a pint, have a chat, listen to tunes, meet some new friends – it's all good craic!

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 Theater in the World – lecture presented by Joe Dowling, April 18

The MN International Center is partnering with the Guthrie Theater and the University of St. Thomas Center for Irish Studies to present a **special lecture by Guthrie Theater Artistic Director Joe Dowling** on Irish Contributions to World Theater. This event is a companion program to our upcoming Celebration of Ireland gala benefit. Here is the event description: ***From Farquhar to Friel: Irish Theatre in the World***

On Wednesday, April 18, MIC is hosting a special forum with Joe Dowling, artistic director of the Guthrie Theater. This forum serves as a companion program to the MIC benefit “Celebrating Ireland”. Mr. Dowling is going to speak about the significant contributions Irish playwrights had on the dramatic literary cannon. These include names such as George Farquhar, Oscar Wilde, Samuel Beckett, Brendan Behan, and also Brian Friel. An internationally respected leader in the theater community, Joe Dowling has been the director of the Guthrie Theater since 1995. Mr. Dowling is also widely known for his association with the Abbey Theatre, Ireland’s national theater in Dublin. He also founded the Gaiety School of Acting.

Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Time: Registration 5:30 P; program 6:00 - 7:30 P

Place: O’Shaughnessy Education Center, University of St. Thomas, between Portland and Ashland Avenues on the west side of Cleveland Avenue. (Parking: University of St. Thomas “H” parking lot. Visit the university website for a campus map or call 651.962.5000)

Cost: \$5 MIC members and students,

\$15 Non-members

Advance registration and payment is preferred. Register online at www.micglobe.org or call 612.625.4421

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Loma Mor Set Dancing Fundraiser, April 21

DON'T MISS the Third Saturday Ceili this month! It is our Third Annual Loma mor Irish Dance Club Fundraiser (Saturday, April 21st, 2007, 7:30pm, Odd Fellows Hall, corner of Raymond & Hampden, St. Paul). Once a year we make the monthly Third Saturday Ceili an extra-spectacular event by inviting special guests to join us for an evening of song, music, and dance. Come join us for this not-to-be-missed event! As always, all dances are taught and we dance to live music. The requested donation for this special ceili is \$10, but as always the fee is only \$3.

Midwest Fleadh Ceol May 11 & 12, St. Louis, Missouri

The Fleadh Ceol is THE competition for Irish Music. It is run by Comhaltas Ceoltori Eireanna and is offered regionally once a year. Students placing first or second in their competitions qualify to go to Ireland in August to compete in the All-Ireland Music Competitions. Competitions are available for each individual instrument, melody and rhythm, and are broken down by age groups. For the second time, they will be offering a **Tir na nÓg** program. This is an opportunity for kids to participate who aren't ready for the actual competitions. Please note - if you enter Tir na nÓg, you may not enter any other competition. There are two categories, under 6 and 6 to under 10 (age as of 1/1/07). Registration information is online at www.slia.org or talk to your instructor if you have questions.

MN International Center Gala May 12

Founded in 1953 as a non-profit, nonpartisan organization, the Minnesota International Center is dedicated to supporting Minnesota's growing interest and involvement with the world. Their mission is to inspire our community to understand global issues and cultures in an ever-changing world.

Every year the MN International Center chooses one country as a focus for their programming for the year. This year it is Ireland. They have many activities, lectures and other events centered on Ireland including their gala event and fundraiser. There will be a big hooley at the Landmark Center on May 12 featuring the culture of Ireland. New works of dance and music are being put together for the entertainment that night including a never before seen performance by local artists including Daithi Sproule, Cormac O'Se, Jode Dowling, Brian Miller and more. For more information on the event and for tickets, please visit the MN International Center's website at: www.micglobe.org

Irish Radio Programs in the Twin Cities

There are two chances to hear Irish music on the radio in the Twin Cities.

KBEM Jazz 88 has an Irish program **Celtic Nation**. Every **Saturday evening, (5-7pm)** producer/host Kevin O'Connor (along with help from CIM student Scot Rans!) features traditional and contemporary music from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, Brittany, the U.S. and anywhere else the art form is being kept alive. Interested in performing, co-hosting or becoming otherwise involved? E-mail Kevin at: kevino@jazz88fm.com. We'd love to hear from you! Tune in to 88.5fm.

Century Song on KFAI is hosted by a great friend of the Irish community, Dan Rein. Hear it **on Sundays from 9-11am at 90.3fm in Minneapolis or 106.7fm in St Paul**. Dan's program encompasses more than just Irish music – he enjoys listening to and playing for us the best in world music. Century Song...a round trip whirlwind radio journey through the world of traditional music. From Native America to throat singing of Tuva...From the pan pipes of Peru to the pan pipes of the South Pacific...From the classical world of the Arabs to the classical courts of China...Irish jigs, Scandinavian Polskas, Pow-wows, and South India Bharata Natam...Sacred, Secular, and Ritual...There are no boundaries as we explore the traditional musics of the world.

Young Fiddlers Association of Minnesota – Jam & Summer Camp

The YFA provides monthly gatherings for young fiddlers ages 8-18 – four workshops and four jam sessions each year. They seek to build a community of young fiddlers who can support each other and share their love of music. They teach and play in many styles: bluegrass, Scandinavian, Irish, Klezmer and more. Their next jam is on May 19 from 10am-noon at Tapestry Folkdance Center in Minneapolis. \$5 fee for non-members. See their website www.youngfiddlers.com or call for more information 651-487-6206.

The YFA also has a fiddle camp July 23-25 featuring French Canadian and Eastern European Fiddling. This is ideal for students ages 7-16. If you'd like more information visit their website at www.youngfiddlers.com. Tell them we sent you!

Young Irish Musician's Weekend – June 22–24, 2007

UPDATE & PUBLIC PROGRAMMING INFORMATION



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

The focus of this weekend is instrument workshops / lessons with master artists for students under the age of 21. The intermediate level is great for students who already know how to play an instrument (2 or 3+ years), but perhaps have not yet tried much Irish music. More advanced classes are available for those who already play Irish music. We will have a beginner level class available for people who've been at their instrument for only one or two years and would like to try out some Irish music.

Aside from those workshops, we are also offering a lot of programming for students' parents and the general public including 6 different classes, concerts, sessions, a ceili and much more. (I've started calling it a crash course in Irish culture as we have a literature overview class, a history overview, a language class, a ceili dance class, a tin whistle class and a "traveling to Ireland as a family" info seminar) There is a ceili on Friday, June 22, a concert on Saturday, June 23 and culminates in a master-student recital on Sunday, June 24. Most events are happening in and around McNally-Smith College in downtown St Paul.

We're bringing in James Kelly, Fintan Vallely and Tommy Martin to join our local super stars Paddy O'Brien and Daithi Sproule for a unique, family-friendly, non-competitive event. Many members of the local Irish music community are involved in the weekend as well. Lots of info is available on our website at www.centerforirishmusic.org

For students under 21, registration includes: workshops on Saturday and Sunday, Ceili on Friday, Concert on Saturday, Recital on Sunday, Friday night pizza party, morning and afternoon snacks on Saturday and Sunday.

People can register until we are full, but the sooner the better. We are only able to accommodate up to 100 young students this first year. The public programming has no registration limit at this time.

This is a great opportunity for many people, as it doesn't require an extended commitment, only a weekend. Come and give it a try - find out a lot about Irish culture. It works for kids and families and interested adults. All are welcome!

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

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