



Irish Arts Minnesota

April
2023
Aibreán

41st Year, Issue No. 4

The mission of Irish Arts Minnesota is to support and promote Irish music, dance, and other cultural traditions to ensure their continuation.

Thank you for a great St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration

What was your favorite part of IAM's 41st St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration and Day of Irish Dance?

Wasn't it grand to have music filling the Cortile lifting our spirits?
 Wasn't it grand to have the skirl of the pipes as the Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band swept through?
 Wasn't it grand to feel the excitement of the dancers, to hear the thunder of their hard shoes?
 Wasn't it grand to see the little ones decked out in St. Patrick's Day finery?
 Did you enjoy the special entertainment just for the wee ones?
 Wasn't it swell to have so many good food choices?
 And did you like all the new crafters?

Thank you to everyone who came out to help celebrate all things Irish.

Together, we enjoyed the things we always love about being at Landmark Center – the outstanding music from our wonderful local musicians, the intricate footwork and the brilliant smiles of the dancers, the intimate setting for music and theater in the Weyerhaeuser Auditorium, the warm welcome of music with treats in the Tea Room, a nibble of one of Sarah's pies, an Irish Coffee at the bar, a bit of shopping.

Your support, in the form of your ticket purchase, means the world to us!

AND One Hundred Thousand Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who came back and pitched in to make the events happen. The volunteers make all of it possible!





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Thank you to the 2023 St. Patrick's Day and Day of Irish Dance Volunteers!

Irish Arts Minnesota extends our gratitude to you for volunteering over the St. Patrick's Day weekend!

Thanks for greeting our guests so warmly, for making a great cup of tea, for helping to make the experience for the performers so nice – thanks for everything!

Thanks to YOU, our volunteers, we brought authentic Irish culture back to the Twin Cities for the **41st year** and raised money for our educational grant program and for the future of Irish Arts Minnesota!

Only your involvement, your talents, your flexibility, and your generosity made all this possible.

Thank you for helping us to continue the tradition of Irish Culture in the MN community!

Clearly, you had more fun than anyone!!





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Thank You to Our Sponsors and Partners!

Thank you to our friends at Irish on Grand for their sponsorship of our St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration and Day of Irish Dance! IAM is grateful to Maeve O'Mara and Liam O'Neill of Irish on Grand for their continued support.

Thank you to Kate Wade of Get Her Hired for her sponsorship of our St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration and Day of Irish Dance! IAM appreciates her support.

Thank you to Cormac O Sé and the Celtic Junction Arts Center for providing the sound equipment for the Tea Room at Landmark Center. We're delighted to have such wonderful partners!

Thank you to Dave Cammack for the use of the Marley flooring for the main stage. Each year for many years, Dave has brought in the flooring, installed it and returned at the end of the event to take it up and away. This important contribution ensures that we have a safe, non-slip surface for the dancers.

Thank you to the Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band for adding so much to our celebration of St. Patrick's Day and for their help in honoring our friend Katie Stephens Spangler with their beautiful playing of Amazing Grace.

Thank you to our friends at Peak Printing in St. Paul. Peak printed the beautiful programs for the events and is our regular printer for the printed version of the IAM newsletter.

Thank you to our partners and hosts with Minnesota Landmarks at Landmark Center and for including Day of Irish Dance as part of their *Sundays at Landmark Series*. Our events are showcased in a beautiful historic building that serves as a cultural center for music, dance, theater, exhibitions, public forums, and countless special events. Landmark Center celebrates the cultural diversity and collective history of the community and provides a gathering place for organizations and activities that enhance the quality of life in our community. IAM is honored to be a part of their mission.



www.irishartsmn.org





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IAM Recognizes Dedicated Dancers

By Jan Casey

The Decade of Dance Award is Irish Arts Minnesota's way of recognizing the very special commitment that some students make to Irish dance. The dancers who receive this award have studied Irish dance for at least 10 years; for most, it represents the major portion of their young lives. They have shared a unique element of Irish culture with audiences in all kinds of settings – from community festivals and concert halls to nursing homes and schools. Along the way, they delight audiences, have fun, make friends, travel the world, and serve as very visible and engaging ambassadors for Irish culture to the greater community.

The awards were presented on the Main Stage at IAM's Day of Irish Dance at Landmark Center. The dancers received a certificate and a special Decade of Dance medal.

Just what does 10 years of Irish dance mean?

- 1,500+ hours of class and rehearsal time
- 1,000+ hours of individual practice outside of class
- 10 pairs of soft-soled dance shoes, often replaced because they wear out
- 5 – 6 pair of hard soled dance shoes
- 4 solo costumes
- Hundreds of pairs of poodle socks and bottles of sock glue and 8 – 10 wigs

Why do they do it?

Because it's fun, athletic, creative. They love the focus on teamwork and being a part of a community. They love the sense of belonging – family, community – you will hear the dancers talk about “my Irish dance family.”

Where have they danced?

Irish Fair, IAM's St. Patrick's Day and Day of Irish Dance, community festivals, concerts, nursing homes, schools, dance competitions (*feis*), private parties, and weddings. They have danced with The Chieftains, Katie McMahon, Gaelic Storm, Cherish the Ladies, We Banjo 3, Lúnasa and more.

These are this year's recipients, and their favorite memories of Irish dance:

Ginger Anderson ~ *Rince na Chroí*

“Our annual Stage to Your Heart Show!!”

Natalie Berg ~ *Mactír Academy of Irish Dance, Eilís Academy of Irish Dance*

“My favorite memory is dancing in Ireland this summer and traveling to many different states for competitions. I also loved dancing at St. Patrick's Day and with the bagpipers.”

Emily Clayton-King ~ *Rince na Chroí*

“My favorite dance memory is my first show with the Wild Colonial Bhoys at Irish Fair 2021. That was a show I had always loved watching and had always wanted to be able to do it. It was such a fun show and I loved dancing with the band.”

Emma Hanson ~ *Eilís Academy of Irish Dance*

“Meeting all of my dance friends from different states and staying connected with them throughout the years!”

Sarah Huffer ~ *Rince na Chroí, Heritage Academy of Irish Dance* in Green Bay, WI

“Traveling with my mom 4 hours to go to Feises in St. Paul and visit family!”

Greta Kotnik ~ *North Star Irish Dance*

“Performing at Irish Fair”

Camille Lamb ~ *O'Shea Irish Dance*

“My favorite memory is dancing at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater in Kickin' It Irish.”

Elizabeth Lind ~ *Onórach Mulhern Geraghty School of Irish Dance (OMG)*

“My favorite memory of Irish dance is the countless roadtrips to Chicago for workshops!”

Alena Meier ~ *Hudson Irish Dance Academy*

“My favorite Irish dance memory is spending time with my dance friends at all the different performances and competitions. My favorite event that we perform at is Irish Fair because of all the music, activities and food.”

Clover Mills ~ *O’Shea Irish Dance*

“My favorite memory from dance has been performing in our dance school’s show Kickin’ It Irish. Having the opportunity to be in this show has shown me the joy of what it’s like to perform for other people as well as creating something that other people enjoy watching.”

Mallorie Moe ~ *Mactír Academy of Irish Dance*

“I have really enjoyed all of the times I have been able to compete at major competitions. Every time I find it so easy to connect with other dancers as we share common experiences through our journeys with dance.”

Gabby Pasquerella ~ *O’Shea Irish Dance*

“Having so many opportunities at O’Shea like being able to dance for Lúnasa and also being able to dance in our year-round show Kickin’ It Irish! I also love dancing with my friends and being able to share [something] we’re passionate about.”

Laurence Richardson ~ *O’Shea Irish Dance, Scoil na dTri Irish Dance Academy*

“Performing at the White Eagle Pow Wow with Scoil na dTri.”

Ellie Roeder ~ *The O’Neill School of Irish Dance, Rince Nua School of Irish Dance*

“Being able to dance next to my sister and seeing my best friends grow and advance in not only their dance capabilities but in their lives as well.”

Caroline Rogan ~ *Onórach Mulhern Geraghty School of Irish Dance (OMG)*

“My favorite memory of Irish dance was when I had the opportunity to travel to Glasgow, Scotland in October 2022 and compete at the All Scotland Championships. It was such a thrill and I felt so accomplished.”

Fiona Schaack ~ *Onórach Mulhern Geraghty School of Irish Dance (OMG), Corda Mór Irish Dance, North Star Irish Dance*

“My favorite memory of Irish dancer is competing at National Championships and dancing for St. Patrick’s Day performances every year (St. Patrick’s Day Irish Celebration or Day of Irish Dance or the many performances at senior centers, hospitals, churches and community centers).”

Fallon Shine ~ *Eilís Academy of Irish Dance*

“My favorite moment of Irish dance is when I finally made it to PC (Príomh Comórtas or Pre Championship) after a long, painstaking battle with hornpipe. Throughout all the disappointing feisanna and multiple second places my teacher and fellow teammates never gave up on me and continued to support me. I’ll never forget the way my teacher ran to me across the venue and gave me one of the biggest and best hugs as all my friends congratulated me.”

This is the eighteenth year that this award has been presented; in that time, IAM has recognized a total of 267 dancers.

Heartfelt congratulations to these dedicated dancers and to their parents and families who support and encourage them.



Jan Casey serves on the IAM board and coordinates the Decade of Dance Program.

Landmark Center Audiences Enjoy Cross-Cultural Performance on St. Patrick's Day

Audience members at the IAM's 41st Annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration on March 17 had the pleasure of seeing and hearing a crowd-pleasing collaboration between local Irish musicians and their counterpart from "non-Irish" cultural/artistic organizations – the latest response to Irish Arts Cross-Cultural Challenge.

Paddy Goes to Rio

The proposal posed the question: what would happen if Irish musicians visited Brazil and fell in love with the wonderful, multi-ethnic, polyrhythmic vibrancy of Brazilian music? The answer to that question was at the heart of this year's Cross-Cultural Challenge performance.

This cross-cultural adventure was a collaboration between **David and Suzanne Rhees** of the duo "Bundle & Go" (bundleandgo.com), based in St. Paul, and **Tim O'Keefe** of Minneapolis, a master multi-instrumentalist well-versed in Brazilian, Middle Eastern, and many other ethnic styles of traditional music.

The project has been a months-long effort with the musicians learning lots from each other as they delved into the intricacies of the two musical traditions. The performance included Irish tunes given a Brazilian flavor as well as Brazilian melodies that were "Irish-ized." Those familiar with Irish fiddling were intrigued to see Dave using Brazilian violin bowing. Tim included demonstrations of some of the complex rhythms of the Brazilian sound.

The musicians also presented a seminar on the Day of Irish Dance that shared their experiences bringing these two musical traditions together. Irish Arts Minnesota is delighted to have been able to encourage this innovative collaboration and hope that the musicians will continue their adventures!

Irish Arts Minnesota hopes that this project demonstrates that when artists from different backgrounds unite to create and present performances celebrating their mutual artistic interests, the end results include high quality entertainment and an enhanced understanding of (and appreciation for) the traditions of cultures other than their own. At a time when so much attention is being devoted to building walls, IAM believes that the world would be better served by creatively employing the universal love of music and dance to help build bridges. Look for information on the next IAM Cross-Cultural Challenge in future newsletters.



Educational Grants Available

For the study of Irish Music, Irish Dance, or other Irish Cultural Traditions

- ◆ Students of any age are eligible.
- ◆ Previous recipients have used their grants for tuition, travel expenses and instrument purchase.
- ◆ Previous recipients include dancers, singers, musicians (bagpipes, flute, harp, uilleann pipes, fiddle and tin whistle), Irish language students and a costume designer.

What will you study?

Apply by April 15, 2023.

Use the funds by the end of 2024.



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Educational Grants Available for the students of Irish Arts

By Jan Casey

The Twin Cities Irish community is rich with opportunities to see, hear, and participate in Irish cultural events of all kinds – music, dance, language, and more. Irish Arts Minnesota is delighted to be able to encourage the study of the traditional arts of Ireland by making funds available for additional study in nearly any area of Irish culture.

The IAM Educational Grant program is designed to give a helping hand to students who have already made a commitment to their art – whether it be Irish dance, Irish music, learning the Irish language or whatever interests them. The grants are typically between \$300 and \$700 and are available for use in 2023 and 2024. IAM then asks the recipients to bring their new skills back to the community by participating in an IAM event. As they continue to learn and grow, they add to the vitality of our community and help to preserve these traditions for future generations.

Students of any age are eligible, with their application to include the recommendation of a teacher or an elder in the community who is familiar with their work. The 2023 application deadline is April 15, 2023.

Previous recipients ranged in age from 8 years old to adult and include musicians, dancers, Irish language students, and a costume designer. They have used their grants for tuition to programs near and far, for travel expenses, and to help with the purchase of their own musical instruments.

Here are examples of how last year's recipients used their grants to further their study:

Musician Ginger Anderson of Roseville used her grant to help with the purchase of an Eamonn Cotter keyed wooden flute.

Musician and dancer Danielle Enblom of Minneapolis used her grant to help with the cost of restoring a vintage Gibson guitar that has been in her family for many years and to continue her lessons on the instrument.

Dancer Allison Kohlhase of Minneapolis used her grant for dance class tuition.

Musician Niamh Mee of St. Paul used her grant to help with the purchase of her own, larger set of uilleann pipes.

Musician Katya Roberts of Bayport used her grant for travel expenses to participate in the classes of *Scoil Éigse* at the *Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann* in Mullingar this Summer.

If you are interested or know someone else who would be, look for the program description and the 2023 application on the IAM website - irishartsmn.org/programs-events/grants-awards/

Jan Casey coordinates IAM's Educational Grant Program.

Remembering Katie

Katie Stephens Spangler passed away in February. Katie was the founder and director of the Rince na Chroi Irish Dancers as well as an active member of our community. Following are remembrances from people who knew Katie in her various roles.



Katie Stephens Spangler- Photo provided by Tom Dunn

From **Mike Casey**, who worked with Katie on the Board of Irish Fair

“We in the Irish community will remember Katie for being a wonderful wife, mother and friend, as well as the founder of Rince na Chroi, one of the largest Irish dance schools in the Cities. Not everyone knows of the time and efforts she put into the Irish community in general. Some years ago, while running her school AND working full time at St. Thomas, she joined the board of the Irish Music and Dance Association (now Irish Arts Minnesota) until time conflicts forced her to resign.

A few years later she was back, signing on to join the board of Irish Fair of Minnesota. She soon stepped up to being secretary, and served on multiple committees, despite her now being a mother of two, as well. This was who she was, and eternally gifted with a smile without which I could never envision her.”

From **Siobhan George**, who assisted Katie with the Rince na Chroi Irish Dancers

“From the moment I met Katie, I knew she was going to be someone very special in my life. At that time, I just didn’t understand how truly special she would become. She reinvigorated my love for Irish Dance and let me pursue my dreams and showed me so much more than I ever would have expected joining an Irish dance school. She taught me leadership and grace that created moments in my life I know wouldn’t be possible without Rince na Chroi, and how to move through the hard times with poise and resilience. Her mentorship formed me into the woman I am today and who I will be tomorrow.

To the community, she is an incredible woman who made a huge stamp on the Minnesota Irish dance scene. But to me, she was my friend and family. She was a fearless friend who loved those around her so ferociously. To not be able to talk to her anymore is heartbreaking, but I will forever be thankful for the memories I have with her because they will live with me and through Rince na Chroi forever. We may have giant holes in our hearts, but the love she instilled in all of us will inspire us for a lifetime. Cheers to you, Katie. Until we meet again.”



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From **Michael Gibbons**, who worked with Katie on the Board of Irish Fair of Minnesota

"I don't remember meeting Katie. I'm not sure we ever actually had a formal introduction. I think I first became aware of her, most likely at the Dubliner Pub, probably during a Tom Dahill performance when Katie would frequently get up and show off her Irish dancing skills. Typically, she would do it with a big smile on her face. She displayed real joy in those moments.

When one of my daughters wanted to try Irish Dance we signed her up for Rince na Chroi - that was my next encounter with Katie. During my brief time as a "Dance Dad" I observed Katie and her incredible organization skills. The way she managed to keep all the spinning plates in the air without letting any of them crash was impossibly impressive.

We overlapped for a few years on the Board of the Irish Fair of Minnesota and I got to witness first-hand, not only the joy and organizational skills already mentioned but also her passion - Passion to get things right, Passion to put the organization ahead of herself, Passion to share Irish culture with rest of the world. I never had a doubt that something would get done and done right, if Katie said she would do it.

After we both left the IFM Board, she would continue to reach out from time to time. Sometimes it was a legal issue, but mostly it was for social reasons. I would get an email or text, usually one word - "Pints?". And my response was usually one word back - "When?". That would launch a back-and-forth series trying to identify a common opening in our respective busy schedules. And when the agreed upon time arrived, it was always worthwhile catching up with Katie, the friend.

I don't want to reduce one person to four words. But if I had to for Katie, I think these are four good and accurate words - Joy, Organized, Passion and Friend. And now I'll add another - Missed. She will be Missed, certainly by me, and undoubtably by many others."

From **Julia Rogers**, who danced with Rince na Chroi as an adult and worked with Katie on the board of IMDA

"There have been so many wonderful and absolutely true things said about Katie over the last few weeks and years. She was a wonderful light and force in the community and accomplished so much. The Irish arts and especially the dance community have lost a true champion. Her work ethic and the lessons she taught me are something I carry with me every day.

While what Katie accomplished is important, it's not what I, and so many others will miss. I will miss that way that even in a crowded pub tent she made you feel like the only person she wanted to talk to. That twinkle in her eye and smile when she had community drama to share. Her laugh over ciders when we finally got done with shows and busy weekends. Hearing her gush about how proud she was of Alice and Robbie. Seeing how fiercely she loved everyone - Jason, Erin, and all her dance family. Rest in peace, my friend, and we'll carry you in our hearts always.

From **Mike Wiley**, who worked with Katie at Irish Fair of Minnesota

Katie came into my life when she was just starting Rince na Chroi. I was running the dance tent at the Irish Fair at the time, and she wanted to know how her school could perform. We met, and the next thing I know, there were 12 dancers in shorts and T-shirts, representing a school I could barely pronounce on stage, and I had a friend for life.

Katie and I bonded over Arbor Mist in the VIP tent at the festival, and was always there for me when I needed her, including when she helped me plan my proposal to my then girlfriend Jane.

As a fellow Irish Fair board member, I got to witness the business side of Katie as she weighed the needs of the festival, with those of the greater Twin Cities Irish community. There is rarely a decision I make in regard to the Fair that I don't ask myself, "what would Katie think or do?"

I miss my friend Katie terribly but take comfort knowing that she is watching and guiding us all from above.

A Special Thank You to our Sponsors for 2023!

if you are looking for something unique, come visit St. Paul's only Irish owned & operated store at 1124 Grand Avenue. We are in a charming converted 1920 home, just five houses west of Lexington Avenue, on the south side of the street.
Parking in the back.
Irish on Grand sells a huge collection of Celtic and Irish jewelry, Belleek China, Irish Crystal, Mullingar Pewter, Music, Clothing, Groceries and many more gift items.



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The Gaelic Corner- By Will Kenny

Every language has what we might call its “intensifiers,” tools for adding impact to basic words and concepts. We use adverbs like “very” or “extremely” or “especially,” along with many others, to pump up, if you will, something we’re saying. If I reply to your inquiry about my health by saying “I am very well indeed,” that’s a much more vigorous report than just saying, “I am well.”



And we know there’s a lot more stuff in a supermarket than there is in the corner market in your neighborhood. There are countless ways to take a basic meaning and make it bigger, stronger, more intense.

Naturally, Irish has a full range of words, prefixes, and expressions to produce the same effect. That corner market might be a *margadh*, but for a richer selection, head to the *ollmhargadh*, the supermarket. And if “good” is *maith*, “very good” is *an-mhaith*.

There is one intensifier in Irish, however, that I have always found interesting, while hardly intuitive. This is the number “seven,” or *seacht*.

Suppose your boss gave you a task and then later wanted an accounting of how you succeeded with the assignment. *Dícheall* is a word meaning “best effort,” so you could say, *Rinne mé mo dhícheall leis*, “I made my best effort with it.”

But if you say, *Rinne mé mo sheacht ndícheall leis*, you’re sort of saying “I did my seven best efforts” to indicate “I absolutely did the best I possibly could.” Indeed, when Sinn Féin recently published their policy statement in regard to what they would do to protect the Irish language if they were in power, they titled the document *Ar Seacht nDícheall don Ghaeilge*, “Our Very Best Effort for Irish.”

With many of these “seven” expressions we translate the heightened intensity without literally translating the number. In other words (and what makes this interesting), we won’t see the word “seven” in most of the English versions of these expressions.

For instance, you might literally translate *Tá na seacht dteangacha aige*, as “He has the seven languages,” but this doesn’t only apply to people who know seven languages. It is just a way of saying “He is multilingual.”

As another example, if I ask you if you know someone and you answer in the affirmative, that might be *Tá aithne mhaith agam uirthi* (literally, “I have good knowledge on her.”). But if want to say, “I know her very, very well,” we express that by adding the “seven” in Irish: *Tá na seacht n-aithne agam uirthi*. Again, the presence of the number

word communicates a greater degree of something, but it is not actually expressing the number “seven” in the Irish, and it isn’t translated as a number in the English.

And you can’t do this with any number, by the way. Only “seven” has this intensifying usage.

Back to the boss who assigned you that task. You might have protested with, *Tá mo dhóthain le déanamh agam cheana féin*, “I have enough to do already.” But if you add the number to this response, *mo sheacht ndóthain*, you are telling your boss you have “much more than enough to do already.”

This *dóthain* word for “enough” can be thought of as having a sufficient amount of something. It is also used with the number in reference to people who have “too much to say,” *Tá a seacht ndóthain le rá acu*. In other words, they talk too much!

Of course, one thing it is easy to have too much of is ill health. *Tá seacht ngalair an tsléibhe ar Phádraig*, “Patrick has the seven illnesses of the mountain,” tell us that he has “every illness under the sun.” As a result, Patrick might say, *Fuair mé na seacht mbás le pianta i mo ghoile*. Literally “I have died seven times with the pain in my stomach,” it basically means “I have been in agony” without any need to translate the number.

And if the medicine you’re taking for it is ineffective, if you grumble that “it’s not worth a damn,” you might say, *Ní thabharfá do sheacht mallacht air*. That is, “You wouldn’t give seven curses on it.”

Of course, I have no idea when or how this special use of the number seven came to be, but it has probably been that way *le cuimhne na seacht sinsear*; “within the memory of the seven ancestors.” In other words, from time immemorial.

Naturally, at Gaeltacht Minnesota we always do *ár seacht ndícheall*, our very best to learn and appreciate this intriguing language. Check us out at www.gaelminn.org.

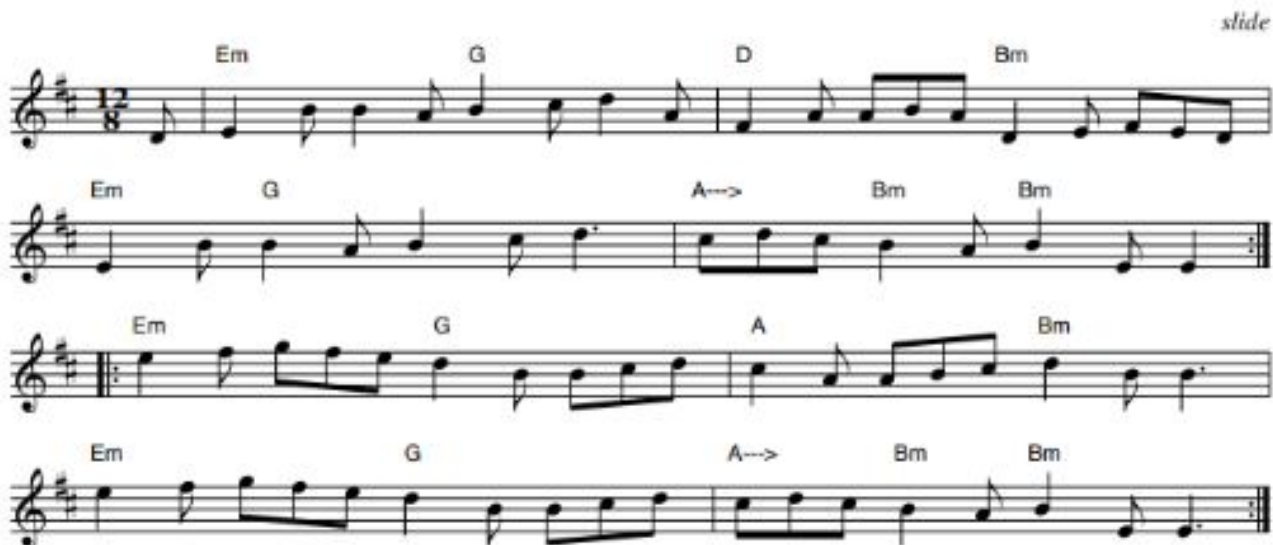
Mo sheacht mbeannacht ort!
“My seven blessings on you!”, or
“Bravo! Good for you!”

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TUNE OF THE MONTH

The Road To Lisdoonvarna

slide



The Road to Lisdoonvarna is a popular slide (not to be confused with the 'reel' version of the same name) recorded by many including the Chieftain's in 1973 and whistle player Micho Russell. The town of Lisdoonvarna rests in County Clare, and hosts an annual month-long match-making festival (a tradition over 150 years old) which features music and dance, and perhaps finding your soul mate! Find this slide on the CIM 2021 common Tunes paired with Denis Murphy's.

Respectfully submitted by Rosa Wells on behalf of the Center for Irish Music (CIM), a traditional Irish music school based in St. Paul, located inside the Celtic Junction Arts Center. We publish a tune each month with dots (sheet music), suggested chords and some basic background information including how CIM is connected to the tune. To hear a recording of the tunes or to print sheet music, go to the archive under 'resources' on the Center for Irish Music website: www.centerforirishmusic.org



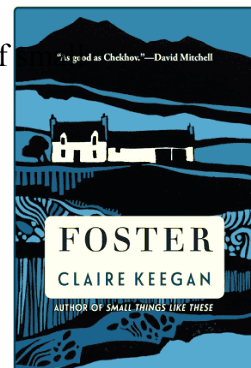
836 Prior Ave North, St. Paul MN 55104

On Leabhragan (The Bookcase)

Foster— Claire Keegan — Grover Press 2022

This month I give you a double review: the absolutely note-perfect novella, *Foster*, and the just-released movie, *The Quiet Girl*, which is based on the book. Both of them are examples of things which punch far above their weight. I read *Foster* two months ago, and didn't know the movie had been made, so it was with wonder and delight that I sat in the St Anthony Main movie theater and watched the book unspooling itself across the big screen in a faithful rendition of the book.

The book details one hot summer when a rural girl, Cait, is sent to live with some cousins on a farm in County Wexford. Cait's family is poor with too many children already neglected and ignored and another one on the way. Her exhausted mother can barely cope, and Cait's father, largely uninterested in his family or anything resembling responsibility, drives her to her relatives' farm, abruptly dropping her off without a goodbye – or her suitcase he's forgotten in the back seat.



Her da tells her cousins that she'll eat them out of house and home but "you can work her". The first inkling Cait has that this is a different sort of house altogether is hearing Mr. Kinsella say, "there'll be no need for that". Cait's father sees his kids as a liability. The Kinsellas see Cait as a person in her own right, to nurture, teach, and enjoy. She gradually relaxes into her new life and comes to love her relatives. We learn along the way that the Kinsellas have no children of their own; their only son died tragically and they were unable to have more. The summer spools out in a long idyll, with both Cait and her foster "parents" creating a rhythm of farm work, lessons in domestic skills, and mutual respect and love. We rejoice for the three of them. But summer will be over soon. The new baby is born, school will start again in September, and Cait will be expected back home. We know the end of the story will punch us in the heart just as surely as it will the Kinsellas and Cait. We don't expect happy endings in Cait's family, much as we hope for one.

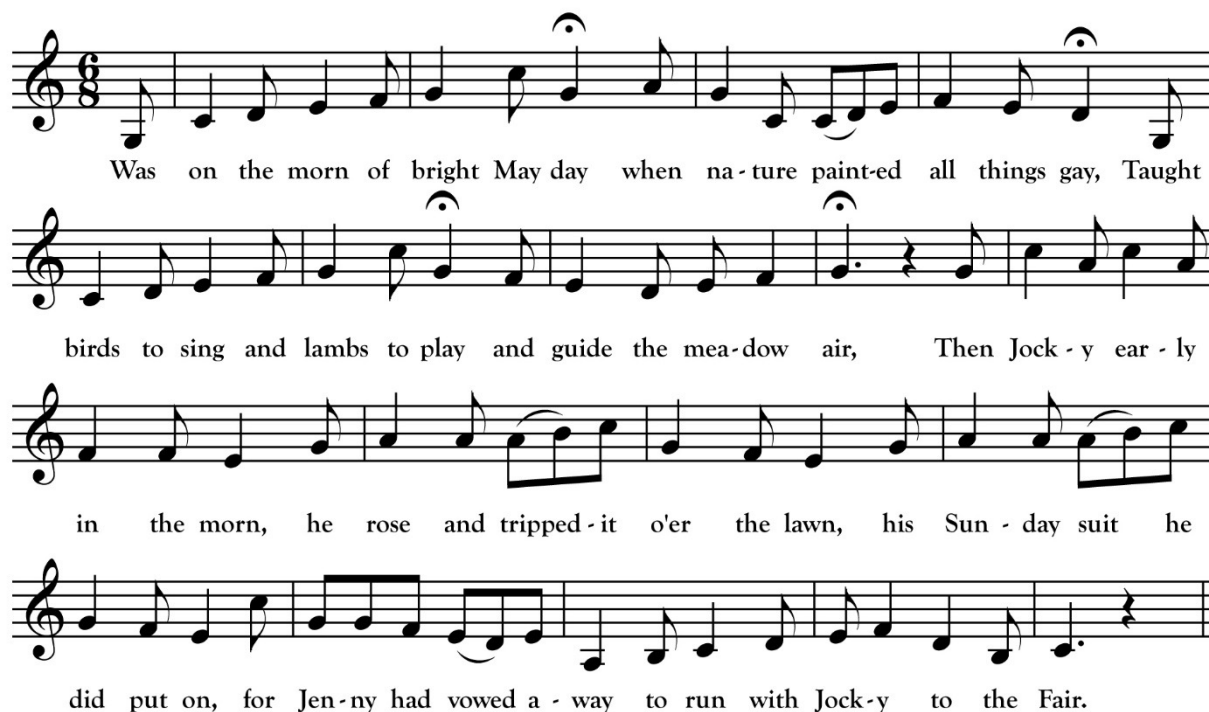
The movie gets every detail right, and adds a dimension of time spent over a summer, seemingly endless days of the rhythms of the farm chores and card games in the kitchen with the neighbors, a married couple who care for each other and those in their community. Days pass with no great drama, just peace and surety and comfortable quiet amongst the three of them. The actors play their parts superbly; just the right subtle expression and body language. The scenery is beautiful, the musical score supportive but not intrusive; in short, a gem of a movie, spoken entirely in Irish with English subtitles. Usually I recommend to read the book first. This time I say, it doesn't matter, but be sure to take the time to seek out both the book AND the movie. Each of them can be called a masterpiece with no exaggeration.

Sherry Ladig is a Saint Paul trad musician and a former reviewer for the Hungry Mind Bookstore's newsletter, Fodder. She welcomes ideas for books to review of Irish, Irish-American or local interest, or---write a review yourself! Sherry can be reached at ladig-dunquin@msn.com. Happy Spring reading!

Northwoods Songs: Irish Songs from Lumberjacks and Great Lakes Sailors

By Brian Miller

Jockey to the Fair



Was on the morn of bright May day when na-ture paint-ed all things gay, Taught
birds to sing and lambs to play and guide the mea-dow air, Then Jock - y ear - ly
in the morn, he rose and tripped - it o'er the lawn, his Sun - day suit he
did put on, for Jen - ny had vowed a - way to run with Jock - y to the Fair.

Was on the morn of bright May day when nature painted all things gay,
Taught birds to sing and lambs to play and guide the meadow air,
Then Jocky early in the morn,
He rose and tripped it o'er the lawn,
His Sunday suit he did put on,
For Jenny had vowed away to run with Jocky to the Fair.

The village parish bells had rung with eager steps he trudged along,
His flowery garment round him hung that shepherds used to wear,
Tapped at the window, "Haste my dear,"
When Jenny impatient cried, "Who's there?"
"It's me my love, there's no one here,
Step lightly down, you need not fear with Jocky to the Fair."

"My dad and mother is fast asleep, my brothers are up and with the sheep,
So will you still your promise keep that I have heard you swear?
Or will you ever constant prove?"
"I will by all that's good, my love,
I'll never deceive my charming dove,
Return those vows in haste my love with Jocky to the Fair."

Then Jocky did his vows renew, they pledged their words and away they flew,
O'er cowslip bells and balmy dew and Jocky to the Fair,
Returned there's none so fond as they,
They blessed that kind perpetual day,
The smiling month of blooming May,
When lovely Jenny ran away with Jocky to the Fair.

[repeat first verse]

In the world of competitive Irish step dancing, the tune “Jockey to the Fair” is one of the seven approved and strictly regulated traditional set dances. It is somewhat ironic that the melody has ended up on this short list of official tunes in a realm so historically sensitive to maintaining Irish cultural purity because the tune originated with a popular English song of the 18th century. Recent cultural historians have been increasingly willing to admit that melodies (and lyrics) have travelled back and forth between the two islands for centuries and that the Irishness of a song or tune is complex to calculate (and possibly not worth the effort!). To this day, “Jockey to the Fair” is a favorite of uilleann pipers *and* Morris dancers all over the world.

The song that accompanies the melody (or at least a close variant of the dance tune) is rarely heard in Irish circles so it was interesting to find it in Helen Creighton’s Nova Scotia recordings as sung by Irish-Canadian Edmund Henneberry of tiny Devil’s Island—a now-deserted island in Halifax harbor. You can hear Henneberry sing it on the album *Folk Music from Nova Scotia* which is available online via Smithsonian Folkways. My transcription was made from that recording.

Northwoods Songs features a new song each month pulled from my research into old songs collected in the pine woods region that stretches from New Brunswick west through northern Minnesota. In the 1800s, a vibrant culture of singing and song-making developed in lumber camp bunkhouses and on Great Lakes ships. The repertoire and singing style were greatly influenced by Irish folk repertoire and singing styles. Many singers in the region had Irish background themselves.

Each installment of *Northwoods Songs* is also published online at www.evergreentrad.com. My hope is that others will learn some of these songs and make them their own as I have. -Brian Miller



Smidiríní*

(*Irish for 'Bits and Pieces')

by Copper Shannon

There's a new band in town. **David Ochs** and **Liam Slattery** are *An Cuán*. They were on stage at *Kieran's Irish Pub* last weekend. If you were with us at Landmark Center for St. Patrick's Day, you heard them with the **Two Tap Trio** playing for the dancers. Look for more great music coming soon!

The Center for Irish Music – Come check us out at
The Celtic Junction Arts Center
836 Prior Avenue, St Paul MN

*Please check the website for information on our full range of instruction in traditional Irish music,
language, culture and fun.*

For class schedule and other information call or email
651-815-0083 admin@centerforirishmusic.org

Or visit our website
www.centerforirishmusic.org

Irish Dancer crowned Miss Minnesota's Teen 2023

Natalie Berg will advance to annual Miss America's Teen competition

Comhghairdeas léi (Congratulations) and Best Wishes! to **Natalie Berg**, who dances with the *Mactír Academy of Irish Dance*. Natalie was recently crowned Miss Minnesota's Teen 2023 and will represent Minnesota at the Miss America's Teen 2024 competition.

For the talent portion of the competition, Berg performed a traditional Irish Hardshoe dance to Cry of the Celts from Michael Flattley's Lord of the Dance, and wore a dress made by Rising Star Designs in Belfast, Ireland.

As Miss Minnesota's Teen, Berg will spend the year as Minnesota's teen ambassador at various events across the state. She will also promote her Social Impact Initiative, Building Children's Literacy: One Book at a Time.

"My legacy within the Miss America Organization centers around my social impact initiative," said Berg. "I want people to know the importance of children's literacy so we can set today's children up for success. My mission is to get as many books into the hands of children as I can. Preparing great women for the world starts there."

For more information, visit the Miss Minnesota's Teen [website](#) and follow Berg's year of service on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Natalie's mom **Michele** serves on the board of Irish Arts Minnesota.



Celtic Junction Events



Brigid, Goddess of Rebirth. Artwork by Carrie Finnigan.

[The Irish Arts Week\(s\)](#) runs from April 14th- April 30th and celebrates Irish cultural learning and arts.

This year we have *three* films, multiple concerts, free presentations, trial classes, two theater pieces, and our second Irish language weekend! Please visit our page and peruse what's on.

Highlights include [Dáithí Sproule in Concert](#), [JigJam Live in Concert](#), [The Humours of Bandon](#), a lecture "[Irish Traditional Musicians in Chicago 1920–2020](#)" and our own showing of the Oscar Nominated Irish Language film, [The Quiet Girl](#).

Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeilge Irish Language Weekend in Saint Paul



April 21-23

**Tosaitheoirí go
Cainteoirí Líofa**
Beginners to Advanced

celticjunction.org/DSG-2023

Presented by Celtic Junction Arts Center's Education Program
Held at Celtic Junction Arts Center, 836 Prior Ave N, St Paul, MN 55104

More information can be found at
<https://celticjunction.org/classes/dsg-2023/>.
Deadline to register is Friday, April 14th.

Irish Dance Learning Opportunities

Lóma mór Irish Dance Club 2022/2023 Sean nós classes

www.Loma-mor.org

We meet one Sunday per month. Classes are 2 hours long. During the first hour, we cover steps and skills, including instructor-led beginner steps, step reviews, and advanced steps. During the second hour we have open dance and social time - trading steps, practicing session skills, and perhaps some set dancing. Fee is based on the percentage of class attended (1 hour or both) and ability to pay. Suggested payment is \$15 per hour, for those who are able. Prospective members are welcome to attend a class or two without payment to “check us out”.

Musicians who like to play for dancing are welcome to join us for the second hour of the class.



Move Along:
An Immersive Performance Featuring
the Stories, Songs and Modern
History of the Irish Travellers
w/ Sarah Kiani & Fergal O'Brien

Fri, Apr 21
6-7:30pm CST
In-person \$25
Online \$15

A multimedia lecture & performance sharing the world of the modern Irish Traveller featuring Fergal O'Brien of S. Armagh w/ virtual performances by renowned Irish traditional musicians of S. Armagh; singer/ songwriter Finbar Magee, award winning Fiddler Breige Quinn, leading Traveller musician/ singer William Dundon and live poetry/ bodhrán with performance artist Sarah Kiani and Fergal O'Brien.

Learn more or register at:
www.wisdomwayscenter.org





OUT OF THE MIST RETURNS TO CELTIC JUNCTION

After a successful production of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" at the Celtic Junction Arts Center, Out of the Mist Celtic Theatre is back in April with another period classic from an Irish playwright, Oliver Goldsmith, with "She Stoops to Conquer."

Last year's production was both well received and well attended. This year's offering is again directed by the ubiquitous Michele Schwantes, with a number of the same performers. A talented writer and director, Schwantes rarely has two consecutive weeks that she is not directing a play in the Twin Cities. The collaboration has been beneficial for Out of the Mist, and the costuming, which received high praise for "Ernest", is again in the capable hands of Lissa Miller.

Location: Celtic Junction, at 836 N. Prior, St. Paul, 55104.

Time: April 6, 7 at 7:30
April 8 at 2:00 and 7:30
April 14 and 15 at 7:30
April 16 at 2:00.

Tickets: \$20 adult and \$15 student/senior. Purchase tickets at the [Celtic Junction](http://www.celticjunction.org).



Irish Arts Minnesota

April
2023
Aibreán

41st Year, Issue No. 4

IAM Members and Donors

Members are reminded that IAM membership is renewable annually. If you haven't renewed for 2023, please do that today!

Irish Arts Minnesota wishes to thank these new members for their support:

Maureen Engelhardt Family
Jeff Moriarty Family

New and renewing supporting members will receive the following:

- A one-year (January to December 2023) subscription to the IAM's monthly email.
- Priority detailed listing for bands, organizations, pubs and businesses in our popular on-line Community Resources Directory, used by people who are seeking local Irish musicians, bands, dancers and entertainers for performances, ethnic festivals, and other events.
- Public recognition in a section of future IAM newsletters and in related posts to the IAM web site and Facebook page.

Looking for the IAM Community Calendar?

The IAM Community Calendar is your go-to place to find out what's happening in Irish music, dance, literature and cultural events in the Twin Cities and beyond.

Find it at <https://irishartsmn.org/events/>.

The calendar on our website is updated often – and is “searchable” for your favorite artist, venue or type of event. Check it out – and return often!

Questions? Comments? Contact Us!

Info@irishartsmn.org
www.irishartsmn.org



Irish Arts Minnesota

April
2023
Aibreán

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Newsletter Submissions

We welcome our readers to submit articles of interest, news, and notices of events to be published in the newsletter. The deadline is the 18th of the preceding month.

Send to: Editor@irishartsmn.org

IAM Board

President	Amber Ladany
Vice President	Jan Casey
Treasurer	Maureen Engelhardt
Secretary	Cindy Ladany
Newsletter Editor	Bridget Dinter
Board Member	Michele Berg
Board Member	Eileen Dahill
Board Member	Laurelie MacKenzie

Questions? Comments? Contact Us!

Info@irishartsmn.org

Ceili CORNER By Bhloscaidh O'Keane
Check www.lomamor.org for all up-to-date Irish folk dancing information.



IAM Membership

Demonstrate your support of live Irish music, dance and cultural activities by becoming a member of Irish Arts Minnesota. Become a supporting member by making a financial contribution. Member bands, businesses and organizations receive priority listing in the IAM Community Resources List.

All IAM members receive the newsletter by e-mail.

Name:	Date:
Address:	How did you hear about us?
Membership Type (circle one) Individual \$20 _____ Family \$25 _____ by US Mail \$35 _____ Band/Organization/Business \$25 _____ Name _____ (Name of Band/Organization/Business)	
Interests (circle all that apply) Music Dance Theatre Language Volunteer	
E-mail Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Your monthly newsletter is delivered electronically via e-mail. Please advise us at Info@irishartsmn.org if your e-mail address changes.	
Tear out the above form and send it with a check made out to "IAM" to: The IAM Membership Coordinator c/o Jan Casey 400 Macalester St. St. Paul, MN 55105 Or visit the IAM website (www.irishartsmn.org) to pay electronically.	