



Irish Arts Minnesota

January
2024
Eanáir

42nd Year, Issue No. 1

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

Sneak Peek- Exciting New Events for Landmark Celebrations!

It's that time of year again. As the year ends and people turn to the future thinking about what their next year will look like, Irish Arts Minnesota (IAM) kicks into high gear for March events planning. And it's shaping up to be our best year yet as we stretch the days to include even more fun events!

Aligning with the parade and other celebrations, St. Patrick's Day will be held Saturday 3/16, and we will celebrate Day of Irish Dance on Sunday 3/17. Last year, these events were well attended with over 5,000 attendees between both events! Attendees were delightfully entertained watching 14 dance schools and performance groups and 14 bands and music groups. In addition to this offering of local artistic talent, these two events offered a diverse bevy of local vendors at our Celtic Marketplace. This year is shaping up similarly, so mark your calendars and be ready to stop by at Landmark Center for fun both days!

In addition to our classic events, we are adding **TWO NEW EVENTS**

- **Expanding our children's programming**, the Saturday event will kick off at 9 am with Russ Sutter and continue jam packed with Children's Stage programming all morning. This earlier offering helps those with small children enjoy the event on a better timeline for their family.
- **Hosting Wild Colonial Bhoys** for a Saturday night concert at Landmark. Come enjoy this beautiful, historic venue with one of our favorite local Irish bands!

Stay tuned to future newsletters and social media for more details and continued updates for these exciting events!





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2023- A Year in Review

By Jan Casey

In 2023, Irish Arts Minnesota has:

- Hosted over 5,000 people at the 41st Annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration and Day of Irish Dance at Landmark Center.
- Presented a Cross-Cultural performance that blended Irish and Brazilian music from David and Suzanne Rhees and Tim O'Keefe as part of our St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration.
- Hosted 14 local dance schools and performance groups through St. Patrick's Day and Day of Irish Dance performances.
- Presented 14 bands and music groups as part of our St. Patrick's Day festivities, including 3 new bands.
- Added the Shenanigan's Craft Fair to the Celtic Marketplace for St. Patrick's Day.
- Honored 17 Irish dancers with the **IAM Decade of Dance Award**. This was the 18th year of the program, with a total of 267 dancers receiving the award since 2006.
- Awarded Educational Grants to 5 students of Irish music, dance, and cultural pursuits helping them to grow in their area of study. This brings the number of grant recipients to 74 over the past 17 years.
- Offered a special edition Irish dancer t-shirt, based on the design of Rince na Chroi dancer Maddie Bintzer.
- Hosted IAM Honors Jan Casey – a celebration of Jan's contributions to the Twin Cities Irish community.
- Kept members informed of local events and news through our IAM Monthly Newsletter.
- Updated the Irish community regularly through our Facebook page, which has grown to 2,800 followers.
- Promoted Irish music and dance to the larger community through the calendar and events information on the **IAM website**, updated weekly to reflect the dynamic nature of live music and dance in the Twin Cities.
- Served the greater community by providing information about Irish music and dance groups, céilís, and other Irish events through the **IAM Community Resources List**, available on the website.
- Provided a **referral service** to community members wishing to book Irish musicians and dancers for their own events.

Irish Arts Minnesota would like to thank
our sponsors for their generous support in 2023:
Irish on Grand -and- Get Her Hired
And our many volunteers at St. Patrick's Day and throughout the year

www.irishartsmn.org

Jan Casey serves on the IAM board and coordinates the IAM Educational Grant Program.



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It's Time to Renew your IAM Membership!



Irish Arts Minnesota membership renewals are due January of each year.

Why is my membership important?

- Membership provides financial support for IAM activities throughout the year.
- Membership is a strong indicator of “community support” when grant-making organizations evaluate our application for funding support.

What do I get for my membership?

- The satisfaction of supporting IAM programs including: the IAM Educational Grant Program; the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration and Day of Irish Dancer; the IAM Honors event; and the Decade of Dance Awards.
- A one-year (January to December 2024) subscription to the IAM’s monthly email newsletter, which features (among many other things) articles about the Irish language, book reviews, Irish music culture and history, and highlights events in our community.
- “Priority listing” for musicians, bands and organizations in our popular on-line Community Resources Directory
- Public recognition in a “New or Renewed Members” section of future IAM newsletters.

How can I become an IAM member?

It’s easy! Just go to [Become A Member](#) on the IAM website, where you have the option of paying your membership fee on-line via PayPal, debit, or credit card.

Or print and complete the membership form at the back of the newsletter and mail it with your check to Membership Coordinator, 400 Macalester Street, St. Paul, MN 55105.

Membership is \$20 for individuals, \$25 for families, organizations, bands and businesses.

Become a member of Irish Arts Minnesota today and help us continue to encourage and promote Irish music, dance and other cultural traditions throughout Minnesota!

www.irishartsmn.org

The Gaelic Corner- By Will Kenny

Let's take a little quiz. Identify each of the items that follow as either masculine or feminine: man, woman, girl, bull, hen, stallion. We're on the honor system here, so I will assume you aced the quiz. Each of these common nouns carries a strong sense of gender.

Now let me extend the quiz with a couple more items. Is "rain" masculine or feminine? How about "snow"?

You might complain that this last part just doesn't make sense. How can "rain" be masculine or feminine?

But if you were doing this quiz in Irish, those last items would make perfect sense. It has to do with having an additional concept of gender in Irish (and in many other European languages like French, Spanish, etc.). Basically, there is the gender of the thing the noun refers to, and then there is the gender of the word itself.

In Irish, rain and snow don't have gender as things in the real world. But the words for "rain" and "snow" do have gender: *báisteach* ("rain") is feminine while *sneachta* ("snow") is masculine. Irish has an additional concept of "gender," namely, the gender of the word itself independent of what the word means.

After a couple of decades of teaching Irish, I've come to the conclusion that this additional gender concept is among the most challenging aspects of learning Irish for people whose first language is English. Knowing the gender of individual words and how that affects their use is critical to mastering a gendered language, like Irish. Of course, individual English words don't have gender, so learning to associate the correct gender with vocabulary, and then learning to deal with the way that gender affects grammar and speech is just that more difficult. I have long suspected that someone who is highly capable in another language that has this "grammatical gender," as we might call it, would find it much easier to deal with that aspect of learning Irish than would a native English speaker.

And the gender of things vs. the gender of words sometimes produces surprising results in Irish. Remember that first quiz? Both English speakers and Irish speakers would agree that "girl" refers to a thing that is feminine,



while "stallion" refers to a thing that is masculine. But in Irish, *cailín* ("girl") is a masculine word, while *stail* ("stallion") is a feminine one.

This seems illogical, coming from English. Shouldn't *cailín* be a feminine word? But it makes perfect sense once you learn to treat gender as a grammatical issue. The simple fact is that all words that end in *-ín* are masculine, including *cailín*. In this sense, the "gender" of a word is simply a predictor of its grammatical behavior. The gender of the words we use in Irish may be associated with changes in other words in an utterance, and it is those patterns of behavior that really define masculine vs. feminine.

For example, one rule of Irish is that an adjective that follows a feminine noun may undergo some sound changes, while the same adjective following a masculine noun is unchanged. Both *cailín* ("girl") and *bean* ("woman") obviously refer to feminine things, but one is a masculine word and one is feminine.

To talk about a "good girl", we would use *cailín maith* (said roughly like COLL-éen MAH). To refer to a "good woman," we would have to make a change in the sound of the adjective, giving us *bean mhaith* (BAN WAH). That is, the M would change to a W sound (or in some parts of Ireland, to a V sound, just to keep things interesting.)

Besides adjectives, gender indicates many other patterns, such as how the noun may be modified when preceded by the definite article ("the", *an* in Irish). There are a variety of situations where gender points to proper forms, but you can see this is a whole other layer of grammar to master that we don't have to deal with in English.

And for a final curiosity, this gender of the word itself really only applies in the singular. That is, you could say there is really no gender in the plural forms. Masculine and feminine nouns behave the same way in their plural forms. That simplifies things a bit, so thank heaven for small favors!

This kind of stuff could drive you nuts, but it's the kind of crazy we love at Gaeltacht Minnesota. www.gaelminn.org

An chearc ag dul ag iarraidh an ghé
"The hen going to seek for the goose"
Said when someone gives a small present
in the hope of receiving a greater one in return

www.irishartsmn.org

TUNE OF THE MONTH

James McMahon's Favorite

jig



Here is a lively jig to start your New Year! This tune is composed by Fermanagh flute player James McMahon and was taught by instructor Mary Vanorny to CIM's U15 Ceili Band in 2019, who placed 2nd with it at the Midwest Fleadh in Chicago.

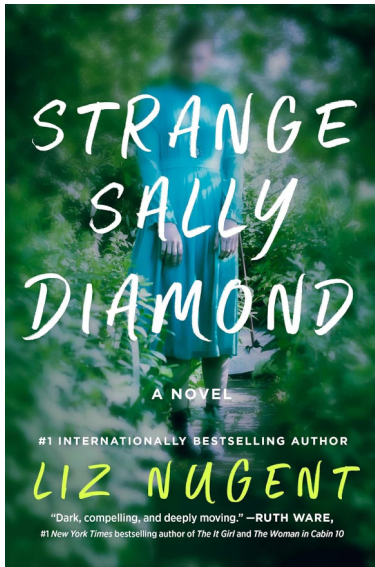
Respectfully submitted by Rosa Wells on behalf of the Center for Irish Music (CIM), a traditional Irish music school based in St. Paul, located inside the Celtic Junction Arts Center. We publish a tune each month with dots (sheet music), suggested chords and some basic background information including 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)

Strange Sally Diamond— Liz Nugent— *Simon & Schuster 2023*



Sally Diamond has always been, as they say, "on the spectrum". She's smart, uncomfortable around people, painfully honest, and prefers predictability to spontaneous gestures. When her widowed, adoptive father dies suddenly, sheltered 43-year-old Sally has to begin navigating a confusing world on her own.

Her protective parents adopted her at age seven and moved the family from England to a small rural town in Ireland. They never spoke to Sally of her traumatic early childhood up to age six, and Sally has only gleaned parts of the story. After her father's death she finds out the whole truth of the unspeakable events of her first six years—and becomes an unwilling infamous media celebrity all over again.

In addition to learning how to be a full-fledged functioning adult, Sally has to ward off the press, exploitative journalists, and reality TV programmers. And why is she getting mysterious packages from New Zealand from a man who calls her Mary and seems to think Sally will remember him? That, along with

a possible stalker, threaten Sally's fragile emotional progress---and, possibly, her life.

Told in alternating chapters from Sally's viewpoint and that of a mysterious boy named Peter, a grim and disturbing family story is gradually revealed. Sally finds friends and allies in the village who stand by her during her social missteps and discovery of her dark and twisted origins. You'll find yourself staying up late to read just one more chapter—and then another. Dublin author Liz Nugent scores again in suspense, dark humor, and jaw-dropping plot twists. Read and enjoy!

Sherry Ladig is a Saint Paul-based musician and composer and a former reviewer for the Hungry Mind Bookstore's newsletter, Fodder. Sherry welcomes suggestion for books of Irish or Irish-American interest to review, or---write a review yourself! She may be reached at ladig-dunquin@msn.com. Happy reading in the new year!

Northwoods Songs: Irish Songs from Lumberjacks and Great Lakes Sailors By Brian Miller

The Wearing of the Green



Oh Pad- dy dear and did you hear the news that's go- ing 'round? The
sham- rock is for- bid by law to grow on I- rish ground, Saint_
Pa- trick's day no more we'll keep, his co- lor can't be seen, For
there's a bloo- dy law a- gin' the wear- in' o' the green. I_
met with Nap- per Tan- dy and he tuk me by the hand, And he
said, "How's poor auld Ire- land, and how does she stand?" She's that
most dis- tress- ful coun- try that ev- er you have seen, They're
hang- ing men and wo- men there for wear- ing of the green.

Oh, Paddy, dear, and did you hear the news that's going 'round?
The shamrock is forbid by law to grow on Irish ground;
Saint Patrick's day no more we'll keep, his color can't be seen,
For there's a bloody law agin' the Wearin' o' the Green.
I met with Napper Tandy and he tuk me by the hand,
And he said, "How's poor auld Ireland, and how does she stand?"
She's that most distressful country that ever you have seen,
They're hanging men and women there for wearing of the green.

Then since the color we must wear is England's cruel red,
Sure, Ireland's sons will ne'er forget the blood that they have shed;
You may take the shamrock from your hat, and cast it on the sod,

But 'twill take root and flourish still, tho' under foot 'tis trod;
When the law can stop the blades of grass from growing as they grow,
And when the leaves in summer time their verdure dare not show,
Then I will change the color I wear in my caubeen,
But till that day, please God, I'll stick to wearing of the green.

But if at last our color should be torn from Ireland's heart,
Her sons in shame and sorrow from the dear old soil will part,
I've heard whisper of a country that lies far beyant the say,
Where rich and poor stand equal in the light of freedom's day;
Oh, Erin, must we lave you, driven by a tyrant's hand,
Must we seek a mother's welcome from a strange but happy land!
Where the cruel cross of England's thralldom never shall be seen,
And where, in peace, we'll live and die, a-wearing of the green.



Cover of one of the first printings of Dion Boucicault's song circa 1865

Stephen Watt quotes Boucicault as saying:

The fire and energy that consists of dancing around the stage in an expletive manner, and indulging in ridiculous capers and extravagances of language and gesture, form the materials for a clowning character, known as the 'Stage Irishman,' which it has been my vocation to abolish.

Minnesota singer Michael Dean sang a few songs that reveled in stereotypes denigrating Irish immigrants alongside many other songs that preserved the dignity of his fellow Irish-Americans. His repertoire is a fascinating blend of older traditional songs and stage hits from his lifetime. He left only the above text for his version of this one so I have adapted it to a version of the usual melody as printed by Alfred Perceval Graves in *The Irish Songbook*.

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

Go n-éirí an t-ádh leat! (Good luck to you) – to Irish dancer Natalie Berg, who is off to the Miss America Teen Pageant in Florida, competing as Miss Minnesota Teen. Natalie dances with the Onorach Mulhern Geraghty School of Irish Dance (OMG) and her talent for the pageant is Irish dance!

Go dtuga Dia suaimhneas síoraí dá anam (may God give eternal peace to his soul) to **Denis Dee**. Denis was a native of Ballylongford, County Kerry, Ireland who came to the Twin Cities in 1950 where he became active in the Twin City Irish American Club and other Irish community activities. Our condolences to his wife Pat and many friends.

Deepest Sympathy to **Erin Stephens and Jason, Alice and Robbie Spangler** on the loss of their beloved father and grandfather **Terrance "Terry" Stephens** in Milwaukee. As noted in his obituary "Terry was a true Irishman and proud of his Irish heritage – which was evidenced by his sense of closeness of family, love of music, fondness for parties, and the ability to always tell a good story."

Best wishes for 2024!
May your joys be as bright as the morning,
And your sorrows merely be shadows,
That fade in the sunlight of love.

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

Celtic Junction Events

Celtic Junction Concerts



Tony Rook Band in Concert, January 13 @ 7:30 pm, \$20/\$25.

Tony Rook Band is a five-piece bluegrass band based out of Minneapolis focused on original contemporary bluegrass music. The band consists of some of the finest pickers in the Midwest including Graham Sones on banjo, Tom Schaefer on fiddle, Liz Ashworth on mandolin, Terry Johnson on bass, and Tony Rook on guitar. Their music contains soulful lyrics with tight three-part harmonies and intricate instrumentation.



Imbolc Ceili, February 2 @ 6:30 pm (lesson) 7-9 pm (ceili), \$10.

Celebrate Imbolc with a lively céilí that will make your heart dance with joy! Our friendly instructors will guide you through the steps and dances, making sure everyone can join in the fun. Live music with Tom Dahill & Ginny Johnson!



Celtic Junction Classes

The Winter 2024 schedule is out and classes begin soon! Visit CJAC's [education program](#) to learn more about the Irish language, history and literature, and the creative arts!



Jan 24 - Feb 25, 2024

by Marie Jones
Directed by Marcela Lorca
Music Direction and Compositions by
Jason Hansen

A rural Irish village is turned upside down by the arrival of an American film crew. When Charlie and Jake are cast as extras in the movie, they discover that Hollywood's romanticized Ireland stands in stark contrast to the reality of their daily lives. This Olivier Award-winning comedy is a rollicking, poignant tale brought to life by two actors portraying a colorful cast of dozens.

Starring Tom Reed and Reed Sigmund.

Purchase tickets [here!](#)



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IAM Members

Members are reminded that IAM membership is renewable annually. If you haven't renewed for 2024, please do that today!

Irish Arts Minnesota thanks these donors for their financial support:

**Daniel Dlugose
Beth Engelking
Kathleen Green
Justin O'Carrick
Suin Swann
Jo Ann Vano**

Irish Arts Minnesota thanks these renewing members for their financial support:

**Connie Hessivick
Jeff Moriarty family
Mark Richardson
Gretchen Schilling
Adam Taylor family
Cathie and Steve Wilson**

New and renewing supporting members receive the following:

- A one-year (January to December 2024) subscription to the IAM's monthly newsletter
- "Priority 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 "New or Renewed Members" section of future IAM newsletters and in related posts to the IAM web site and Facebook page.



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](mailto:Editor@irishartsmn.org)

IAM Board

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| President | Amber Ladany |
| Vice President | Jan Casey |
| Treasurer | Maureen Engelhardt |
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Questions? Comments? Contact Us!

Info@irishartsmn.org

www.irishartsmn.org



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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 _____

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.