



Irish Arts Minnesota

May
2023
Bealtaine

41st Year, Issue No. 5

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

Irish Festival Preview – Stay Tuned!

Here in the Twin Cities, we have our **Irish Fair of Minnesota** at Harriet Island in St. Paul from Aug. 11 -13. Irish Fair showcases the amazing **local Irish music and dance** as well as featuring fantastic international acts. The lineup already announced includes **Gaelic Storm, Socks in the Frying Pan, JigJam, Doolin’, Screaming Orphans, Clare Cunningham, Wild Colonial Bhoys** plus **the Real Irish Comedy Tour**.

Buy tickets and keep up to date with the plans at www.irishfair.com.

Here's a peek at the plans for some of the other Irish and Celtic festivals in the Midwest to help you track information as it becomes available. Time for a road trip?

Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival, Cleveland, OH – July 14-16.

Planning is underway for 2023. Details and updates clevelandirish.org/.

Dublin Irish Festival, Dublin, OH – Aug. 4-6.

Gaelic Storm, Dervish, Red Hot Chilli Pipers, String Sisters, Old Blind Dogs, Socks in the Frying Pan, Goitse, Young Dubliners, Scythian, Talisk, JigJam for starters! Details at dublinirishfestival.org.

Iowa Irish Fest, Downtown Waterloo, IA – Aug. 4-6.

Gaelic Storm, Scythian, Screaming Orphans, The Celtic Tenors, Aoife Scott, The Dublin City Ramblers, Gadan, Seo Linn, and more. The festival is in a lovely park in Waterloo, just a few hours from the Twin Cities! Tickets at iowairishfest.com.

Milwaukee Irish Fest, Milwaukee, WI - Aug. 17-20.

Over 100 Acts Across 16 Stages over 4 days! A substantial lineup already announced and more to come. It all starts with Boxing Banjo, Eileen Ivers, the Friel Sisters, and goes on and on! Details, tickets and updates at www.irishfest.com.

Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Fest, Oak Forest, IL – Aug. 25-27.

Save the date announcement – details to come at chicagogaelpark.com/.

Kansas City Irish Fest, Kansas City, MO – Sept. 1-3.

Held in the Crown Center in Kansas City, the festival offers entertainment on 7 stages that includes the Elders, Gaelic Storm, the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Aoife Scott, Talisk and more. You can also enjoy children’s activities, art in the park and a cultural area. Area hotels include festival tickets with your hotel reservations. Details at www.kcirishtfest.com/.

Irish Fest of the Fox Cities, Appleton, WI – Sept. 15-16.

Plans are underway for the festival’s return to Jones Park. Skerryvore, Scythian, the Nashville Celts and Steam Irish Quartet have been announced. Updates at www.irishfestfoxcities.com/.

Michigan Irish Music Festival, Muskegon, MI – Sept. 14-17.

The 4-day festival brings great Irish music to Muskegon – just across Lake Michigan from Door County. Leave your car and take the ferry for a great weekend of music! Details and updates are posted at www.michiganirish.org.

Indy Irish Fest, Indianapolis, IN – Sept. 22-23.

Join the Shenanigans!

Plans are in process for Indy Irish at Garfield Park. Details at www.indyirishfest.com as the plans develop.

Mactír Celebrates 10 years dancing!



Mactír Academy of Irish Dance is celebrating their 10th anniversary this May with a SOLD-OUT Celebration, May 6th @ The Hook & Ladder Theater! The 500+ audience members will enjoy an evening of food, drink, dancing, and music featuring 3 local bands. In addition, the Wolf Pack will debut their newest, most ambitious, energetic, & spirited numbers yet!

Mactír Academy of Irish Dance has been a staple of the South Minneapolis community since opening their doors in 2013. Starting with just 3 students, over the past decade Mactír has grown to be a premier, team-based Irish dance school with nearly 150 dancers of all ages and levels. Mactír means "wolf" in the Irish language, representing their director & founder, Emily Wolff, but also their philosophy and commitment to their community of families - the Wolf Pack!



To learn more about performances and classes at Mactír:

www.mactiririshdance.com
Info@mactiririshdance.com





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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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Kate Wade, MA

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The Gaelic Corner- By Will Kenny

A penny isn't worth very much these days. Indeed, it seems the U.S. Treasury occasionally flirts with the idea of eliminating the coin altogether. As we head faster and further down the path of digital payment, perhaps we'll come to a generation that has no physical concept of "a penny."

But we aren't there yet. And even if we get there, there are bound to be lots of expressions referring to pennies hanging around for a good while, in both English and Irish. Most of them come from a time when a penny was worth something. In fact, the penny wasn't the least valuable unit of currency in Ireland and England, where you could deal in the "ha'penny" as well.

The Irish word for "penny" is *pingin*. While it looks like it might be said something like PIN-ghin, typical pronunciation leaves out the "g" and kind of squishes the rest. You end up with something that sounds much more like "peen".

"A little money" is *pinginí beaga airgid*, "little pennies of money." And to make a little money, a small profit, on something is *pingin bheag a ghnóthú ar rud*, to "earn a small penny" on it. You might make that profit when you get an *phingin is airde*, "the highest penny" (best price) when you sell something. When you buy, of course, you want to get *luach do phingine*, "your penny's worth."

There is plenty of advice about how to get more pennies, of course, very much in the style of the wise sayings of our own Poor Richard. *Saothraíonn pingin pingin eile*, they say, "one penny earns another penny." Another prudent penny observation is *Is é cosaint na pingine a chruachas na pint*, "Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves."

Unfortunately, too many people fail to use their money wisely. They may squander their money by spending *an phingin bheag agus an phingin mhór*, "the small penny and the big penny." Others are guilty of "saving the penny and wasting the shilling," *ag sábháil na pingine is ag cur amú na scillinge*. In other words, they are "penny wise and pound foolish."

As na leathphinginí a thagann na pinginí
"Out of the halfpennies come the pennies," or
"A penny saved is a penny earned"



Naturally, these people end up without a *pingin rua*, a "red cent." Or we might say of someone who is broke, *Nil pingin ná leathphingin aici*, "She hasn't a penny nor a halfpenny," that is, "She hasn't a penny to her name."

By the way, not every English expression that mentions a "penny" is really about the coin. We talk about someone (or something) that keeps popping up, probably unwanted, as "turning up like a bad penny." In Irish, that recurring annoyance comes back *ar nós an tslaghdáin*, "like the (common) cold," or *ar nós na drochaimsire*, "like bad weather."

And then there's "in for a penny, in for a pound" -- references to two forms of currency that no longer exist in Ireland. That's not a problem as the Irish version doesn't reference money at all. We say, *Ó loisc mé an choinneal loiscfidh mé an t-ortalach*: "Since I burned the candle, I will burn the (last) inch." In short, "might as well go all the way."

Similarly missing from the modern currency system is the farthing, as in the expression, "It's not worth a brass farthing." Once again the Irish version takes the money out of it with *Ní fiú uisce na bprátaí é*, "It not worth the water from boiling the potatoes!"

As for the long-vanished shilling, you might want to get your hands on a *sparán na scillinge*. This is the "shilling purse" that belongs to a leprechaun and that can never be emptied.

At Gaeltacht Minnesota we're "in for a pound" with the Irish language. Stop by www.gaelminn.org to check us out.

TUNE OF THE MONTH

The Humours Of Drinagh

jig



Drinagh is a small village in County Cork, and the term humors (or humours) refers to the character or spirit of a place. The tune has been recorded by several of CIM's instructors and acquaintances - Brian Miller and Norah Rendell along with Máirtín de Cógáin on *From Cork with Love*, Brian Miller with his band Bua on *Down the Green Fields*. The tune is also in O'Neill's *Music of Ireland*.

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)

Old God's Time— Sebastian Barry— Viking Press 2023



Policeman Tom Kettle has led a quiet life since his retirement nine months ago. His needs are few: peace and quiet, a small apartment in a lean-to attached to a castle on the Irish Sea, an occasional pint at his local, memories of his wife and child. One day passes much like all the others, until the day two Gardai from his local precinct station knock on his door, apologetic for the intrusion, wanting to ask Tom "just a few questions" about a case Tom worked on years ago.

The cold case of a priest who died under suspicious circumstances decades ago has been reopened with new evidence. As the leading investigator at the time, Tom closed the case for lack of conclusive evidence. Now he recognizes from his colleagues' questions that his decisions regarding that case may now be under examination.

Given that his own memory can be sketchy and unreliable, Tom himself is uncertain of his role in the case of the priest's death, whether he overlooked or covered up some details, or worse yet, if he had a role in that death. Knowing that past and present events frequently run together in his memory Tom tries to extricate himself from the new investigation, all the while realizing that he himself is probably the key to solving the crime.

Life is complicated; so is love, so are the reasons people choose to act as they do. Retired Garda Kettle waits for whatever conclusion will decide his fate in "old God's time," as he puts it.

The novel is small but perfectly formed, exploring connections between love and grief, crimes of priests and coverups by authorities in former days, the mutability of memory, and the fallibility of policemen and ordinary people. A slow unraveling of the tangle of murder and other crimes raises more questions than it answers.

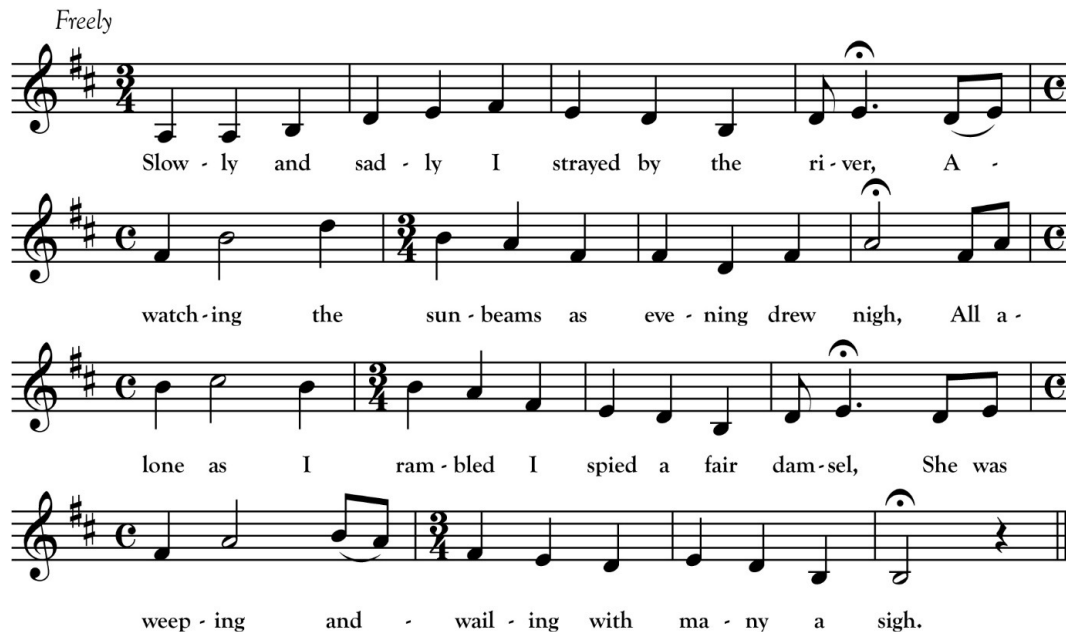
Sherry Ladig is a Saint Paul based trad musician and a former reviewer for the Hungry Mind Bookstore's newsletter, Fodder. Sherry welcomes ideas for books of Irish, Irish-American, or local interest to review, or---write a review yourself! She may be reached at ladig-dunquin@msn.com. Happy May reading!

Northwoods Songs: Irish Songs from Lumberjacks and Great Lakes Sailors

By Brian Miller

Lost Jimmie Whalen

Freely



Slow - ly and sad - ly I strayed by the ri - ver, A -
watch - ing the sun - beams as eve - ning drew nigh, All a -
lone as I ram - bled I spied a fair dam - sel, She was
weep - ing and - wail - ing with ma - ny a sigh.

Slowly and sadly I strayed by the river,
A-watching the sunbeams as evening drew nigh,
All alone as I rambled I spied a fair damsel,
She was weeping and wailing with many a sigh.

Sighing for one who is now lying lonely,
Mourning for one who no mortal can save,
As the dark foaming waters flow sadly around her,
As onward they roll o'er young Jimmie's grave.

"Jimmie," said she, "won't you come to my arms,
And give me sweet kisses as oft times you gave?
You promised you'd meet me this evening my darling,
O come dearest Jimmie, love, come from the grave!"

Slowly there rose from the depths of the river,
A vision of beauty far fairer than sun,
While red robes of crimson encircled around him,
Unto this fair maiden to speak he's begun.

"Why did you rise me from the realms of glory,
Back to this place where I once had to leave?
To clasp you once more in my fond loving arms?
To see you once more I have come from my grave."

"Jimmie" said she, "why not stay on earth with me,
Don't leave me here for to weep and to rave,
But if you won't mind me and bide here beside me,
Oh Jimmy take me to your cold silent grave."

"Darling to me you are asking a favor
That no earthy mortal can grant unto thee.
For death is the dagger that holds us asunder,
And wide is the gulf, love, between you and me."

"One fond embrace, love, and then I must leave you
One loving kiss, pet, and then we must part."
And cold were the arms he encircled around her,
While cold was the bosom she pressed to her heart.

Then straightway the vision did vanish before her,
Straightway to the sky he then seemed to go,
Leaving his loved one distracted and lonely,
Weeping and wailing in sadness and woe.

Throwing herself on the banks of the river,
Weeping and wailing her poor heart would break,
Sighing "My loved one, my lost Jimmie Whalen,
I will lie down and die by the side of your grave."

Norah Rendell and I have been singing this beautiful song for several years but somehow it has never made it onto Northwoods Songs!

It is one of two songs that commemorate the tragic drowning of a raftsmen named James Phalen around 1878 in Ontario. Collector Franz Rickaby, who prints both songs in his book *Ballads and Songs of the Shanty-Boy*, corresponded with multiple informants who knew the details of the Phalen drowning. It happened at King's Chute on Ontario's Mississippi River—a tributary of the Ottawa where the rafting crew was working for a boss named Peter McLaren who went on to be a senator. Phalen and two others were attempting to break a log jam at the "Upper Falls" section of the Chute. Phalen fell in and was swept under the logs.

Rickaby's informants told him that the other popular "Whalen" song, "Jim Whalen," was definitely based on the Phalen tragedy (apparently the name was pronounced "Whalen" in that part of Ontario). They said it was written and sung "with much pathos" by a local songsmith in Lanark, Ontario named John Smith.

Rickaby was not certain that the ghost-visiting narrative of "Lost Jimmie Whalen" referred to the same drowning victim as the more journalistic "Jim Whalen." Rickaby collected only a three verse fragment "Lost Jimmie Whalen" from Will Daugherty of Charlevoix, Michigan in 1919. A version collected in the 1950s in Ontario from Martin Sullivan by Edith Fowke clearly makes the Phalen connection by including an additional verse:

"Hard, hard were the struggles on the cruel Mississippi,
But encircled around her on every side,
Thinking of you as we conquered them bravely,
I was hoping some day for to make you my bride."

The above-transcribed melody comes from yet another Great Lakes region singer named Robert Walker who lived in Crandon, Wisconsin. Walker's melody, a relative of the one frequently used for "Lass of Glenshee," is similar to that used by Sullivan but I prefer the way Walker sings the opening bar. The text above is primarily from Walker with a few lines borrowed from the Daugherty and Sullivan versions and a couple changes of my own in the sixth stanza.

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

Comhghairdeas léi (Congratulations) and Best Wishes to Margaret Schmitz of Rince na Gréine. Marge has earned her ODCRN (full teacher certification) with *CRN Cumann Rince Náisiúnta*, and now serves as Assistant Dance Director for Rince na Gréine.

Band news: The Inland Seas welcomes back founding bandmember fiddler **Greta Hunstiger**. The fiddle and Greta's vocals are a lovely addition for the band!

Heartfelt condolences to the family and many friends of **Ann Wiberg** who recently passed away. Ann has been a mainstay in the Irish music and dance community for many years as a ceili dance teacher. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, May 18 from 2:00 to about 3:00 pm at Unity Unitarian Church, 733 Portland Ave, St. Paul. Visitation will be from 1:00 to about 1:45, but please allow from 1:00 to 1:20 for family only. Coffee, tea, and snacks along with Irish music and dance will follow immediately after in the Parish Hall. *Beannacht Dé ar a hanam. (God's blessings on her soul.)*

Sad to say – the Festival of Nations will not be happening this Spring. A Springtime tradition since 1932, the *International Institute* and festival leaders will be taking time to reimagine this wonderful celebration of all the cultures in our state. The organizers welcome input from the community. Get involved festivalofnations.com/2023-update/.

Comhghairdeas leo (Congratulations) and Best Wishes to Ashley Cheek and Alyssah Rengel on the merger of *Ardaigh Suas Academy* and *O'Neill School of Irish Dance*. The schools are coming together to collaborate, learn, and grow in COMMUNITY, expanding Irish dance in the northern suburbs of Minneapolis. All classes are now held at their brand-new studio in Albertville! Check them out at ASAIRISHDANCE.COM.

Before Suin Swann heads off to Canada at the end of May, she would like to invite her friends in the Irish community to drop by the Dubliner Pub before, during, or after the dancing on Wednesday, May 24 – any time after 6 p.m.— to share a pint and some memories.

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



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Celtic Junction Classes

[Marina Carr: The Early Plays](#)

3 Zoom sessions with Steven Griffith. Mondays. 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm. May 9 – 23. \$75

[The Irish Travellers: A People Set Apart](#)

1 Hybrid session with Jane Kennedy. Thursday. 6:30 – 7:45 pm. May 11. \$25

[The Political Yeats](#)

5 Hybrid meetings (in-person or on Zoom) with Matt Wright. Thursdays. 6:30-7:45 pm. May 18 – June 15. \$125

[Searching for the Sacred in Ireland's Built Environment](#)

5 Zoom sessions with Otto Paier. Wednesdays 6:30-7:45 pm. May 24- June 21. \$125

[Ogham as a Reflective Tool](#)

4 Zoom sessions with Jeanine Malec. Thursdays. 8:00 – 9:15 pm. June 1 – 22. \$100

Celtic Junction Arts Center has rolling admissions! Browse Irish language, history and literature, and creative arts classes at celticjunction.org/classes/

Celtic Junction Events

[Beltane Céilí Dance](#), May 5 @ 6:30 pm - 9 pm, \$10/ \$5 youth 17 and under.

Come join us for a céilí dance to celebrate Beltane and have fun. This event is open to anyone regardless of skill level; we'll teach the steps and the dances! Music will be provided by the Center for Irish Music Céilí Band.

[Noctambule in Concert](#), June 2 @ 7:30 - 9:30 pm, \$20/\$25. Youth 18 and under receive free admission.

MARLA FIBISH and BRUCE VICTOR are NOCTAMBULE. They play traditional and original music in a variety of forms. Their music is rendered with lush beauty, sensitivity, and a generous ration of humor on an array of strings – various guitars in varied tunings, mandola, mandolin, cittern, tenor guitar – and their blended voices.





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Irish Fair Tickets Available Now!

Join us for all or some of 3 Days - August 11-13, 2023. All are welcome to join in this celebration of all things Irish with music, dance, sports and more! Irish Fair of Minnesota's annual festival is recognized as one of the top family-friendly events in the Twin Cities.

HEADLINERS & MORE
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SATURDAY

socks in jigjam
doolin' frying pan
wild colonial bhoys
clare cunningham

SUNDAY

jigjam
doolin' frying pan
clare cunningham
screaming orphans

FRIDAY

clare cunningham
doolin' jigjam
gaelic storm
wild colonial bhoys

real irish comedy tour - Fri & Sat

AUGUST 11, 12, 13 2023

Harriet Island
St Paul, MN

IRISHFAIR.COM

Follow us on Facebook/Instagram (IrishFairMN) for updates and details. www.irishfair.com.

General admission & VIP tickets available. Discount for 55+ new this year and kids under 12 are free. Show your support and buy your tickets today at <https://tickets.irishfair.com/tickets>.
Then tell all your friends to come too.



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IRISH NETWORK-MINNESOTA

6TH ANNUAL
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JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE JAMES JOYCE'S ULYSSES
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 FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.IRISHNETWORKMN.COM

Save the Date



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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:

Bridget Dinter
Hudson Irish Dance
Stu Janis
Nathan and Becky Kennedy Family
Mike O'Connor
Jim Young 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



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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

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Vice President	Jan Casey
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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 _____ 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.	