

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

## Irish Dancer Sets Ambitious Goals for Herself

By Jan Casey

Alison Kohlhas of Minneapolis has been dancing since she was four years old. Alison discovered Irish dance as an adult and thought that studying dance would be a good complement to her online study of the Irish language as well as fun! Because she has studied other dance styles over the years, Alison can see the similarities with ballet and tap. She appreciates that Irish dance can be danced in a line, solo and with partners – and that it can be danced a cappella. She also loves “the explosive energy.”

Alison began her Irish dance journey in the adult beginner class at the *Mactir Academy of Irish Dance*. In that class, most of the other students were parents of school age children and many had little to no previous dance experience. Alison was inspired by her fellow students’ commitment. She told us, “Seeing how hard they practiced and how they gave their all every class encouraged me to do the same.” Alison moved on to the adult intermediate class, where she wound up studying virtually because of COVID. She found great benefit in having the constant of Irish dance to help her cope with the stressors of life during the pandemic and the tension following the tragic death of George Floyd. Alison also found that the dancers and instructors quickly came to feel like family. She commented that “in all my dance experience, this is unique and not something I had ever before experienced.” Her recommender told us that Alison has truly made dance a priority, investing in both soft and hard shoes and attending extra rehearsals to be ready for upcoming performances. She also devotes time to practice between her weekly classes.

Alison is also influenced by Lauren Smyth from *RiverDance*. Smyth was at first unsuccessful at joining the cast of *Riverdance*, but with hard work and perseverance she succeeded. Alison remarked, “She showed that by setting goals, believing in them, and having a growth mindset one can achieve one’s goals.” Alison’s goal is to join the advanced class at Mactir. Alison is using her grant for tuition. Specifically, she tells us “From this dance experience, I hope to refine my dance technique, learn more skills used in Irish Dance and gain a greater knowledge of the Irish Dance tradition, how it has changed over the centuries, and how it differs from school to school.”

Alison performs as often as she can, joining her Mactir teammates for her school’s *Paddy’s Day with the Pack* shows and our *Day of Irish Dance* as well as Irish Fair and a collection of community appearances.

Alison has become active in the Irish community, volunteering for our St. Patrick’s Day festivities at Landmark Center and for Irish Fair of Minnesota. In the process, she has learned about other Irish traditions and Irish dance styles and connected with others who have an interest in Irish culture.

The Irish Music and Dance Association is happy to make a grant to an adult who is determined to build new skills and delighted to be able to help this dedicated dancer pursue her goals and grow.



*Jan serves on the board of Irish Arts Minnesota and coordinates the IAM Educational Grant Program.*



**Paul McCluskey Receives Irish Fair's 2022 Curtin Conway Award**

The Curtin-Conway Award honors Leah Curtin and Roger Conway, two of the original organizers of Irish Fair. The honor is presented annually to someone who has made significant contributions to the Irish cultural community in the Twin Cities and/or Minnesota. The award includes a \$1,000 donation by the Irish Fair to the Irish cultural charity of the recipient's choice, and the name of the honoree is placed on a plaque that is on public display at The Celtic Junction Arts Center.

Paul McCluskey is known in the Twin Cities Irish community for his heartfelt devotion to Irish ceili dancing. Paul will dance anywhere, any time and is happy to get any group up on their feet for ceili dancing at the drop of a hat. He regularly teaches and calls the dancing at the Dubliner Pub every Wednesday evening. Paul has been a devoted long-term volunteer for Irish Fair of Minnesota where he served in a variety of roles, including many years coordinating the Crossroads Tent, and was always willing to lend a hand wherever it was needed. Paul is a strong advocate for making Irish Fair as "green" as possible to minimize the environmental impact of the event. These efforts have included increasing recycling, reducing the use of plastics, and providing bicycle racks. Paul is also a great friend of Irish Arts Minnesota, serving for many years as volunteer coordinator for our St. Patrick's Day festivities and introducing recycling at Landmark Center.

*According to Irish Fair:*

"Paul has given back in so many ways," said Tom Whelan, Irish Fair's Board Chair. "In his professional life, he has supported a number of non-profit organizations. In the Irish cultural community, he's been the go-to guy for social dance, leading regular dance lessons and sessions at The Dubliner and other sites. Paul is a past board member at Irish Fair. And he's always one of the 'heavy-lifters' as Irish Fair is built-up and deconstructed on Harriet Island."

"We couldn't think of an individual more deserving of this year's Curtin Conway Award than Paul McCluskey," added Whelan.

McCluskey received the award at Irish Fair's opening ceremonies on August 12. Previous awardees include Jim Brooks, Mike Whalen and Jan & Mike Casey.

## The Trip to Mullingar

By Brian Miller

This August, 18 Center for Irish Music students travelled to Mullingar, Ireland for the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann (All Ireland Fleadh). Fourteen youths and three adults attended Monday-Thursday music classes through the Fleadh's Scoil Éigse program and six students (plus CIM instructor Ryan Behnke) competed in the All Ireland music competitions on the weekend. I was lucky to make the trip myself as a CIM instructor. CIM fiddle teacher Mary Vanorny was also there for the full week with her family.

Located about an hour west of Dublin in County Westmeath, Mullingar was a great host town for the event. After a busy opening night the preceding Sunday (President Higgins was in town), Scoil Éigse classes began, and we settled in to the rhythm of the week. Those of us not attending classes had plenty of time to savor our tea and explore Mullingar and the surrounding area. Resident CIM blueberry connoisseur Bev O'Connor kept the O'Connor-Ford-Miller house supplied with the best of the local market each day! Classes wrapped up each afternoon, and some attended the 3pm concerts featuring the Scoil Éigse tutors in the beautiful Mullingar Arts Centre. Others took their instruments downtown to try busking for a few euros.

Busking at the Fleadh is a thriving tradition and by the end of the week, there were buskers of all ages in front of nearly every shop window in Mullingar. The four Ebinger kids from CIM loved busking and earned enough to buy themselves a complete set of fleadh hoodies (over €100—paid all in coins of course). String-loving CIM students Derek Anderson, Morien McBurnie and Owen Larsen (aka Twice Banjaxed) fell in love with the temporary Fleadh banjo shop and became regular visitors between bouts of busking. The trio was interviewed by the local paper and performed live on RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta!



*CIM families behind Kerrigan's pub in Mullingar*

A couple families were lucky to find accommodation in the Bed and Breakfast above Kerrigan's pub just north of the town center, and that became our defacto meeting place each evening. With Guinness and Club Orange available and a fish and chips counter around the corner, we were well stocked. These times sharing stories from the day (and the night before) at the picnic tables behind the pub were rich community-building experiences full of laughter and friendship.

Some nights, we got our instruments out and started our own session at Kerrigan's. Others, those of us who hadn't had enough, went session hunting in the multitude of Mullingar pubs. The town was ready for us, and there were almost as many "Musicians Welcome" signs as eager case-toting musicians. We used WhatsApp to let each other know where the tunes were good and where seats might be available - a challenge as the week went on. The sessions were a blast and CIM kids were in the thick of it all week. They played with young musicians from Ireland at the funky Columbia pub and with New York kids around the corner at The Druid's Chair.

Friendships made over tunes often last a lifetime, and the Fleadh is a great opportunity to meet up with old friends and pick up where the last set of reels left off. My own dear friends, Tommie Cunniffe and Michelle Finnerty from Cork City, came up and it was a treat to introduce the CIM musicians to their musical kids Bláithín, Sadhbh and Éanna and to play a few polkas together. We had a surprise visit from former CIM student Moira Flagstad on Saturday.



*Claire Vanorny and Ginger Anderson stand near the Fleadh sign*



*CIM students sessioning at the Columbia pub*

She was just in time to help remove an errant pigeon that flew into Kerrigan's and sat down next to Tommie's accordion! Mary Vanorny and her daughter Claire chatted with 2021 Minnesota Irish Music Weekend guest fiddler Bríd Harper after her CD launch concert. Mary, Claire and Ginger Anderson also had a meet up with renowned Chicago fiddler Liz Carroll and enjoyed a few secluded tunes with her. That same night, I was walking down the rather chaotic main street with 2022 MIM guest Sky Kelsey when we ran into Limerick-based fiddler John Daly who used to live in Chicago. Several CIM students happened by at the same time and, miraculously, there were empty chairs on the sidewalk! Soon we had a magic late night session under the lights of the P.W. Shaw hardware store.



*Session on the street with Nevellie Larson, Allegra Larson, Sky Kelsey, John Daly, Brian Miller, Derek Anderson, Morien McBurnie and Owen Larson*

Competitions commenced Friday afternoon sending us to all corners of Greater Mullingar to find the various venues and support the seven CIM qualifiers who made the trip. Our musicians played beautifully and impressed all of us with their calm under pressure. CIM students competed on concertina, fiddle, fiddle slow airs, whistle, whistle slow airs, flute, flute slow airs, accompaniment, duets, miscellaneous, banjo and mandolin. Instructor Ryan Behnke entered on uilleann pipes and uilleann pipes slow airs. These musicians poured their hearts into preparing for these competitions and every performance I heard (I made it to nine!) was astounding.

Placing in the top three at the All Ireland comes from countless hours of dedicated practice and deep engagement with the music and is an amazing achievement for anyone. We were delighted on Friday evening when the news went around that Claire Vanorny had placed second in fiddle slow airs! This was the first second place earned by a CIM student at the All Ireland. Then, on Sunday, Ryan Behnke came into town with his pipes and gave us another happy surprise when he took second in the senior uilleann pipes slow airs. How wonderful to have two members of our CIM community recognized for their music in this way!



*Claire Vanorny at the fiddle competition*



*Ryan Behnke and Brian Miller en route to the uilleann pipes competition*

There are way too many stories to tell from this Fleadh trip! We all came home full of memories that will last a lifetime, and each time I meet a CIM student who was there I can sense a new enthusiasm for the music and our community. Thank you to all the incredibly supportive families and to the CIM for asking me to be part of the fun.

*Report on the CIM's trip to the 2022 All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil by Brian Miller*

## The Gaelic Corner- By Will Kenny

It is a lovely afternoon, hinting of autumn, that finds me in my office with “my fingers flying across the keyboard” as I write this column, quite literally, *mo mhéara ag imeacht go héadrom thar na heochrach*. That last word, *heocharach*, is a form of *eochair* for “key.”



Gaeiltacht  
Minnesota

*lámh* is often used for both “hand” and “arm,” so it can be a little confusing. And a “rule of thumb” becomes a “rule of hand,” *riail láimhe*, in Irish.

In English, we use the same word, “key,” when we are opening a door or when we are typing on those little squares with letters on them, that is, the “keyboard.” In Irish, too, we use the same word, *eochair*, for either unlocking things or for the keys that we press on the keyboard. But we don’t type on a “keyboard” in Irish, we type on a *méarchlár*, a “finger board.”

*Méar* is the Irish word for a finger. It’s another example of where those accents, or fadas, are important. Without the accent, *mear* means “quick, nimble.” Indeed, I could recast that first phrase I used earlier, *mo mhéara ag imeacht go mear thar na heochrach* to say “my fingers go nimbly across the fingerboard.”

Various particular fingers have their special names. *Ordóg* is used for “thumb,” and there are two special words for “little finger,” *lúidín* and *laidhricín*.

For some other fingers, English and Irish versions are basically the same. *Méar mheáin* translates directly as “middle finger.” It is also called *an mhéar fhada*, “the long finger,” and to “put something on the long finger,” *rud a chur ar an méar fhada*, is to postpone something, perhaps indefinitely.

And the “ring finger” is usually called *méar an fháinne* (“finger of the ring”). Strangely, it can also be called *mac an aba*: “son of the abbot!”

As you would expect, there are phrases that refer to “finger” in one language, but not the other. For instance, we might observe of someone that he is “Irish to his very fingertips.” In Irish, no fingers are involved, as that lad would be *Éireannach go smior*, “to the marrow.” But to have something “at your fingertips” is indeed literally translated by *barra na méar*.

Your fingers are found, naturally enough, on your “hand,” which is at the end of your “arm.” But the Irish word

Fold those fingers into a “fist” and you have a *dorn*. This root is also easily seen in the word *dornálaíocht*, which is the Irish word for “boxing.”

When it comes to the digits of the foot, *ladhar* can be used for “toe,” the *ladhar mhór* and the *ladhar bheag* being the “big toe” and the “little toe” respectively.

But it is just as common to hear “toe” referenced as a *méar coise*, or a “foot finger.” If you choose this option, your “big toe” is your *ordóg coise*, or “foot thumb.”

Meanwhile, in English we might say, “She didn’t lift a finger to help me”. In Irish, that becomes, *Ní chorraigh sí cos léi chun cabhrú liom*, “she didn’t move her leg to help.” By the way, as with the hand/arm situation, *cos* means both “foot” and “leg.”

We have all had things “slip through our fingers.” When those are real, physical things, we are “butter-fingered” or “all thumbs,” we say, *Tá méara sliopacha orm*. That *sliopacha* is an interesting word, as its fundamental meaning is numbness from cold, that state where your fingers get so cold they don’t work properly.

But another translation of “slip through my fingers” would be, *Scaoil mé trí mo ladhracha é*. *Ladhracha* is the plural of that “toe” word *ladhar*. But its primary meaning is “the space between toes or fingers.” We don’t really have a word for that in English.

To “go on the thumb,” *Téigh ar an ordóg*, is to “hitchhike.” As for the expression, “She has him under her thumb,” there’s no “thumb.” In fact, the limb in question doesn’t even belong to a human in the Irish version: *Tá sé faoi bhos an chait aici*, “She has him under the palm of the cat.”

Next time you find your “fingers” (*méara*) on a “finger-board” (*méarchlár*), find your way to [www.gaelminn.org](http://www.gaelminn.org) to see what we are up to.

*Chomh díomhaoin le lúidín an phiobaire*  
"As idle as the piper's little finger"

## TUNE OF THE MONTH

### John Collin's Fancy

*polka*



The musical notation for "John Collin's Fancy" is presented in four staves. The key signature is D major (one sharp) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in treble clef. Suggested chords are indicated above the notes: D, A/E, D/F#, A, D, D, A/E, D/F#, A, D, D, D/F#, Em, G, A, D, D/F#, A, D.

We came across John Collin's Fancy on a lively performance of the Sliabh Notes Trio (which includes Minnesota Irish Music Weekend guest artist Matt Cranitch) playing at the Burren Backroom Series. It was also recorded by Johnny O'Leary on Dance Music from the Cork/Kerry Border. John Collins is described as having been a student of great Sliabh Luachra fiddle and accordion player Padraig O'Keeffe.

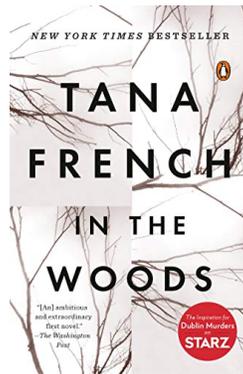
Respectfully submitted by Rosa Wells on behalf of the Center for Irish Music (CIM), a traditional Irish music school based in St. Paul, located inside the Celtic Junction Arts Center. We publish a tune each month with dots (sheet music), suggested chords and some basic background information including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



836 Prior Ave North, St. Paul MN 55104

## On Leabhragan (The Bookcase)

**In the Woods** — Tana French — *Penguin Books 2007*



Tana French's thrilling Dublin Murder series has now been adapted to the screen, a Starz production, with great first reviews. But for true psychological thrills, nothing beats reading the original books. The author has a knack for creating creepy atmosphere, compelling characters, and just enough plot twists to keep you flipping the pages well into the late-night hours.

*In the Woods* is a story within a story. Thirty-one year old detective Rob Ryan is assigned a case of a murdered twelve-year-old girl found in dense woods near a council estate outside of Dublin. Detective Ryan has his own dark secret; twenty years earlier, in the same woods, he and two friends went missing. Only he was found alive, covered in blood and scratches, with no memory of what happened. His two friends were never found. Ryan was sent to an English boarding school and set out reinventing a new identity. His parents changed his name to avoid unwelcome publicity, and he found it easier to become someone else. No one on the Dublin Murder Squad suspects his connection to the old case, and the further he delves into the present murder, the more uncanny connections to the old case pop up. Detective Ryan and his partner Cassie Maddox are uncovering secrets and suspects everywhere they look; added to that, the wood is being leveled for a motorway and the local politicians are suspected of graft, corruption, and a possible kidnapping-turned-murder. Ryan and Maddox must move quickly before the evidence is literally paved over. The case strains Ryan's sanity and memory to the near breaking point, jeopardizing the case and his working relationship with his partner. The creeping malevolence of what happened in the woods, past and present, brings out the worst in human motives and behavior.

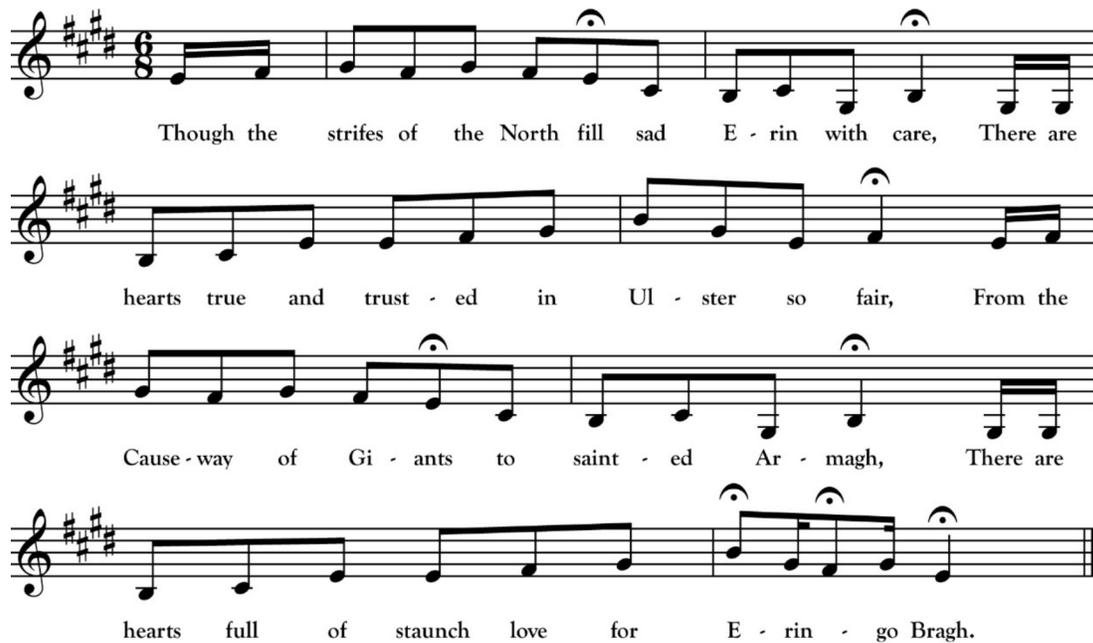
Do yourself a favor: read Tana French's mysteries before you see the adaptation to the TV series (or even if you don't see the series). You'll be glad you did.

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

## Northwoods Songs: Irish Songs from Lumberjacks and Great Lakes Sailors

By Brian Miller

### The Four Provinces aka The Strifes of the North



Though the strifes of the North fill sad E - rin with care, There are  
hearts true and trust - ed in Ul - ster so fair, From the  
Cause - way of Gi - ants to saint - ed Ar - magh, There are  
hearts full of staunch love for E - rin - go Bragh.

Though the strifes of the north fill sad Erin with care,  
There are hearts true and trusted in Ulster so fair,  
From the Causeway of Giants to sainted Armagh,  
There are hearts full of staunch love for Erin go Bragh.

*Chorus:*

Land of the west, fairest gem of the sea,  
The home of the brave, though not of the free,  
Ever loving though tearful, ah, who would not draw,  
The last drop of his life's blood for Erin go Bragh.

From Tralee to Kinsale there is patriot ground,  
With cities of beauty fair Munster is crowned,  
With Killarney's bright lakes there are none to compare,  
And the homes of the South are bright, merry and fair.

In the vale of lovely Leinster how proudly we find,  
The charms of the North, South and West are combined,  
With Wicklow's fair mountains that top the blue sea,  
The queen of all cities is Dublin machree.

Of all earthly delights the sweet West has but few,  
But Connaught was faithful and Connaught was true,  
And the same spirit lives in the west as of old,  
Bold Connaught was faithful when Ireland was sold.

We take a break from the songs of Michael Dean this month for a rare and intriguing song from Mayo-born singer Dominic Caulfield who lived in St. Paul. Charlie Heymann recently found a tape recording of Dominic singing some of his songs for Tom Dahill, Barbara Dahill and John Curtin around 1976 in a room upstairs from MacCafferty's Pub on Grand Avenue. The above song appears on the recording.

Dominic called this song "The Strifes of the North," but after some intensive searching I was able to locate a text-only version of it under the title "The Four Provinces" in *Well-Known Irish Songs*, a scarce songbook published in 1924 by Irish Industries Depot, Inc. Thanks to a copy digitized by Harvard, the book's text is available online. Other than Dominic and the text in *Well-Known Irish Songs*, I have found no trace of this one.

Dominic himself was from County Mayo, and I hope to learn more about his life here in St. Paul (he had siblings here and one sister came about 1905 so my guess is that he immigrated around that time). On the recording he says he lived first with a brother in the Midway neighborhood before moving to Selby Ave.

The song, though it praises the patriotism of all four provinces, seems to be from a Dubliner's perspective. The version in *Well-Known Irish Songs* has "In my own lovely Leinster." I kept Dominic's verse order above but changed some lines to match the print version when the meaning was clearer. The melody is from Dominic though the transcription does little to capture his light and leisurely singing style. I hope to make the recording available through the McKiernan Library website soon!

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*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](http://www.evergreentrad.com). My hope is that others will learn some of these songs and make them their own as I have. -Brian Miller*





# Irish Arts Minnesota

September  
2022  
Meán  
Fómhair

40<sup>th</sup> Year, Issue No. 7

## **Irish and Celtic Music at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival**

Weekends from Aug.20 through Oct. 2, plus Labor Day Sept. 5 and Festival Friday Sept. 30

King Henry and his royal court invite one and all to his 16th Century European village featuring 16 stages of live entertainment. This is the 51<sup>st</sup> Season for the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. Huzzah!

Visitors to the Realm will hear lots of Irish and Celtic Music throughout the Festival. Several of our favorite Celtic bands got their start at the Renaissance Festival.

### **Battlelegs**

The Midwest's disputed leader of Irish Face-melting Folk-Rock. With a perfected blend of comedy, energy, memorable stories, shredding accordion licks, spoon solos, and mug-swinging sarcasm, Battlelegs is dressed to impress.

### **The Dregs**

The Dregs have been performing "music" and "comedy" for over ten years. If you like silly musicalness or musical silliness, The Dregs are probably the band for you. They aren't afraid to butcher a song in the name of comedy!

### **Four Pints Shy**

Playing music at the Renaissance Festival in one form or another for the past 16 years, Twin Cities-based septet Four Pints Shy combines Irish, English, and Bluegrass music into a high energy performance experience.

### **The Inland Seas**

From rousing pub songs to haunting ballads, The Inland Seas belt out Irish, Scottish, and English folk with heart and grit. They'll draw you in with songs of the sea, of love and loss, of whiskey and wild nights.

### **Kindred**

Founded at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival in 1993, Kindred band members share Celtic heritage and a love for the sounds of their common ancestry. After a decade hiatus from music and merrymaking, Kindred is returning to the festival with harmonious original songs to whisk your mind away to the isles.

### **Leprechaun Pirates**

Being a musician on a pirate ship is an essential job, so is keeping up the morale of the crew between prizes. It can also be a bit of a chore, as any crew member can request a tune, and even roust the musician out of bed.

### **Mistress Kathleen**

Kathleen uses hammered dulcimer and voice to carry on the traditional songs of her ancestors: from the clear open prayers of medieval monasteries to the passions and beliefs of Irish travelers, to the radical reformers of Shaker villages in the New World.

### **Too Broke Blokes**

Too Broke Blokes plays traditional Irish music really really fast. And by fast, we mean ludicrous speed.

### **Royal Scottish Dancers**

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society – Twin Cities (Minnesota) Branch is a non-profit organization of individuals interested in learning and participating in the art of Scottish country dancing.

## ***Celtic Themed weekends for special entertainment:***

### **Highland Fling – August 27 - 28**

The Highland Games will have you cheering for your favorite athlete in this 7 event series.

### **Shamrocks & Shenanigans – September 24 - 25**

Transport to Ireland by visiting our Celtic Village, where you can find local Irish vendors and fun for all ages. Watch the Mashed Potato eating contest, join the kilt competition, or kick up your heels with traditional Irish music and dancing. **Green Fire Irish Dancers** will perform.

## Smidiríní\*

(\*Irish for 'Bits and Pieces')  
by Copper Shannon

*Comhghairdeas leo (Congratulations to)* two IAM Educational Grant recipients who placed at the *Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann* in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, Ireland (lovingly known as the All Irelands). These are very noteworthy results as these fine musicians were competing with musicians from all over the world.

- **Ryan Behnke** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in uilleann pipes slow airs for Over 18. Ryan received an Educational Grant in 2011 to study the Highland Great Pipes, with a special focus on Piobaireachd, the complex extended compositions which include elaborate formal variations. Ryan turned his focus to uilleann pipes for a grant in 2013 to learn the art of reed making for this very challenging and most Irish of instruments.
- **Claire Vanorny** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in 12-15 fiddle slow airs. Claire received an Educational Grant in 2020 to study remotely with Gaelic Storm's fiddler Katie Grennan. Katie invited Claire on stage to perform with Gaelic Storm at Irish Fair 2021.

*The word is out.* **Dòrain** will be releasing their new album "False Orchard" at an Album Release Party on Oct. 1 at *the Celtic Junction Arts Center*. They tell us "Enjoy lush four-part vocal harmonies, traditional songs ranging from classic Child ballads and Scots Gaelic gems to works of the Scottish romantics set to music, and grad tunes guaranteed to get your toes tapping."

*More good music coming our way!* **The Northerly Gales** will be releasing their new album "Road Back Home" at an Album Launch Party at *the Celtic Junction Arts Center* on Sept. 23. See you there!

*Sharing our treasures.* What a pleasure to see some of our own traditional musicians and dancers featured at *Irish Fest* in Milwaukee (the granddaddy of Irish festivals). **Danny Diamond** and **Dáithí Sproule** graced the Celtic Roots Stage (with **Anna Lethert** and **Danielle Enblom** stepping in for fun), **Danielle Enblom** taught a sean-nós dance workshop and **Sue Spencer** accompanied *the Oireachtas Show* in the Gaeltacht Area. Danny and Danielle also taught at the Irish Fest Summer School in the week before Irish Fest.

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](mailto:admin@centerforirishmusic.org)

Or visit our website  
[www.centerforirishmusic.org](http://www.centerforirishmusic.org)

Dedicated to Handing Down the Tradition

## Celtic Junction Concerts



**[Oisín Mac Diarmada, Seán Gavin, and Patrick Doocey in Concert](#): September 15 @ 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm. \$20 - \$25. Youth 18 and under receive free admission.**

These leading trad exponents will make a rare trio appearance at the Celtic Junction in St. Paul. The trio play regularly as part of touring acts *Téada* and *Irish Christmas in America*, having first come together as part of the sean-nós dance show *Atlantic Steps*, and represent a style of music rooted primarily in the North West of Ireland.



**[Hannah Flowers Album Launch](#): September 16 @ 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm. \$20 - \$25. Youth 18 and under receive free admission.**

Join Irish harpist and singer Hannah Flowers for an evening of harp tunes and traditional songs as she celebrates the release of her new album "Hall-Gate House." The album consists of six sets of tunes that share their melodies with song lyrics, five traditional Irish songs, and an original composition, the title track. She is honored to be joined on four tracks by her friend and mentor, the world-class guitarist and traditional singer, Dáithí Sproule.



**[Northerly Gales "Road Back Home" Album Launch](#): September 23 @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm. \$15 - \$20. Youth 18 and under receive free admission.**

"Road Back Home," the second release by The Northerly Gales, is the culmination of over three years of hard work and good craic. Featuring traditional and modern pieces alongside original compositions, the album will take you from the raucous to the serene and back again. Opening sets by the Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band and Twice Banjaxed, followed by the main event – launching "Road Back Home" with The Northerly Gales!



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# IAM Members and Donors

**Members are reminded that IAM membership is renewable annually. If you haven't renewed for 2022, please do that today!**

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

**The Jeff Moriarty Family  
Essannay Show It**

## **New and renewing supporting members will receive the following:**

- A one-year (January to December 2022) subscription to the IAM's monthly email.
- "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 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 [www.imda-mn.org/calendar](http://www.imda-mn.org/calendar).

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](mailto:Info@irishartsmn.org)

[www.IMDA-MN.org](http://www.IMDA-MN.org)



# Irish Arts Minnesota

September  
2022  
Meán  
Fómhair

40<sup>th</sup> Year, Issue No. 7

## 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: [Bridget@irishartsmn.org](mailto:Bridget@irishartsmn.org)

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## 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      |

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**Questions? Comments? Contact Us!**

[Info@irishartsmn.org](mailto:Info@irishartsmn.org)

**Ceílí CORNER** By Bhloscaidh O'Keane  
Check [www.lomamor.org](http://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.

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Name:</b>   | <b>Date:</b>                      |
| <b>Address:</b>  | <b>How did you hear about us?</b> |
| <b>Membership Type (circle one)</b><br>Individual \$20 _____ Family \$25 _____ by US Mail \$35 _____<br>Band/Organization/Business \$25 _____ Name _____<br>(Name of Band/Organization/Business)   |                                   |
| <b>Interests (circle all that apply)</b><br>Music      Dance      Theatre      Language      Volunteer   |                                   |
| <b>E-mail Address:</b> _____ <b>Phone Number:</b> _____<br>Your monthly newsletter is delivered electronically via e-mail. Please advise us at <a href="mailto:Info@irishartsmn.org">Info@irishartsmn.org</a> if your e-mail address changes .   |                                   |
| Supporting members who contribute \$35+ annually may receive their newsletter by U S Mail. ___ Request US Mail<br>Tear out the above form and send it with a check made out to "IMDA" to:<br>The IMDA Membership Coordinator c/o Jan Casey 400 Macalester St.<br>St. Paul, MN 55105<br>Or visit the IAMwebsite ( <a href="http://www.imda.org">www.imda.org</a> ) to pay electronically. |                                   |

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