



Irish Arts Minnesota



42nd Year, Issue No. 6

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

Dancers and Musicians Continue to Shine with IAM Grants

By Jan Casey

Irish Arts Minnesota is delighted to announce five recipients of IAM Educational Grants for 2024! The goal of the Irish Music and Dance Association's Educational Grant Program is to make new learning experiences available to devoted students of the traditional arts of Ireland. In each case, the applicant has already made a significant commitment to their field of study.

Sincere thanks to everyone who came out to our 2024 St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration and Day of Irish Dance! And thanks to everyone who purchased an IAM Dancer T-shirt this Spring. And to everyone who came out to warm my heart at IAM Honors last September. These activities help to make the grants possible.

Here's a brief introduction to this year's grant recipients. Look for a more detailed profile of the recipients and their plans in the coming months.

Musician Teddy Brandt of St. Paul studies accordion at the Center for Irish Music. Teddy will use his grant for virtual accordion lessons with Sean McComiskey and for expenses associated with the week-long Scoil Eige in Wexford, Ireland this Summer.

Dancer Anika Crouch of Coon Rapids studies with Eilís Academy of Irish Dance in Anoka. Anika will use her grant for registration and travel expenses for dance competitions, with a focus on Oireachtas.

Musician Will Johnson of St. Paul plays uilleann pipes. Will plans to use his grant for travel expenses for the St. Louis Tionol (gathering of pipers).

Musician Ellie Schirmer of Inver Grove Heights studies whistle and flute with the Center for Irish Music. Ellie will use her grant to help with the purchase of her own 6-keyed wooden flute made by Eamonn Cotter in Ireland.

Dancer Zachariah Vandermeuse-Siteki of Minneapolis dances with Eilís Academy of Irish Dance in Anoka. Zach will use his grant for travel and registration for the North American Irish Dance National Championships in Texas.

As a part of the grant program, each recipient will bring their new skills back to an IAM event at some time in the future. And each will continue to enrich our community in the years to come as they learn and grow.

Best wishes to these dedicated students of the traditional arts of Ireland. And thank you to the teachers and community elders who assisted IAM in evaluating the applications by writing letters of recommendation for the applicants.

Jan serves on the IAM Board and coordinates the IAM Educational Grant Program.



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We need your help! Who should Irish Arts MN Honor in 2024?

An evening to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions of some very special members of our Irish community – that's IAM Honors. It's always a wonderful evening – a gathering of like-minded friends taking the time to let an important and beloved member of our community know how important they are and how much we appreciate them!

Over the years, Irish Arts Minnesota / IMDA has honored a wide range of very deserving community members – people who have helped to foster the rich Irish music, dance, and cultural life of the Twin Cities that we all enjoy.

Previous IAM/IMDA Honorees include musicians Martin McHugh, Ann Heymann, Paddy O'Brien, Tom Dahill, Laura MacKenzie, John McCormick, and Bill Conlan, dancers Fred Kedney, Jenny Bach, Mary McNeive and Sheila Jordan, writers Lar Burke and Erin Hart, Irish language instructors Frank Joyce and Will Kenny, newspaper publisher Jim Brooks, community leader and entrepreneur Kieran Folliard and long-time volunteer Jan Casey.

The Irish Arts Minnesota Board would like to invite IAM members to nominate candidates for IMDA Honors 2024. The recipient must be a living member of our Irish community who has made long term and significant contributions to our cultural life.

If you have someone in mind, please send along a note to Amber Ladany, IAM President at president@IrishArtsMN.org by June 30. Please include as much background as possible – we want to hear the whole story.



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.

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

Because of the number of dancers qualifying for the award this year, we split the favorite memories of Irish dance from our dancers into two parts. This is the concluding portion as earlier memories were shared in the May newsletter.

Gabby Lenzmeier ~ *Corda Mór Irish Dance*

"Irish dance has brought me so many amazing memories. I am most grateful for the friendships I have gained throughout my dance journey. The friendships and community that Irish dance has given me is like no other. My memories with my dance community are endless, but I have enjoyed bursts of laughter during dance classes, hugs after majors recalls/results, smiles on stage during the St. Patrick's Day performances, and cheering on my friends during awards. This community is so special, it's truly a family."

Mairi Ling ~ *Rince na Chroi*

"All the all school rehearsals leading up to big shows like 'From the Stage to Your Heart' and Irish Fair."

Svea Lund ~ *Ardaigh Suas Academy, O'Neill School, Rince Nua Irish Dance*

"Watching the older girls at Irish Fair."

Isabelle Mimick ~ *Corda Mór Irish Dance*

"One of my top memories is qualifying, competing, and recalling at the World Irish Dance Championships in Belfast. It was the 50th anniversary of the championships and so much fun. The St. Patrick's Day tour that Corda Mór does every year is a lot of fun and we always put on great shows for the public. The tour complements the solo competition because it's all about having fun. I have also enjoyed all the friends I've made over the years. I'm thankful for my dance teachers, especially Fauna Gille. She has always believed in me."

Ava Motl ~ *O'Shea Irish Dance*

"Traveling with friends for dance competitions."

Sophia Motl ~ *O'Shea Irish Dance*

"Competing with friends."

Chrystal O'Hanlon ~ *Rince na Gréine, Loring Community School Irish Dance*

"Working with the amazing children in the after school Irish Dance program at Loring Community School was an absolute joy. Not only did they get to dance on the main stage during Day of Irish Dance, but we also brought them to an international competition, where they took home more than 50 solo medals. Also, as someone who began dancing at age 40, I have a special place in my heart for my adult students. Having the opportunity to help adult dancers chase their dance dreams is something I truly cherish."

Molly O'Malley ~ *Rince na Chroi*

"My favorite memory of Irish dance is performing at the Irish Fair of MN on the Dublin stage alongside Gaelic Storm."

Lucy Paddock ~ *Rince na Chroi*

"Being with my friends at RNC's dance camp."

Lauren Petrie ~ *Corda Mór Irish Dance*

"My favorite memories are St. Patrick's Day tours and traveling to dance competitions."



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Lyla Preshiren ~ Hudson Irish Dance

“My favorite Irish dance memory is attending the Riverdance Summer School in Boston this past summer. I performed the timeless show alongside some of the world’s best dancers and the professional instructors. It was an amazing experience and I look forward to attending every year now.”

Maura Regan ~ Rince na Chroi

“Irish Fair 2023 is my favorite memory of Irish Dance. I was on my way to my Saturday show with my mom and sister when all of a sudden I got a text saying that there was a rain delay. We went back home to wait out the storm and when the rain cleared up we drove back to Harriet Island and had about 10 minutes before we got right on stage to dance. The night turned out beautifully. That was my favorite Irish Dance memory.”

Quinn Rich ~ Rince na Chroi

“My favorite memory of Irish Dance is when we had community shows that were farther away so I would take a road trip and stay in a hotel.”

Alaina Scanlon ~ Rince na Chroi

“My favorite memory of Irish Dance was doing the family dance.”

Ellie Schirmer ~ O’Shea Irish Dance

“All the great friends I’ve made and going to majors.”

Lacy Schmidt ~ Rince na Gréine

“Watching our studio expand year by year from just nine dancers to now, after only six years, one-hundred and forty students.”

Maeve Callahan Schreiber ~ O’Shea Irish Dance

“My favorite memory from dance is all the shows we put on! Fun games and hanging out backstage and getting to perform for an audience! Also, traveling with our team is fun because we get to go to new places!”

Norah Smith ~ Rince na Chroi

“All of my dance teachers that I had growing up!”

Frances Steichen ~ Corda Mór Irish Dance

“Qualifying for my first Oireachtas with 2 of my friends at the Milwaukee feis.”

Sylvie Taylor ~ Corda Mór Irish Dance

“Traveling to Montreal for Nationals in 2022 and having a huge tour for St. Patrick’s Day each year. Also meeting my best friend through dance and traveling all around the US for competitions with her.”

Bernadette Thelen ~ Rince na Gréine, Mactír Academy

“Performing with JigJam.”

Maggie Tuhy ~ Rince na Chroi

“A fun early memory of Irish dance that I have is learning ‘duck walks.’ I remember this drill was to get our feet turned out into a diamond. We would walk in third position and say ‘quack’ every step.”

Lailana Vandermeuse-Siteki ~ Eilís Academy

“My favorite memory of Irish dance is all the different friendships I have made through the years!”

Zachariah Vandermeuse-Siteki ~ Eilís Academy

“My favorite memory of Irish dance is watching the kids dance on the dance stage at my first Irish Fair. I was so in awe of the sights and sounds that I wanted to do that too! It has been a wild ride ever since!”

Berit Wicker ~ Mactír Academy

“Dancing with the Trinity Irish Dance Company at their show.”

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.



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Irish Dance this Summer

Is there a youngster in your world who might like to try Irish dance?
Summer is a great time for something new – this year make it Irish dance!

Introductory Irish Dance Classes:

Ardaigh Suas Academy of Irish Dance (ASA) is offering Introduction to Irish Dance for ages 6 and older on Saturdays, June 1 - June 29 at 10-10:45 am in their Albertville studio. Details and registration at www.asairishdance.com/

Corda Mor Irish Dance is offering beginner classes this Summer on Monday afternoons at 4:45 pm in their Edina studio. Reach out at cordamoririshdance@gmail.com for more information.

Eilís Academy of Irish Dance offers classes for new beginners on Tuesday afternoons and the first class is free – join at any time! Dancers learn the fundamentals of Irish dance in this 30-minute class. Summer sessions students are able to perform at Irish Fair of Minnesota in August. For more information, contact Liz Hinz, TCRG at eilisacademy2012@gmail.com.

Mactír Academy of Irish Dance is offering Summer Dance Camp for new beginners June 24 – 27. The camp is filled with skill building, teamwork, culture, fun and friendship. Details at [Mactir Academy Summer Dance Camp](http://MactirAcademySummerDanceCamp).

Onórach Mulhern Geraghty School of Irish Dance (OMG) welcomes new beginners at any time and offers 2 free trial lessons for families to get a feel for it before they join. Their Beginner Class is held at 4 pm on Wednesdays in Eden Prairie. For details, contact Samantha Martin, TCRG by email at Samantha.swansonmartin@gmail.com or by phone at (952) 334-3158.

Rince na Chroi offers Summer Dance Camp July 22-26 for new dancers with no previous experience who are second grade and younger on the Concordia University campus. Along with regular summer camp activities, dancers learn the basics of Irish dance including work on technique, beginner steps, and a group choreography. Details and registration at rincenachroi.herokuapp.com/register.php?c=beginner

Rince na Gréine is offering Irish dance for beginners ages 5 and up learning the basics of Irish dance including counting the music and basic steps. Classes begin June 8 and are held in downtown Hopkins. Details and registration at www.rincenagreine.com/summer-2024-beginners

Shamrock School of Irish Step Dance is offering new beginner classes for ages 4 and up this Summer. For more information, contact Rachel Knutson, TCRG by text at (612) 327-7962.



ONÓRACH
MULHERN
GERAGHTY



www.irishartsmn.org



The Gaelic Corner- By Will Kenny

Summer has arrived at last, it appears. That means it is time to swap out your winter complaint, made when it is below zero – "I don't care how hot it gets, I wish it were summer" – and swap in your summer complaint, made when it is in the 90s and humid – "I don't care how cold it gets, I wish it were winter."



Like many Minnesotans, I love living in a place that has very distinct seasons. I don't think I could stand living in a place where the weather differed very little from one month to the next. (Of course, in Minnesota we sometimes experience several seasons in a single day, but that's an issue for another time.)

The Irish talk about the same four seasons we do: *an geimhreadh* ("winter"), *an t-earrach* ("spring"), *an samhradh* ("summer"), and *an fómhar* ("fall or autumn"). But in terms of dates for each of those seasons, the Celtic calendar traditionally ran ahead of the one we use. For instance, November 1 was the beginning of the new year. And while we tend to think of June as the first full month of summer – these days, Memorial Day is the real kickoff to summer – the Celtic calendar held the first day of May as the beginning of summer. This makes June the middle month of Celtic summer – May, June, July – and in Irish we typically use *Meitheamh* to mean "June," but it really just means "middle."

Of course, there are many kinds of seasons besides the meteorological or astronomical ones. Orange cones and traffic backups have no doubt already impacted your ability to get where you want to go. Obviously we are well into *séasúr tógála* ("construction season") and it will only get worse.

One of the most important seasons in Minnesota is *séasúr na bpéirsí gealsúileacha*. The "opener" of this season sees the roads to the northern lakes clogged with traffic well before dawn, a peculiar human migration that many Minnesotans take for granted. The object of their passion: *an phéirse ghealsúileach*, the "bright-eyed perch," better known as a "walleye."

Where I grew up in rural Pennsylvania, *séasúr an fhiagh*, or "hunting season," was a similar all-consuming event in our community. On the first day of *séasúr na bhfia*, "deer season," they closed the schools because they knew that almost no one

would show up!

Here in June in Minnesota we are well into *séasúr na dtornádónna*, or "tornado season." You've probably noticed the sirens being tested on the first Wednesday of the month. But we may not have the usual *séasúr na dtuilte*, "flood season," as our recent wimpy winter hasn't produced the *rith chun srutha* ("running to the stream" or "runoff") that generally contributes mightily to high spring water levels.

And we're certainly into *séasúr na sceartán*. *Sceartán* are those spectacularly ugly and creepy little creatures that relentlessly pursue you in the woods and fields in the hope that you will share a bit of your blood to provide the protein needed to develop their eggs.

In other words, ticks! Unfortunately, the season started early this year because there was little in the way of snow and cold to hold them back.

Of course, we have to acknowledge that there is one season that is both more classically Minnesotan and more annoying than any other: *séasúr na muiscítí*. You can probably tell just from looking at that word *muiscítí* (said "mush-kee-tee") that it refers to those flying, buzzing hypodermic needles we call "mosquitoes." Another bloodsucker looking to get you to contribute to egg production – which explains why only the females bite – I find it somewhat mind-boggling to learn that there are more than 50 species (*speiceas dúchasach*) native to Minnesota.

Naturally, it is always *Séasúr na Gaeilge*, "Irish speaking season", at *Gaeltacht Minnesota*. www.gaelminn.org.

Ná mol agus ná dímhól goirt nó go rachaidh an Mhí Mheáin thart.
"Neither praise nor disparage the crops until the month of June is over."
An Mhí Mheáin is another way of saying "the middle month" and it can be used for "June" as that is the middle month of Celtic summer.

TUNE OF THE MONTH

The Kilmovee

jig



The musical score for 'The Kilmovee' is presented in four staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written in treble clef. Suggested chords are indicated above the notes: G, G, C, G, G/B, C, D, G, G, Am, G/B, C, D, G, C, D, Em, G, D, G, C, D, G. The score includes first and second endings for the final phrase.

Kilmovee is a small village in County Mayo. This tune is often associated with Dermot Grogan, a flute and accordion player from Kilmovee, and is sometimes “Dermot Grogan’s” or just “Grogan’s”. Many CIM students learned this from Catherine McEvoy at the Minnesota Irish Music Weekend in 2014. There is a great recording of this one on CIM instructor Mary Vanorny’s album: *First Light of Day*

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

An Leabhragan (The Bookcase)

Long Island — Colm Toibin — Scribner Books 2024



Eilis Lacey is Irish, in her early forties, and married to Tony Fiorelli. He is one of four Italian-American brothers who all live in neighboring houses in a small cul-de-sac in a suburban Long Island neighborhood, along with their wives, kids, and her parents-in-law. Eilis emigrated two decades ago to Brooklyn, leaving behind a heartbroken childhood sweetheart, Jim Farrell, in Ireland.

Unknown to anyone in Ireland, she had already been secretly married to Tony when she returned home for a funeral all those years ago, and had rekindled her love with Jim. Dutiful and regretful, she returned to Brooklyn, resumed her marriage, and raised two kids (now teenagers) with Tony. Introverted and circumspect, Eilis often feels steamrolled by the large, noisy, bossy Italian Fiorelli clan she's married into.

Life rolls along, unexamined, with no privacy but pretty much okay. But one day a stranger shows up on her doorstep, informing Eilis that her plumber husband has impregnated the man's wife and that when the baby is born, it will be deposited on Eilis and Tony's doorstep. Suddenly, all the doubts and disquietude Eilis has felt over the last twenty years take on a new perspective. She informs Tony that she will not allow the baby to live in their house or in any other house in the family cul-de-sac. Then she books a plane ticket to Ireland, ostensibly for her mother's 80th birthday celebration, but actually to re-examine her life and the choices, or lack of them, that she has made.

Back in Ireland, Eilis' mother is as domineering and impossible as she was twenty years ago. Eilis' old sweetheart Jim Farrell, a popular local publican, has quietly gotten engaged to a widow he's known for years, a woman who's a comfortable friend rather than a great passion. Jim and Nancy have an "understanding" but haven't announced their engagement in their small nosy village. Nancy is determined to give up her fish and chips business and build a little bungalow for herself and Jim to live in. It seems a suitable match, until Eilis shows up and she and Jim both discover their feelings for each other are undimmed. Eilis has to examine whether the choice she made twenty years ago was the wrong one, now that whatever she decides in this moment will affect not only herself but Tony, her kids, Jim and Nancy, not to mention the Fiorelli clan back in Long Island. As the truth leaks out, both women make moves to secure their happiness. The human heart has to find a way to happiness, even though whatever decisions are made are bound to cause inevitable heartbreak as well.


Colm Toibin may well be the most awarded and praised living Irish author we have, and this book, and *Brooklyn*, shows us why. No other author can best him for telling a compelling story that makes you feel sympathy for every character, no matter how messy and complicated their lives are, no matter how many mistakes they make and hearts they break.

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

Northwoods Songs: Irish Songs from Lumberjacks and Great Lakes Sailors

By Brian Miller

Duluth in Eighty-Two



To tell the truth I came to Du-luth in eigh - teen eigh - ty - two, The
5
Wind - sor was - the best ho - tel on Su - per - ior Av - e - nue, I
9
walked right in to the li - on's den, the Gil - breth's kept the joint, Then -
13
nix come a - rouse to the Cap Nor - ris house or Min - ne - so - ta Point.

To tell the truth I came to Duluth in eighteen eighty-two,
The Windsor was the best hotel on Superior Avenue,
I walked right in to the lion's den, the Gilbreths kept the joint,
Then nix come arouse to the Cap Norris house or Minnesota Point.

It may seem queer but I did not hear of any iron range,
But the big pine trees, bent to the breeze; oh, mister, what a
change,
No ore docks then but now, gentlemen, look up along the bay,
See the docks of ore, hear the whistles roar, as the big boats
steam away.

No big flour mills high as the hills; no Duluth Board of Trade,
Just two elevators and no speculators—the wheat was just
one grade,
No electric light, to daze the sight; no monster aerial bridge,
No electric railway across St. Louis bay; no incline up the
ridge.

No Lester Park to spoon in the dark; no big automobiles,
Not even a bike—every man did hike; them days we eat
[ate?] square meals,
A restaurant or boarding house looked good, but by the way,
They are now out of date—we all want to eat at the St. Louis
big, swell cafe.

Just one main road was all we had, and the scally to St. Paul.
Every man used an axe; we had no whalebacks—McDougall
and Hill looked small.
But Jim Hill has growed [sic], he controls [sic] each road, down
east and way out West,
And they tell me he controls the sea—ask Jim, he can tell you
best.

I remember quite well and in song I tell how the Manistee went
down,
With Catain [sic] McKay and crew that sailed from the Zenith
Town,
And the Hulbert too sank with her crew far out from any shore,
In the water's deep they all do sleep—we shall never see them
more.

I miss each one of my old friends gone, tho [sic] many still
remain,
Soon we shall meet each other to greet [sic], tho we must part
again,
This spring I'll call and see you all and view your city grand,
They say you've growed beyond Herman town road and you are
still annexing land.

We return this month to this fascinating 1913 book of songs and poems by James J. Somers for one of his several lyrics set in Duluth. Like “The Zenith of the West” that I wrote about a couple months ago, “Duluth in Eighty-Two” is chock full of interesting details about Duluth in the late 1800s. We have Lester Park and the aerial bridge here again along with the “incline”—Duluth’s dramatic Incline Railway that was built in 1891 and gave easy access to the city’s beautiful Superior view.

The tragic shipwrecks of the Manistee and Hulbert both happened in 1883, soon after Somers arrived in town (he wrote another song entirely about the wrecks that I’ll share later). The Captain [Michael] Norris, mentioned in the first verse here, was a survivor of the 1874 Superior shipwreck of the Lotta Bernard.



Duluth Incline Railway circa 1913.
From perfectduluthday.com

“Duluth in Eighty-Two” also presents some unfamiliar slang. I haven’t figured out what the “scally to St. Paul” might have been (train? stagecoach?). “Nix come arouse” in the first verse was new to me too. Fred L. Holmes, in *Old World Wisconsin*, writes that, in German Milwaukee “nix come erous’ is a customary byword for [the German] ‘nichts kommt heraus.’” The September 23, 1937 *Perry Daily Journal* of Perry, Oklahoma translates the original German phrase “nichts kommt heraus” as “nothing comes forth” but says that in the early 1800s the phrase became vulgarized in German America to “nix come erous” with the meaning shifting to “there’s nothing to it.” H.L. Mencken, in *The American Language*, called nix come erous a German loan-phrase “in decay” that (in 1921) was “familiar to practically all Americans.”

Since Somers’ book does not provide any melodies, I used a tune collected by Franz Rickaby in 1920s Eau Claire from Elide Marceau Fox who used it for the song “Johanna Shay.” I think it fits “Duluth in Eighty-Two” quite well.

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



Celtic Junction Events

Celtic Junction Concerts



[Myth Round Table](#), June 4 at 6:30 pm. Free.

This is a discussion forum for all levels of interest in mythology, specifically emphasizing Celtic and Irish myth within the broader circle of world mythology. Ryan Quinn, our regular mythology instructor, hosts it. All are welcome. Meetings occur on the second level in the education classroom across from the Library. There is no elevator access to this part of the building.



[Irish Studies Round Table](#), June 6 at 6:30 pm. Free.

Irish Studies Round Table is a discussion forum for a broad spectrum of topics related to Irish culture. Any general interest in Irish culture is sufficient. It is hosted by Jane Kennedy and Patrick O'Donnell, two of our regular history and literature instructors. Meetings occur on the second level in the education classroom across from the Library. There is no elevator access to this part of the building.



[MIM Great Session Experience](#), June 7 at 7:00 pm. Free.

The 2024 Great Session Experience will bring together the Twin Cities Irish music community for many simultaneous in-person sessions around the Celtic Junction Arts Center. Musicians and non-musicians alike are invited to join in the fun. There will be a cash bar and much merriment! This event is part of CIM's Minnesota Irish Music Weekend.



[MIM Master Artist Concert](#), June 8 at 7:30 pm. \$25/\$30

Presented by the Center for Irish Music, the Master Artists Concert is the signature event of the Minnesota Irish Music Weekend. Don't miss this rare chance to see the visiting master artists perform together on one stage! The concert will be outside, weather permitting, on CJAC's lovely outdoor stage, or inside the main performance space of the Celtic Junction.



[Joey Abarta in Concert](#), June 9 at 6:00 pm. \$20/\$25

Don't miss this cd-launch concert of uilleann piper Joey Abarta's second solo album, *King of the Blind* to close out the Minnesota Irish Music Weekend. This acoustic concert will be presented in CIM's Scanlan Music Hall and open to the first 50 people who purchase tickets.

Celtic Junction Classes



[Understanding William Butler Yeats through four short poems](#), June 17 & 24 at 6:30 pm. Online. \$50

In this class, discover how you can gain insights into the profound vision of the Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet, William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) through simply reading and unpacking with care and insight four short poems: "The Lake Isle of Innisfree," "The Song of Wandering Aengus," "No Second Troy," and "The Second Coming."



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Laura MacKenzie Music

Duluth-stämman 2024_ Fri, June 7- Sat, June 8
[University of MN- Duluth and Chester Bowl, Duluth, Minnesota](#)

Twinflower (Amy Shaw & Laura MacKenzie, wooden flutes, with Chris Bashor, guitar) performs at Duluth-stämman 2024! From the Nordic Center website: “Join us in Duluth on June 7th and 8th for Duluth-stämman 2024, a wonderful weekend of music, dance, learning, and community. A tradition that originated in Sweden, a stämman gathers musicians and dancers together to celebrate their tradition! This is an all-inclusive event that is designed to be family friendly and widely open to the public!” Schedules will be available soon- find them at the [Nordic Center \(Duluth, MN\) website](#).

Twinflower at Midsommar_ Sat, June 15
[American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis, MN](#)

Twinflower (Amy Shaw & Laura MacKenzie, wooden flutes) joins the Midsommar celebration at the American Swedish Institute. The celebration runs from 10am- 5pm, and Twinflower will be performing midday. Chris Bashor will be joining on guitar. Advance tickets are recommended, as this is a very popular event! Find out more at <https://asimn.org/event/midsommar/>

A Celtic Breeze Mon. June 24 @ 6:00PM - 7:00PM
[Martin County Library, 110 N Park St., Fairmont, MN](#)

Laura MacKenzie brings her program of wind-powered music from various Celtic traditions to the Martin Co. Library, featuring wooden flutes, whistles, concertina, voice, and an array of bagpipes. Free and open to all.

Out of the Mist
Celtic Theatre

SAVE THE DATE

The Weir
by Conor McPherson

**At the Local in Minneapolis
August 23, 24, 25**

**At Sweeney's Saloon
In St. Paul
August 29 and 31
and Sept 1st**

Watch for more information soon!



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IRISH NETWORK-MINNESOTA

7TH ANNUAL Bloomsday Festival

THURSDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2024 • 5:00-8:00 PM

SHAMROCKS, 995 7TH ST. WEST, ST. PAUL, MN • TICKETS: \$25.00

APPETIZERS AND FREE DRINK TICKET INCLUDED • PERIOD DRESS ENCOURAGED

2024
IN-MN BLOOMSDAY
LITERARY AWARD
WINNER WILL BE
ANNOUNCED

ULYSSES BY JAMES JOYCE

Bloomsday: A celebration that takes place both in Dublin and around the world honoring June 16, 1904, the day depicted in James Joyce's novel *Ulysses*. The day is named after Leopold Bloom, the central character in *Ulysses*.



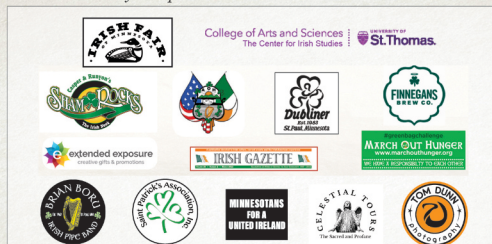
Join Irish Network MN 7TH Annual Bloomsday celebrating James Joyce's novel, *Ulysses*! Celebrate James Joyce's *Ulysses* the novel that started it all. This year we are excited to partner with Casper Runyon's Shamrocks, "The Irish Nook." located in the heart of historic St. Paul. Readings from *Ulysses* by local Irish celebrities • Musical Guests: Brian Miller and Danny Diamond Tom Dunn's Irish of Minnesota Photography Exhibit • 4TH Annual Bloomsday Literary Award Silent Auction • Ceili dance called by Mike Whalen • Best Period dress contest • Other shenanigans

TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT www.irishnetworkmn.org

Thank you Sponsors, Partners and Volunteers



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Irish Arts Minnesota

June
2024
Meitheamh

42nd Year, Issue No. 6

JUNE 6 - 9, 2024



KICKOFF CELEBRATION

◆ Thursday 7 p.m. ◆

GREAT SESSION EXPERIENCE

◆ Friday 7 p.m. ◆

MASTER ARTISTS CONCERT

◆ Saturday 7:30 p.m. ◆

WORKSHOPS & LECTURES

◆ Friday - Sunday ◆

CHILDREN ◆ TEENS ◆ ADULTS

Early bird registration discounts available.

www.centerforirishmusic.org

Featuring world-class traditional musicians

Angelina Carberry
banjo



Conor Connolly
accordion



Nuala Kennedy
flute, whistle, song



Aidan Connolly
fiddle



Eamon O'Leary
guitar, bouzouki, song



Josh Dukes
guitar, flute



Rose Flanagan
fiddle



Joey Abarta
uilleann pipes, whistle



THE CENTER FOR
IRISH MUSIC

836 Prior Avenue North, Ste. 400, St. Paul, MN 55104

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



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The Center for Irish Music Presents the 16th Minnesota Irish Music Weekend

June 6-9, 2024



tuning up the next generation since 2007

Presented by the Center for Irish Music, Minnesota Irish Music Weekend is a unique festival that pairs world-class traditional Irish musicians and teachers with learners of all ages for a weekend of workshops, lectures, sessions, and concerts.

Each of our visiting artists is recognized for their musical mastery and will offer insights and techniques to help learners tap into the deep roots of traditional Irish music. This year's featured artists include musicians Joey Abarta - Uilleann pipes, whistle; Angelina Carberry - banjo; Aidan Connolly - fiddle; Conor Connolly - accordion; Josh Dukes - flute, guitar; Rose Flanagan - fiddle; Nuala Kennedy - flute, song; Eamon O'Leary - guitar, bouzouki, mandolin, song; and more!

The 2024 weekend includes a rousing **Kick-Off Celebration** at a local brewery. **The Great Session Experience** is free and open to all! Featuring all visiting artists, the much anticipated **Master Artists Concert** is a must-see event that will also be broadcast live. We'll finish off the weekend on Sunday afternoon with a **solo concert** by piper Joey Abarta.

Programs include:

- **Irish Trad Immersion Camp** for 9-12 year-olds
- **Intermediate-Advanced Teen Program**
- **Adult Workshops, Lectures & Classes** for intermediate to advanced-level students

Workshops are offered in accordion, banjo, bouzouki, fiddle, flute, uilleann pipes, whistle, and song, along with fascinating in-depth talks and lectures with visiting artists on the Irish musical tradition.

Lecture, workshop, and concert prices range from \$10 to \$250 for a weekend package. Find more information at <http://www.centerforirishmusic.org/mim/>.

The Center for Irish Music, 836 Prior Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104. Telephone: +1 (651) 815-0083.
www.centerforirishmusic.org



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Irish Festival Preview

Here in the Twin Cities, we have our own **Irish Fair of Minnesota** at Harriet Island in St. Paul from Aug. 9 - 11. The lineup already announced includes **Skerryvore, JigJam, The Jeremiahs, Reverie Road, and the Byrne Brothers.**

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

- **Madison Irish Fest, Madison, WI** – June 17 – 19
Diana Ladio with Brendan Forrest & Band, 3 Pints Gone. Details at irishfestmadison.com/
- **Missouri River Irish Fest, St. Charles, MO** – June 24-26
The Elders are featured, plus local bands and dancers. Details at mrifsc.com/
- **Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival, Cleveland, OH** – July 19 - 21.
Planning is underway for 2024. Details and updates clevelandirish.org/.
- **Dublin Irish Festival, Dublin, OH** – Aug. 2 - 4
Gaelic Storm, the High Kings, Skerryvore, Téada, Socks in the Frying Pan, JigJam, Talisk, Goitse, Gadan with Enda Scahill of We Banjo 3, O'Jizo (from Japan). Details at dublinirishfestival.org.
- **Iowa Irish Fest, Downtown Waterloo, IA** – Aug. 2 - 4. *Iowa's Biggest Irish Celebration.* The Screaming Orphans, the Dublin City Ramblers, Enda Reilly, Seo Linn and the Byrne Brothers lead off the list of entertainment. Details at www.facebook.com/lowalrishFest. Tickets at www.iowairishfest.com.
- **Milwaukee Irish Fest, Milwaukee, WI** – Aug. 15 - 18. *Over 100 Acts Across 16 Stages!!*
The 'granddaddy' festival is a 4-day event. Entertainment includes Athas, Doolin', Goitse, Gadan with Enda Scahill, Joey Abarta and Jackie O'Riley, Lúnasa, and goes on and on! Details, tickets and updates at www.irishfest.com
- **Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Fest, Oak Forest, IL** – Aug. 23 -25.
Save the date announcement – details to come at chicagogaelicpark.com/
- **Irish Hooley Music Festival of Dubuque, Dubuque, IA** – Aug. 24
The High Kings, Ballyheigue, the Lads of Dubuque, Ian Gould, Rory Makem and Michael Darcy & the Atlantic Tramps.
- **Kansas City Irish Fest, Kansas City, MO** – Aug. 30 – Sept. 1.
Held in the Crown Center, the festival offers 7 stages with the Elders, Gaelic Storm, Doolin', the Screaming Orphans and more. Plus children's activities, art in the park, and a cultural area. Details at www.kcirishtfest.com/
- **Michigan Irish Music Festival, Muskegon, MI** – Sept. 12 - 15.
The 4-day festival brings great Irish music to Muskegon – just across Lake Michigan from Door County. Gaelic Storm, Talisk, Aoife Scott, JigJam, the Friel Sisters, Shane Hennessy and more. Keep in the loop at www.michiganirish.org.
- **Irish Fest of the Fox Cities, Appleton, WI** – Sept. 15 & 16.
Skerryvore, Eileen Ivers, Colm Keegan, and JigJam have been announced. Updates at www.facebook.com/IrishFestofFoxCities/.

A Farewell to Scott Bartell

Scott Bartell passed away on May 5. Scott and his pipes have enhanced many a gathering over the years and he was a devoted audience member and a lover of all things Celtic. The following is a tribute from his burial.

Scott Eugene Bartell: August 27, 1948 – May 5, 2024

Scott joined the ancestors on Sunday May 5. This happened very suddenly. He was short of breath and the medical team at Abbott discovered blood clots in his lungs on Saturday night. They made every effort, but after a few hours, one escaped to his brain. We removed him from life support at noon to start his journey.

Scott went out on a high note. For a few hours before the clot hit his brain, he was getting supplemental oxygen and feeling pretty danged good. He sang a French song to his nurse, told a bunch of corn-ball jokes, taught the student nurse a naughty Norwegian ditty and generally held forth, basking in the glow of all that female attention.

Scott was a Renaissance Man: a musician and singer, a linguist and and lover of language (he spoke several and picked up a new one in a flash), a gourmet cook, a lover of wine, a reader, a writer, a sailor, a member and advocate for the GLBTQ community, a pagan spirit and lover of all things Celtic, an environmentalist, and a teller of many stories and jokes. Scott worked as a psychotherapist, laboring in the difficult field of mental health for most of his adult life.

Scott requested a green burial, one that happens only with biodegradable products. He was buried in a shroud monogrammed with a bagpipe in a wood box, with his wool kilt at Oak Hill Cemetery on May 10.

Tribal Elder Ron Hagland sang a Traditional Traveling Song to Scott (via iPhone), a precious gift.

We'll hold a celebration of life for Scott on what would have been his 76th birthday on Tuesday, August 27. Time and place will be shared later.

His many friends are keeping Scott in the light as he makes this mysterious journey.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a Ainm dilis. "HIS WAS A LIFE WELL LIVED."





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A Special Thank You to our Sponsor for 2024!

 Get Her Hired

SCROLL-STOPPING RESUMES

for women who don't have time to fool around with DIY

Kate Wade, MA

www.getherhired.com

Charlie's RESTAURANT and Irish Pub

at the historic Water Street Inn

Live music for Charlie's Irish Pub in the Historic Water Street Inn located in downtown Stillwater. Charlie's Pub features live Irish music every Friday and Saturday night from 7:00pm to 11:00pm



May 31st & June 1st - Northernly Gales

Hailing from the Twin Cities, the Northernly Gales is a rollicking acoustic folk group whose music draws from the Irish, Scottish, Canadian and American folk traditions. Though primarily consisting of fiddle, guitar, pipes, bass and voice, the Gales love to mix it up with harmonica, whistle, mandolin, bouzouki, bodhran and whatever else they can get their hands on.

June 7th & 8th - Bedlam

Bedlam is a band born out of the talent pool of the MN Renaissance Festival. Over the years, the band has had a diverse sound and many different members. Its recent incarnation is a folk band with a hippie attitude. Many familiar songs with a different slant along with some original material as well. As the name implies a stage with this group on it is not a very stable one and you never know who may show up and sit in on a set



June 14th & 15th - Mac & Cheese (Pete McCauley & Tim Cheesebrow)

Perfect for Carousing Fun music with lots of energy. Melodies that almost beg to be sung with a glass of stout

June 21st & 22nd - Prank Williams and the Broken Spoke

A high-energy Irish/folk band based in Saint Paul, MN highlighting the sweet stringed sounds of the fiddle, stand-up bass, guitar, and mandolin. Traditional Irish Music and Irish Rock with a twist! Broken Spoke never fail to deliver an outstanding performance that will have you up on your feet before you know it!



Smidiríní*

(*Irish for 'Bits and Pieces')

by Copper Shannon

Comhghairdeas le (Congratulations to) our own **Dáithí Sproule** and his **Altan** bandmates who are receiving 2024 iBAM! Award for Music. iBAM! Chicago is a gathering of the best Irish authors, artists and musicians from around the world. The Band will perform at the Mayfair Theatre in Chicago on Nov. 15 in honor of the award.

Big news for those interested in the long term health of Irish dancers! The University on Limerick in Ireland is launching a new one-year, online program including all aspects of health for performance. This is a Postgraduate Certificate in Optimisation of Health for Performance in Irish Dancers aimed at Irish dancing teachers, parents, clinicians and older Irish dancers. Get the full picture at <http://tiny.cc/IDHealth4Perform>.

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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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 new and renewing members for their financial support:

Erik and Hanna Brandt and family
Patrick and Rosy Byron and family
Kate Durbin and family
Galena St. Croix and family
Jim and Jodi Young

And these new and renewing band members:

Dick Hensold

Members are reminded that Irish Arts Minnesota membership is renewable annually in January. Renew today for 2024!

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.

*Note: The Community Resources List at irishartsmn.org/resources/ is a great community connection. It's very easy to use – just click on the business or organization name to be connected to their website or Facebook Page.



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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](mailto:Editor@irishartsmn.org)

IAM Board

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Questions? Comments? Contact Us!

Info@irishartsmn.org

www.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) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; text-align: center;"> Music Dance Theatre Language Volunteer </div>	
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.	