

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

Presented in partnership with Minnesota Landmarks

43<sup>rd</sup> Annual

LANDMARK  
CENTER

## Irish Arts Minnesota's

### St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Monday March 17th, 2025  
9:00am - 5:00pm

&

### Day of Irish Dance

Sunday March 16, 2025  
10:00am - 5:00pm



Tickets available online or at the door  
[www.Irishartsmn.org](http://www.Irishartsmn.org)  
Adults \$9 Youth/seniors \$7 5 and under free

MUSIC ● DANCING ● FOOD ● THEATRE ● RAFFLE  
IRISH GIFTS ● KIDS CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES  
🍀 FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN! 🍀

### Expanded Children's Programming!!

- Kids craft activities both Sunday and Monday
- Kids Ceili Dance Party
- Instrument Petting Zoo
- Face painting
- Songs and Stories





# Irish Arts Minnesota

February  
2025  
Feabhra

43<sup>rd</sup> Year, Issue No. 2

## Celebrating St. Patrick's Day – St. Paul Style!

Irish Arts Minnesota (IAM) invites you to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and all things Irish on March 17 at historic Landmark Center in St. Paul. For 43 years, IAM has partnered with Minnesota Landmarks to showcase the local Irish music and dance groups that so enrich our community.

### What makes it St. Patrick's Day for you?

- Irish music? **Legacy, Locklin Road, the Inland Seas** and **the Center for Irish Music's Advanced Youth Ensemble** will take the stage. Plus **Irish Diplomacy** and **the Hounds of Finn!**
- Bagpipes? The **Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band** will get your heart racing.
- The parade? Come early – at 9 am – then take in the parade and come back to Landmark for more!
- Like a little Bluegrass with your Irish music? **Purgatory Creek** and the new band **Waking Murphy** (formerly Too Broke Blokes) will satisfy that itch.
- Traditional Irish music? The **Center for Irish Music's Advanced Youth Ensemble** will amaze you. And traditional musicians will fill the Tea Room all day.
- Like Irish music blended with French and Scandinavian melodies? **The McNordiques** are for you!
- Love Irish dance? Dancers from **Corda Mór, Eilís Academy, O'Shea Irish Dance, Rince na Chroi, and Rince na Gréine** will delight you. Who can resist the littlest dancers making their debut? More dancing from **Green Fire Irish Dancers, Knocknagow Irish Dancers** and the **Mooncoin Ceili Dancers**.
- Irish theater? **Out of the Mist Celtic Theater** will present a new play, "*The Faery Reclamation Project*".
- Workshops? Sit in on a seminar with an Irish focus.
- Bringing the kids? The delightful **Ross Sutter** with songs and musical games, an Irish dance session with **Miss Sarah**, Irish songs and stories with **Alisa Mee**, and a **Parent and Kid Ceili Dance Party with the Mooncoin Ceili Dancers** makes for a busy morning. The craft activities are also a hit with kids.
- Shopping? **The Celtic Marketplace** and **the Shenanigan's Craft Fair** feature local artists.
- Food and drink? The bar will be open and the visiting vendors will work to satisfy your appetite.

Come early – we open at 9:00 am! The festivities carry on until 5:00 pm. Tickets are available in advance through [Irish Arts Minnesota](http://IrishArtsMinnesota.org) and at the door.

Irish Arts Minnesota's 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration  
Landmark Center, 75 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, MN 55105  
Monday, March 17, 2025 – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

## 2025 DANCER SHIRTS

Order yours today!

**Order deadline:  
February 17th**

Back

### Dancing Through Life

Onórach Mulhern Geraghty School (OMG)  
Ardagh Suas Academy (ASA)  
Knocknagow Irish Dancers  
Loma Mór Irish Dance Club  
Green Fire Irish Dancers  
Mooncoin Ceili Dancers  
North Star Irish Dance  
O'Shea Irish Dance  
Shamrock School  
Rince na Gréine  
Ellis Academy  
Rince na Chroí  
Corda Mór

Irish Arts Minnesota's  
St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration and Day of Irish Dance 2025

FRONT

DEFYING GRAVITY

AVAILABLE IN  
SHORT AND  
LONG SLEEVE



# Irish Arts Minnesota

February  
2025  
Feabhra

43<sup>rd</sup> Year, Issue No. 2

## Spotlight on Irish Dance

Irish Arts Minnesota's 21<sup>st</sup> Day of Irish Dance on Sunday, March 16, 2025 shines the spotlight on Irish dance, with more than 700 dancers from 9 Irish dance schools. Presented in partnership with Minnesota Landmarks, this event is part of the Sundays at Landmark series.

What can you look forward to?

Irish Dancers from:

- **Ardaigh Suas Academy of Irish Dance (ASA)**
- **Eilís Academy of Irish Dance**
- **Green Fire Irish Dancers**
- **Onórach Mulhern Geraghty School (OMG)**
- **North Star Irish Dance**
- **O'Shea Irish Dance**
- **Rince na Chroi**
- **Rince na Gréine**
- **Shamrock School of Irish Step Dance**

Presentation of *Irish Arts Minnesota's Decade of Dance Award*. In honor of the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the program, Irish Arts Minnesota will present a new dance award – the *Double Decade of Dance Award*.

*Rinceoirí Fásta Ag Fás Fós* - Grown Dancers Growing Still - our showcase of adult Irish dance students will include dancers from **Green Fire Irish Dancers, North Star Irish Dance, O'Shea Irish Dance, and Rince na Gréine.**

Irish Theater from **Out of the Mist Celtic Theatre** will present a new play “*The Faery Reclamation Project*.”

Seminars on topics with an Irish connection.

Special activities for the kids including the Instrument Petting Zoo, a chance for the little ones to try playing traditional Irish instruments.

Traditional music from Willow Brae, featuring Laura Mackenzie and Andrea Stern.

Traditional music in the Tea Room with student ensembles from the **Center for Irish Music, Dòrain** and more. And a treat with a nice cup of tea!

Look for more information on the artists in the March IAM newsletter. Details on the schedule will be posted soon at [www.IrishArtsMN.org](http://www.IrishArtsMN.org).

Looking forward to seeing you!

\* \* \* \* \*

Come early – we open at 10:00 am! The festivities carry on until 5:00 pm. Tickets are available in advance through [Irish Arts Minnesota](http://Irish Arts Minnesota) and at the door.

Irish Arts Minnesota's 21<sup>st</sup> Day of Irish Dance  
Landmark Center, 75 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, MN 55105  
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[www.irishartsmn.org](http://www.irishartsmn.org)





# Irish Arts Minnesota

February  
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43<sup>rd</sup> Year, Issue No. 2

## It's Time to Renew your Irish Arts Minnesota Membership!

*IAM membership renewals are due in January of each year.*

### *Why is my membership important?*

The scoring and ranking policies of local arts-related grantors give a great deal of weight to evidence of "community support." IAM's ability to document a strong membership base enhances our efforts to successfully pursue grants that allow us to continue and expand IAM programs to benefit you, your family and the community.

### *What do I get for my membership?*

- The intangible of supporting IAM's programs and activities, including the annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration and Day of Dance at Landmark Center, the "IAM Honors" series, the IAM Educational Grant Program, the "Decade of Dance" awards, etc.
- A one-year (January to December 2025) subscription to IAM's monthly email newsletter, which features (among many other things) Will Kenny's always-fascinating articles about the Irish language, Sherry Ladig's book reviews, Brian Miller's "Northwoods Songs" series, the CIM "Tune of the Month" and highlights on "goings on" in our community.
- "Priority listing" for musicians, bands and organizations in our popular on-line Community Resources Directory, used frequently by people who are seeking local Irish musicians, bands, dancers and entertainers for performances, ethnic festivals, wedding receptions, corporate events, etc. IAM also promotes members performances on our IAM Facebook Page.
- Public recognition in a "New or Renewed Members" section of future IAM newsletters.

### *How can I become an IAM member?*

It's easy! Just go to the "Become A Member" section of IAM's web site, where you'll have the option of paying your membership fee on-line via PayPal or a debit or credit card. Another option is printing out a membership form on your newsletter and mailing it in with your check to IAM Membership Coordinator, 400 Macalester St., St. Paul, MN 55105. Membership is \$20 for individuals, \$25 for families, organizations, bands and businesses.

**[Become a member of the IAM today](#) and help us continue to encourage and promote Irish music, dance and other cultural traditions throughout Minnesota!**



# Irish Arts Minnesota

February  
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43<sup>rd</sup> Year, Issue No. 2

## Minnesota Irish Dancers Shine at Regional Competition!

Fall is an especially important time of year for many Irish dancers with a focus on Regional Irish dance completions. These events are an important milestone and allow the dancers to demonstrate what they have learned. The opportunity to compete at Oireachtas is earned in competition.

**Comhghairdeas libh (Congratulations to) to ALL the dancers who participated in the Mid-America Oireachtas**, held in late November in Schaumburg, IL outside Chicago. All have worked very hard! World Irish Dance Championships will be held in Dublin, Ireland in 2025.

Dancers from several Minnesota Irish Dance schools had great success:

- Corda Mór
  - Elodie Calef, U10
  - Joey Heilmer, U10 - 1st place
  - Elsie Shaw, U11
  - Madeleine O'Keefe, U13
  - Aristea Zehnacker, U14 - 1st place
  - Katharine Faulkner, U14
  - Lauren Amundson, U14
  - Isabelle Mimick, U15
  - Maura Sieckert, U16
  - Clare Gramling, U16
  - Erin Joyce, U18
  - Pascale Hegerle, U18
  - Megan Stuart, U20 - 1st place
  - Taylor Mosakowski, U20
- Hudson Irish Dance Academy
  - Annabella Wolfe, U9 2nd Place
  - Chiron Tymchuck, Boys U10 placed 5th overall and World Qualifier
  - Will Brasser, Boys U12 6th Place and World Qualifier
  - Elias Daum, Boys U13 2nd Place and World Qualifier
  - Beth Nist, U19 7th Place overall and World Qualifier. Beth also is a currently on tour with the "Taste of Ireland" North American Tour.
- Onórach Mulhern Geraghty School of Irish Dance (OMG)
  - Cece Theobald, Champion Girls U9
  - Lucy Husband, Champion Girls U15 and World Qualifier
  - Evy Husband, 4th Place Girls U15 and World Qualifier
- O'Shea Irish Dance
  - Finn Duncanson, U9 Trad Set Recalled and Commended
  - Lucy Lopac, U9 Trad Set Recalled and Commended
  - Gavin Jamison, U11 - Trad Set Recalled and Commended
  - Katerina Antonson, U11 Trad Set Recalled and Commended
  - Ethan Murray, U11 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and World Qualifier
  - Regan Quayle, U11B - 18<sup>th</sup> Place
  - Lenny Lopac, U12 12<sup>th</sup> Place
  - Jordan Grubidge, U13 - 1<sup>st</sup> Place and World Qualifier
  - Mary-Grace Dobie, U14B - 5<sup>th</sup> Place and World Qualifier
  - Kara Fini, U15B - 33<sup>rd</sup> Place
  - Jason Mills, U17 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and World Qualifier
  - Anna Fini, U17B - 26<sup>th</sup> Place
  - Henry Sween, U19 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and World Qualifier
  - Meghan Lovegren, Adult - Adult Trad Set 7<sup>th</sup> Place
  - Mattie Ernst, Advanced Adult - 9<sup>th</sup> Place
  - U8 Mixed Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
  - U10 Mixed Team, 5<sup>th</sup> Place
  - U10 Girls Team, 7<sup>th</sup> Place
  - U12 Mixed Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
  - U12 Girls Team, 4<sup>th</sup> Place
  - U15 Mixed Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
  - U15 Girls Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
- Shamrock School of Irish Step Dance
  - Evan Johnson-Odegard, Boys U17 tied for 4<sup>th</sup> place and World Qualifier

## The Gaelic Corner- By Will Kenny

In mid-January, as I write this, a nice chunk of arctic air has settled over us, producing very cold weather for a while. Whenever that happens, I get emails from relatives and friends who live in warmer climes expressing their wonder that anyone could live here!



*Fuacht an gheimhridh*, "the cold of winter," is something we live with in these parts. Of course, we all know it is easier to survive winter if you get out and enjoy it. But many of our winter sports don't fit an Irish winter, so they often borrow their Irish names from English. Thus we have *sciáil* for "skiing," *scátáil* for "skating," and *haca* for "hockey." Even the ever popular curling -- invented, after all, by our Celtic cousins, the Scots -- has acquired the term *curláil*, which is different from the curling of hair: *ag cur cataíola i do ghruaig*, "putting curliness in your hair."

But if Irish lacks some terminology for winter sports, it can address most of the usual features of the winter landscape. There are a couple of terms for "icicle," including *bior seaca*, "a pointed stick of frost." *Sneachta* is "snow," which does not pile up in "drifts" in Irish, but rather in *muca sneachta* or "snow pigs." *Clocha sneachta* or "stones of snow" is used to talk about "hail."

Naturally, no self-respecting Minnesotan would go out in *aimsir fhuar*, "cold weather," without being aware of what the wind was doing. That is, we know that temperature is one thing, but "wind chill" can deliver a whole other level of cold. "Wind chill" is *goimh na gaoithe*, the word *goimh* meaning a "sting." Many a cold day has felt much colder with the sting of a brisk wind.

As I write this column we are having cold weather and I have a cold. In English we can use the same word, "cold," for both the sickness and the weather. In Irish, we have to use two different words for these two situations. "Cold," in the sense of temperature, is *fuar*. But to express "I have a cold," I'd say, *Tá slaghdán*

*orm*. That word, *slaghdán*, refers to the illness, and this sentence literally says, "A cold is on me." In Irish you don't *have* a cold, a cold is *on* you.

There really isn't a separate word for "blizzard," the way we use it. But there is a lovely phrase for heavy falling snow, *plúchadh sneachta*. The main meaning of that verb, *plúch*, is to "stifle" or "smother," so the phrase conveys a sense of snow falling so heavily that you can't breathe!

*Oighear* is the word for "ice," and when Douglas Hyde, co-founder of *Conradh na Gaeilge* ("The Gaelic League") and first President of Ireland, arrived in St. Paul in February of 2006, he noted that it was unbelievably cold (although the St. Paul locals, then as now, suggested that it was just the usual). He wrote that he was impressed to see "*dá troigh de leac-oighir ar an Mississippi*," "two feet of ice on the Mississippi."

*Oighear* not only refers to "ice," but to the chafing and irritation that come with winter's cold. By extension, *oighear* can refer to "irritation" more generally. And when someone says, *Sin é an t-oighear*, it does not mean what it looks like -- "That's the ice" -- but rather, "There's the rub!"

When we have warm spells in winter, we sometimes get more ice, making conditions "slippery," *sleamhnánach*. Perhaps the solution is to use a *carr sleamhnáin* or "sliding car." That's the term used for a "sleigh," whether we mean Santa's favorite vehicle, an Olympic "bobsleigh," or even a "toboggan."

Be careful, though: a *sleamhnánaí* is not a some kind of "sleigh driver." It refers to "a person of slippery character."

*Comhfhad a théann teas agus fuacht*  
"Heat and cold run equal length," that is,  
"Moods change"

## TUNE OF THE MONTH

### The Mother And Child



This lovely reel is also known as The Yellow Cow and is associated with a great whistle player from County Clare, Micho Russell, who often sang tunes in addition to playing them. It was introduced to CIM students a number of years ago by instructor Seán Gavin. It is an example of a single reel, one which only has four bars repeated per part instead of eight.

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 common tunes archive under 'music resources' on the Center for Irish Music website: [www.centerforirishmusic.org](http://www.centerforirishmusic.org)

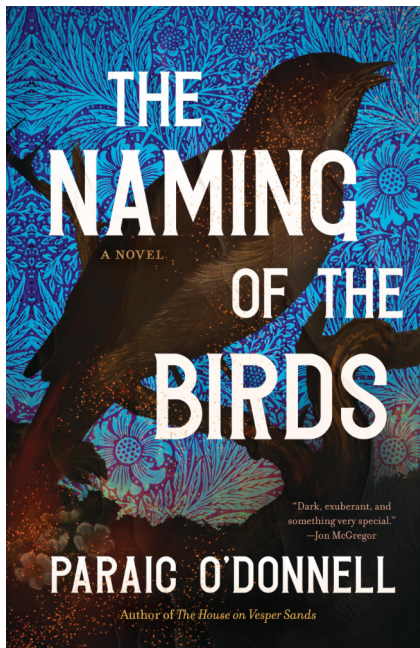


836 Prior Ave North, St. Paul MN 55104



## On Leabhragan (The Bookcase)

**The Naming of the Birds — Paraic O'Donnell — Tin House Books 2025**



Wicklow author Paraic O'Donnell has done it again: magicked up another place and time with great believability in his latest thriller, *The Naming of the Birds*. The time is 1894, and Inspector Henry Cutter of Scotland Yard, along with his sergeant Gideon Bliss and journalist Octavia Hillingdon, are hot on the heels of a serial killer in the shadows of London's fog-filled streets. A rash of bizarre murders of mostly retired civil servants and knighted aristocrats is filling the Fleet Street headlines and causing unease in Whitehall and the halls of power. The victims are found killed in precise, ritualistic ways, and every crime scene has the bones of young children left as a calling card: sometimes a single finger bone, sometimes a whole skeleton. Inspector Cutter believes that the murders are somehow connected to unspeakable crimes committed at a children's orphanage and asylum some twenty years earlier, an institution long since closed and abandoned. His sergeant, Gideon Bliss, also has intuitions of child cruelty: he himself was an orphan in an institution, and a pattern of retribution and revenge begins to take place in his mind as the trio begins to uncover connections between the murder victims and their past association with the orphanage. Their journalist friend Octavia Hillingdon is adept at getting into places she shouldn't and unearthing long-hidden records that never were meant to

see the light of day. As a trio, these formidable sleuths are tracking a cunning killer who seems to have an almost supernatural invisibility.

For those of us who love Victorian crime thrillers, it's hard to beat Paraic O'Donnell for gaslight atmosphere, witty repartee, and suspense. *The Naming of the Birds* is a perfect companion for a cold winter's night in a cozy armchair with a snifter of cognac close to hand.

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

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

*By Brian Miller*

### The Wexford Girl



Oh - my name is Ed - ward Gal - li - van In - Wex - ford - I was - born, For - the  
mur - der of Ma - ry Reil - ly I - die - in pub - lic scorn, It - is  
of a - beau - ti - ful - fair - one who might - have - been my - wife, But —  
for the sake of cur - sed - gold I - took - a - way her life.

Oh my name is Edward Gallivan, in Wexford I was born,  
For the murder of Mary Reilly I die in public scorn,  
It is of a beautiful fair one who might have been my wife,  
But for the sake of curs-ed gold I took away her life.

When first I kept her company her friends did on me frown,  
And by her hard indust-o-ry she saved twenty pounds,  
She believed my false vows but I led her quite astray,  
Saying, "My dear we will sail without delay unto Americay."

Oh those words that she had said to me would grieve  
your heart full sore,  
Before that I had murdered her and left her in her gore,  
She said, "Dear James here are my keys and in my box  
you will find  
An order on the savings bank for the sum of twenty  
pounds."

"Your money it will take me unto some foreign shore,"  
I then gave her a deadly blow, I need not say no more,  
With a loaded whip I murdered her, her body I concealed,  
Her blood it cried for vengeance, the murder soon  
revealed.

Oh I was apprehended, as you may plainly see,  
May the Lord look to my sinful soul, give me some time to pray,  
The judge he made me answer, "You gave no time to pray,  
To that innocent young creature whose life you took away."

Oh, now my song is ended, I mean to drop my pen,  
I hope my fate a warning will be to every young man,  
I hope my fate a warning to young and old may be,  
To shun drinking and night walking and keep good  
company.

We have another song from the masterful voice of New Brunswick singer Angelo Dornan this month. There is a fairly well-travelled ballad also called “The Wexford Girl” that song scholar Robert Waltz and others have recognized to be a separate story than this grim murder ballad. In Dornan’s song, the man lament’s his horrific crime that resulted from his greed for money.

The above is my own transcription of Dornan’s singing which is now available to hear via [archives.novascotia.ca](http://archives.novascotia.ca). After singing the text above, Dornan added this half verse implicating Satan himself:

I had not gone one mile with her until Satan tempted me  
For to rob her of her money and then her butcher be.

As usual with Dornan, it’s his beautiful singing and the enticing little twists and turns of his fluid version that draw me to this otherwise very dreary song!

---

*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*



# SOLAS IN CONCERT

The 30th Anniversary Tour

**SUNDAY, 23 FEB 2025**

**The Pantages Theatre  
Minneapolis**





## Celtic Junction Events



### [David Francey in Concert](#), Feb 8 @ 7:30 pm. \$25/\$30

Scottish-born Canadian folk artist David Francey is renowned for his poetic storytelling and authentic voice. Drawing on his years as a carpenter and laborer, Francey's songs offer vivid glimpses into the lives of everyday people. With thirteen albums, four Juno Awards, and international acclaim, his intimate performances combine wry humor, heartfelt stories, and beautiful melodies, making him a beloved voice in contemporary folk music. Nova Scotian artist, Terra Spencer, opens.



### [Éigse CIM, a Gaela Event](#), Feb 22 @ 6:00 pm.

Join the Center for Irish Music (CIM) and emcee Máirtín de Cógáin for an unforgettable celebration in support of the Center for Irish Music.



### [Solas 30th Anniversary Tour at The Pantages!](#) Feb 23 @ 7:30 pm. \$44-\$74

Celebrate three decades of musical innovation as Solas returns to the stage for their 30th-anniversary tour. Known as "the finest Celtic ensemble this country has ever produced" (The Boston Globe), this legendary group is credited with revolutionizing Irish traditional music. Their return after an eight-year hiatus promises an evening of unparalleled musicianship and artistry. *Presented by the Celtic Junction Arts Center.*



### [Dance with Dan Newton's Cafe Accordion Orchestra](#), Feb 28 @ 7:30 pm. \$10.00

Dance to an eclectic mix full of French flare, Latin heat, and Bohemian attitude! The band complements its core French musettes with swing, ballads, tangos, cha-chas, rumbas, and cumbias. Their musicianship and passion for performance make them an excellent dance band.



## Celtic Junction Classes

[CJAC's Winter Classes](#) are underway! Choose from 15 classes in [history and literature](#), the [Irish language](#), and the [creative arts and wellness](#). From online Irish language classes to hands-on cooking classes, we offer engaging experiences that bring Celtic culture to life—perfect for lifelong learners and curious minds alike. Secure your spot today!

**RINCE NA CHROI**  
*presents*  
**FROM THE STAGE  
TO YOUR HEART**



**IRISH DANCE SHOW**

**Saturday, Feb. 8 • 7 p.m.**  
The O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University



**Tickets on Sale Now!**  
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PERFORMANCES BY **Rince na Chroi Irish Dancers** WITH MUSIC FROM **Two Tap Trio + Wild Colonial Bhoys**





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**ST. PATRICK'S DAY**  
MAR 13 - 17 **WEEKEND** 2025

**LIVE IRISH MUSIC**  
 **PUB SPECIALS**   
**HOTEL PROMOS**  
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## SAINT PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND 2025

Food and Drink Specials all weekend. Weekend Room Specials.

### Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup>

#### 5-Course Cigar and Irish Whiskey Dinner

### March 14<sup>th</sup> Friday



#### 7 to 11 – 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!

### March 15<sup>th</sup> Saturday

## CHARLIE'S PUB



#### Noon to 3:00 Tom Dahill

Tom Dahill and Ginny Johnson are superb entertainers with a fantastic repertoire of old Irish songs and dance tunes that you won't hear from anyone else. They have command of many instruments between them; Irish button accordion, concertina, uilleann pipes, fiddle, whistle, bodhrán, guitar and they sort of juggle these instruments between them to suit the sounds to fit the venue as they go along through their performances. This is the music that is part of the soul of Ireland

#### 3:30 to 6:30 Hounds of Finn

The Hounds of Finn is a high-energy folk-rock group forged from the roots of Celtic and American traditions. Based in St. Paul, MN, the Hounds perform both original and standard material inspired by Celtic, Americana, Bluegrass, and folk/roots music from around the world; topped off with a sprinkling of traditional Irish and Scottish tunes



#### 7:30 to 11:30 – Prank Williams and the Broken Spoke

## BALLROOM

#### 2:30 to 5:30 – Fiddle and Flannels



"Fiddle and Flannels is a talented ensemble of musicians who specialize in delivering a captivating blend of classic country and lively Irish jigs. With their infectious energy and mastery of their instruments, they'll transport you to a world of heartwarming melodies and foot-stomping rhythms. Fiddle and Flannels is your go-to choice for an unforgettable musical experience."

#### 6:00 to 10:00 - Dregs

The Dregs are a comedy folk band of six performers based in the [Twin Cities](https://www.twincities.com/) region of Minnesota. Their act consists of a capella and instrumental versions of original music, covers of Traditional Irish Ballads, Sea Chanteys, Folk, Southern Rock, Country and Modern pop tunes as well as improvised comedy and mash-ups of varying styles.





March 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday

43<sup>rd</sup> Year, Issue No. 2

## CHARLIE'S PUB

### 3:00 to 6:00 Inland Seas

Formed in 2017, The Inland Seas brings together several experienced Minneapolis-based musicians to create a new Celtic/Americana ensemble. Combining lush vocals with fiddle, whistle, guitar, mandolin, and percussion, the group plays a varied mix of tunes from rousing pub songs to mournful ballads. Come sing, dance, and drink along with many moods of The Inland Seas!



### 6:30 to 10:00 Legacy

Based in the Twin Cities of Minnesota, Legacy has been playing Celtic traditional tunes and pub-style songs in a way that sets it apart from other bands. Legacy offers a balanced selection of songs (traditional pub, ballad, and contemporary styles) and dance tunes (traditional and stylized arrangements).



March 17<sup>th</sup> Monday

## CHARLIE'S PUB

### Noon to 3:00 - Paul & Lorraine

Paul and Lorraine started with a rouge folk band (Folk Underground), then split off to form their own duo. They bring a wide variety to the table, including: lots of drinking, lots of losing your love, plenty of death, doom, and destruction, along with happy little nights in the Pub. They take requests and will play almost anything (if they know about half of it!)



### 3:30 to 6:30 - Legacy

Based in the Twin Cities of Minnesota, Legacy has been playing Celtic traditional tunes and pub-style songs in a way that sets it apart from other bands. Legacy offers a balanced selection of songs (traditional pub, ballad, and contemporary styles) and dance tunes (traditional and stylized arrangements).



### 7:30 to 11:30 – 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!

## BALLROOM

### 2:30 to 5:30 – Fiddle and Flannels

"Fiddle and Flannels is a talented ensemble of musicians who specialize in delivering a captivating blend of classic country and lively Irish jigs. With their infectious energy and mastery of their instruments, they'll transport you to a world of heartwarming melodies and foot-stomping rhythms. Fiddle and Flannels is your go-to choice for an unforgettable musical experience."



6:00 to 10:00 - Dregs



**The Dregs** are a comedy folk band of six performers based in the [Twin Cities](https://www.twincities.com/) region of Minnesota. Their act consists of a capella and instrumental versions of original music, covers of Traditional Irish Ballads, Sea Chanteys, Folk, Southern Rock, Country and Modern pop tunes as well as improvised comedy and mash-ups of varying styles.



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## All Things Must Pass – Ring of Kerry Farewell Tour

Ring of Kerry has been playing Irish music for 25 years. Based in St. Cloud, the band is **Paul Cotton, Paul Imholte, Charlie Roth, Emma Nistler, and David Stoddard**, playing a broad range of musical instruments plus song ([www.ringofkerry.us/bios](http://www.ringofkerry.us/bios)). The band recently announced its final season. Fans will have several opportunities to see the band this St. Patrick's Day season (check out the [IAM Calendar](#).) The final farewell event will take place at the Paramount Center for the Arts in St. Cloud, MN on March 30. The evening will feature music from 25 years, as well as new tunes, and will welcome back the entire troupe of dancers to join the band on the stage one last time. Ring of Kerry has recorded a brand new CD called "The Lady The Cat The Butterfly," available in CD form as well as a USB bracelet.

The members of the band expressed their gratitude via Facebook to their fans and their appreciation for the fond memories and the true friendships they have built over the years. In those years, the complement of musicians has changed. The band has shared its stages with Irish dancers from the Cooney School of Irish Dance, the Saint Paul Irish Dancers, Scoil na dTri School of Irish Dance, Rince Nua, Claire Dietzsch, Hudson Irish Dance Academy, the Milwaukee Irish Dance Company, Rince na Gréine, ASA Irish Dance, and Eilis Academy of Irish Dance.

Ring of Kerry formed when bodhran player Paul Cotton called fiddler Paul Blondell with the idea of forming an Irish music group. Those two Pauls auditioned many musicians, one of whom was Paul Imholte, who joined on hammered dulcimer. The now three Pauls then tried out several more players till the five-piece band was formed.

Irish Arts Minnesota asked the band members to share some thoughts on their time making music together.

### *What's a highlight of your 25 years - special concert or something else?*

**Paul Cotton:** "One of the highlights for the band came in December of 2011 when Ring of Kerry performed as special guest of the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra. For the band, playing with sixty talented symphony musicians was a magical experience. Rich and lush, it was thunderously received."

**Charlie Roth:** "One of the highlights for me was playing to a crowd of 6 thousand or more people at the Levitt in Sioux Falls. Another was every time we did the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud – you could really feel the hometown support for the band."

**Emma Nistler:** "A highlight for me has been learning to book the band in major theaters across the Midwest. The privilege of playing in these beautiful auditoriums and discovering new communities, friends, and towns has been phenomenal."

### *What has changed for the band over the years?*

**Paul Cotton:** "Some of the band members have become inventive and seasoned producers who have created and staged larger Ring of Kerry theatrical productions. In these, they have spawned concepts, assembled multiple components – such as lighting, special effects, theatrical elements, flow of the show, inviting troupes of dancers and a wide range of other Celtic musicians including a variety of pipers, guest fiddlers, singers and choirs – and directed the staging of these."

**Charlie Roth:** "I have been in the band for 15 years but it has really been a big growth spurt for me as a guitarist. When I started I really did not know much about Celtic music, but I have since learned plenty and I have grown into the guitarist that they needed me to be."



**Paul Imholte:** “One big change for Ring of Kerry was the evolution of the venues we played. In the early years, the band mostly played small town festivals, special events, bar gigs and music in the park shows. We hoped for more. We decided to explore doing concerts in theaters. Our first show was a benefit for the local library. The concert was well received. Over the course of a couple of years, and through trial and error, we learned how to put on a good show. Theater concerts became our mainstay.

“The other big change over the course of twenty-five years was the process of bandmates leaving and being replaced by new ones. Ten different musicians have been full time members. Each brought their own personality, musical gifts, and quirks to the ensemble. Members left Ring of Kerry for various reasons. Some left because of other commitments, health concerns, and even the death of a member. The most touching reason for a member leaving the band was when Karie Oberg moved to Ireland. Once there, Karie met an Irish farmer and fiddle player and started a family.”

*What do think you will miss most?*

**Paul Cotton:** “Arranging music. I love the group process of creating musical arrangements which are developed to be interesting, driving, sometimes gently evocative, other times

made for dance. Recording and mixing CDs with RoK.”

**Charlie Roth:** “I will miss working with the group mostly because we are all good friends with each other and everyone in the group is a good player. I like to be in a group that rehearses. I will miss that. I will also miss working with the dancers.”

**Paul Imholte:** “I will miss most working with my bandmates, the power of playing together, and connecting with audiences in live shows.”

On behalf of Irish Arts Minnesota, *Go raibh mile maith agaibh* (Thank you) Ring of Kerry for 25 years of great music and for your commitment to including Irish dance in your shows. And thank you to the band’s many fans and followers for their devotion to live music. Best wishes to the band for the next chapters of their lives.

*Tiocfaidh deireadh an tsaoil, ach mairfidh grá agus ceol.*  
An end will come to the world but love and music will endure.



**Winter session starts January 13th!**



**BRUSH  
DANCE**

Set dance  
"battering"  
*Old Style step  
dance*

**SESSION  
DANCING**

**Sean nós  
dance**

**Mondays,  
7:30-8:30pm  
Jan. 13 - Mar. 3  
2025**

*All levels welcome!*

**Cost: freewill  
(\$15/hr  
suggested for  
those able)**

**Celtic Junction  
Arts Center  
836 Prior Ave.  
St. Paul, MN**





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## Smidiríní\*

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

*Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh!* (Good luck to) **Maeve O'Mara** and **Liam O'Neill**, who are closing **Irish on Grand** at the end of March. This "Irish Goodbye" means the end of the store on Grand Avenue, but not the end of Irish on Grand, which will live on on-line. With Maeve and Liam promising to divide their time between St. Paul and their home in Cork, we look forward to seeing them often. (And look for Irish on Grand at the Minnesota State Fair!) *Go raibh mile maith* agaibh. (Thank you) to Maeve and Liam for their support of Irish Arts Minnesota and the many Irish community organizations. *Go dtí sibh slán!* (safe journey) to our dear friends, since one important aim of their retirement is being able to travel – together!

Deepest sympathy to IAM Honoree **Tom Klein** and his family on the death of Tom's father.  
*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a Ainm dilis.* "HIS WAS A LIFE WELL LIVED."

*Comhghairdeas le* (Congratulations to) and Best Wishes to **Emma Nistler** and **Paul Cotton** of the band Ring of Kerry, who recently became engaged to be married.

*May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home.*

*May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.*

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)



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## IAM Members

### Irish Arts Minnesota Members

Irish Arts Minnesota thanks these donors for their financial support:

**Beth and Justin Engelking  
Mark Richardson  
Water Street Inn**

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

**Dórain (band)  
Bob Ford and Susan Bedor  
Connie Hessevick  
Stu Janis Family  
Kent Kaiser  
Mary McKay  
Nancy Olsen  
Mark Ponsolle  
Mark Richardson  
Elizabeth Teefy Family**

***Members are reminded that Irish Arts Minnesota membership is renewable annually in January. Renew today for 2025!***

New and renewing supporting members receive the following:

- A one-year (January to December 2025) subscription to 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/](http://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.

**[www.irishartsmn.org](http://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](mailto:info@irishartsmn.org)

## IAM Board

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

**Questions? Comments? Contact Us!**

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

[www.irishartsmn.org](http://www.irishartsmn.org)

**Ceili 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> Individual \$20 _____ Family \$25 _____  Band/Organization/Business \$25 _____ Name _____ (Name of Band/Organization/Business)	
<b>Interests (circle all that apply)</b> Music      Dance      Theatre      Language      Volunteer	
<b>E-mail Address:</b> _____ <b>Phone Number:</b> _____ 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 ( <a href="http://www.irishartsmn.org">www.irishartsmn.org</a> ) to pay electronically.	