

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

Young Musician Longs to Continue Her Musical Journey

By Jan Casey

Musician Aurion Stremski, 9, of St. Paul, loves to play the harp for family and friends, including her family pets Smaug the cat and Selkie the dog. Aurion studies harp at the Center for Irish Music, learning to play by ear. Aurion tells us that “all my songs are in my head.” Aurion was able to rent a harp for her studies through The Center for Irish Music’s Instrument Rental Program. The rental harp is a small student harp with only 26 strings. Aurion asked for an IAM Educational Grant to help with the purchase of her own full-sized 34 string harp. She tells us that the larger harp will mean that she can play more songs.

Aurion tells us “My favorite part about playing the harp is the music and playing for other people.” She loves making tickets for family and friends for the concerts she plays at home or when they have guests. She tells us “When my friends and family come over, I even get to teach them about the harp and show them how to play. It is so much fun to do together.” Aurion enjoys playing with her brother, who studies fiddle, and looks forward to being able to play with a group. She also looks forward to returning her rental harp so that another student can take lessons too - “I bet someone else wants to get to play it just like I did.”

Aurion’s teacher is recommending the larger instrument for Aurion since Aurion “has demonstrated a remarkable dedication, talent and passion for the Irish harp.” Her teacher tells us that “her extraordinary consistency in her harp practicing has helped her become a wonderfully accurate and expressive harp player in a very short amount of time. Owning a full-sized instrument is invaluable to progress on the harp.”

The principal goal of Irish Arts Minnesota’s Educational Grant Program is to help people who love Irish arts to continue their studies, move to the next level of mastery, and share their interests with others. Aurion will use her IAM Educational Grant to help with the purchase of her own harp. A full-sized harp is the perfect step to help this dedicated young musician continue her musical journey. Irish Arts Minnesota is delighted to be part of this story.



Jan Casey serves on the IAM board.

www.irishartsmn.org

The Gaelic Corner- By Will Kenny

When I was a young lad, shortly after the last glaciers melted, I lived in a small town (pop. 2,000) in Pennsylvania. Being of the Boomer generation, one thing we had a lot of was kids. Big families were common: six kids in my family, six kids in my wife's family (same town), and there were many like that.



Gaeltacht
Minnesota

The basic parenting approach, especially in the summer, was to let the kids out in the morning and leave them to roam about the territory until they got hungry, or until they were called in by their mothers. Many of the mothers in my town had truly powerful voices. I know I had the impression that I could hear Mom calling my name if I were a mile away.

Most of us left the house looking fairly decent and returned in the evening with torn clothes and skinned knees. But that didn't seem to worry anyone. And we didn't spend all our time doing sports and tag and other games.

Sometimes we needed a break, so a few of us would go to one friend's house to do some ...reading!

I'm suggesting that reading was a major pastime for kids of my generation, not just in my town, but all across the country. I'm not proposing that we were all little intellectuals. To understand what was going on, we have to ask the question: what were we reading?

Comic Books! We read them, swapped them, hoarded them. And on a typical Saturday you would find many of us walking down to Jay's Corner, with whatever coins we had managed to scrape together during the week jingling in our pockets, to replenish our literature.

No wonder we Boomers are so smart.

A "comic book" is *greannán*, a single word that captures both the "comic" and the "book." This is unusual, as most expressions in Irish to do with fun or humor consist of two nouns: the first tells us what the subject is, the second adds the fun. Thus, *scéal* ("story") + *grinn* ("fun") = "humorous story." *Fear* ("man") + *grinn* ("fun") = "man of fun," in other words, a "comedian." *Dráma* ("play") + *grinn* ("fun") = *dráma grinn*, a "comedy" in the theatre or in the movies.

As I look back, I wonder why they were called "comic books." Some of them were certainly funny, but my favorite stories featured Superman. Week after week, he applied his super powers to deal with evil-doers especially Lex Luthor, and most of it was serious business. And it was easier, back in the day (and I mean way back when), to focus on a few heroes: Superman, Wonder Woman, Batman, the Flash, and so on. These days, superheroes seem to breed like rats.

By the end of my teenage years, I had lost interest in comic books. As a result, I pretty much missed the emergence of a new kind of comic: the graphic novel. Compared to comics, graphic novels are generally longer, have a clearer story structure and perhaps more sophisticated illustrations. I say graphic novels are "sorta new" because there are examples of graphic novels from the 1800's. But they are certainly a new form to authors working in the Irish language.

And they are catching up. I recently checked an on-line Irish-language bookstore and found 23 graphic novels in the Irish language. The most important of these is *An Béal Bocht*, a satire published in 1941 by a fellow using the name Myles na gCopaleen, "or Myles of the Ponies."

Myles was actually Brian O'Nolan (*Brian Ó Nualláin*), a civil servant who had a startling facility with several languages, including Irish. He wrote a column for the Irish Times under the Copaleen name, and in any column you may find a mixture of English, French, and German, all of it very funny.

He also wrote highly regarded novels in English like *At Swim-Two-Birds* and *The Third Policeman* under the name Flann O'Brien.

Now to step back a bit to *An Béal Bocht*. In the late 1920's and 1930's, several memoirs were published that captured that simple but hard life on the western coasts. Many people were fascinated with these detailed accounts, as well as appreciative of the fact that they were produced by relatively untutored peasants, if you will. *An Beal Bocht* was an absolutely merciless parody of those memoirs.

And it is great to have this graphic novel version, published in 1996, that offers perhaps a gentler introduction to this fascinating writer.

Is from an t-ualach an t-aineolas.

Ignorance is a heavy burden.

www.irishartsmn.org

TUNE OF THE MONTH

I Have A Bonnet Trimmed With Blue

polka



D G D/F# D A A/C# D A

D G D/F# D D/F# em A D

D G D/F# D A A/C# bm

A G D/F# D D/F# em A D

This polka is fairly common to the Irish music community, it was introduced to CIM students through song by instructor Dáithí Sproule. Dáithí was a guest instructor at the 2018 Summer Ensemble Camp and taught the campers to sing and play this tune.

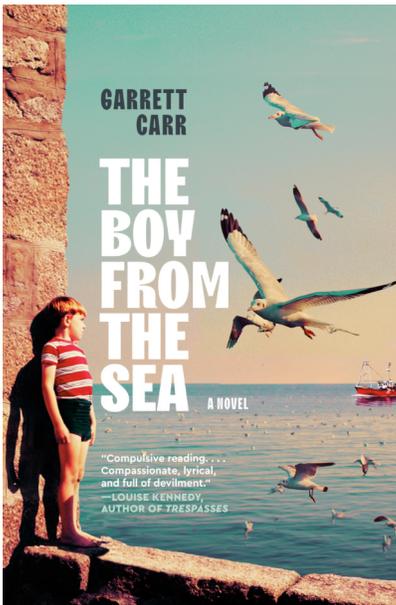
Respectfully submitted by Rosa Wells on behalf of the Center for Irish Music (CIM), a traditional Irish music school based in St. Paul, located inside the Celtic Junction Arts Center. We publish a tune each month with dots (sheet music), suggested chords and some basic background information including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



836 Prior Ave North, St. Paul MN 55104

An Leabhragan (The Bookcase)

The Boy from the Sea— Garrett Carr — Aldred A Knopf 2025



It's the early 1970s in a small fishing village on Donegal Bay. A baby boy is found on the beach, nestled in an old half-barrel. The locals take him in and, instead of giving him up to an orphanage, pass him around from family to family until he finds a permanent home with the Bonnars, who adopt him and christen him Brendan. For many in town, the baby is mystical, the stuff of legend: The Boy From the Sea. Brendan carries a sense of calm and comfort, and it is rumored that his touch is healing and his whispered blessing can take away trouble and anxiety. In his adoptive family, Brendan has a precarious perch: his mum Christine sees him as the second child she could not have. His generous-hearted dad Ambrose loves him whole-heartedly, but older brother Declan resents him and is jealous the moment this interloper enters this house. This dynamic informs all the years of the two boys' childhood and adolescence; it seems nothing will reconcile Declan to his strange sibling.

The economic woes of the seventies and eighties come down hard in Donegal, especially amongst the smaller fishermen who cannot compete with larger international fishing boats which scoop up everything in the sea and overfish the already-diminishing catch. The challenges of a changing world economy are felt throughout Ireland. Will the young ones follow their dads to the sea, or leave home and try for a living far from the Donegal coast? How the Bonnars and the rest of the town cope with economic uncertainty and threat of generational identity is at the heart of this deeply insightful novel. The book is narrated by "we", that is, the sympathetic townspeople trying to cope with a fast-moving modern world encroaching on their timeless bay.

This is Garrett Carr's first foray into adult fiction, being better known for a walking guide to Donegal and Young Adult fiction. He captures the feel of an old Irish village, the residents' closeness to the sea and each other, and the rich and subtle voice of a quiet people. So much is said with a few words, a gesture which implies volumes, even a word unsaid. It is a worthy entry into the world of Irish fiction; a rich and thoughtful read.

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 to review, or—write a review yourself! She may be reached at ladig-dunquin@msn.com. Happy August front-porch reading!

Northwoods Songs: Irish Songs from Lumberjacks and Great Lakes Sailors

By Brian Miller

My Emmett's No More



De - spair in her wild eye, a daugh-ter of Er - in, Ap -
peared on the cliffs of the wild ro-cky shore, Loose in the wind flowed her
dark, stream-ing ring-lets, Heed-less she gazed on the dread surg-e's roar.
Loud rang her harp in wild tones of de - spair - ing, The
time past a-way with the pre-sent com-par-ing, And in soul-thrill-ing strains dee-per
sor-row de-clar-ing, She sang Er-in's woes for her Em-mett's no more.

Despair in her wild eye, a daughter of Erin,
Appeared on the cliffs of the wild, rocky shore,
Loose in the wind flowed her dark, streaming ringlets,
Heedless she gazed on the dread surge's roar.
Loud rang her harp in wild tones of despairing,
The time passed away with the present comparing,
And in soul-thrilling strains deeper sorrow declaring,
She sang Erin's woes, for her Emmett's no more.

Ah, Erin, my country, your glory's departed,
For tyrants and traitors have stabbed thy heart's core,
Thy daughters have laid in the streams of affliction,
Thy patriots have fled or lie stretched in their gore.

Ruthless ruffians now prowl through they hamlets forsaken,
From pale, hungry orphans their last morsel have taken,
The screams of thy females no pity awaken,
Alas! My poor country, your Emmett's no more.

Brave was his spirit yet wild as the Brahmin,
His heart bled in anguish at the wrongs of the poor,
To relieve their hard sufferings he braved every danger,
The vengeance of tyrants undauntedly bore.
Before him the proud, titled villains in power,
Were seen though in ermine, in terror to cower,
But, alas! He is gone—he's a fallen young flower,
They have murdered my Emmett—my Emmett's no more.

Thanks to the wonders of the archive at newspapers.com, I recently discovered a new source for Minnesota folk songs! On most Sundays between October 1923 and January 1925, the *Minneapolis Journal* ran a column called “The Old Songs Exchange: Words That Journal Readers Ask For.” Similar to the “Old Songs That Men Have Sung” column in *Adventure Magazine* I have used in my research before, the *Old Songs Exchange* was full of fascinating folk and stage song texts submitted by readers of the paper—complete with, in most cases, attribution for who sent in the words.

The Sunday, November 2, 1924 column includes “My Emmett’s No More,” a somewhat rare song commemorating Robert Emmett and the 1798 uprising in Ireland. Unfortunately, the *Journal* gave no attribution for this one. The four other song texts printed that day were supplied by Newman L. Deusen of Brunswick, Ohio; Mrs. Laura M. Klinefelter of Steele, North Dakota; and Mrs. Lula I. Godwin of Minneapolis so it is possible that the Emmett song came from one of them. The text in the *Journal* does seem to be from someone’s memory as it is missing a couple lines from what would have appeared in a songster or broadside (many songsters in both Ireland and US did print the song).

I have married the Minneapolis-printed text to the melody sung by Irish singer (and dancer) Páidí Bán Ó Broin whose rendition appears in the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann digital archive. Ó Broin was part of the Comhaltas touring group that visited Minnesota in 1976 and stayed with Lucy and Jack Fallon in St. Paul. I also filled in a couple missing lines using a version printed by Terry Moylan in *The Age of Revolution in the Irish Song Tradition*.

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





Where's My Irish Arts MN Calendar?

What a delight it is to have so many great Irish bands, dance schools and groups and community organizations active in the Twin Cities and beyond. Long-time members August remember the calendar that used to be at the heart of the IMDA Newsletter. Some time ago, Irish Arts MN / IMDA gave up including the calendar in the newsletter – with so much going on, a printed calendar was too quickly out of date.

Solution? Irish Arts Minnesota Community Calendar On-Line – a comprehensive and dynamic on-line calendar of events of all kinds with an Irish and Celtic connection.

Did you know? You can search the IAM Community Calendar by artist, by venue, and by type of event to find what's happening. Check it out at irishartsmn.org/events/ - and come back often throughout the month. We'll keep adding good stuff as we learn about it!



Let's Get Craic'ing!*

Irish Fair of Minnesota: Where Sláinte* Meets You Betcha

Aug. 8 - 10 Outdoors on Saint Paul's Harriet Island

Saint Paul, Minn. (May 28, 2025) --- The 45th annual Irish Fair of Minnesota, the three-day outdoor celebration of all things Irish, returns to Saint Paul's Harriet Island Aug. 8 - Aug. 10, 2025. This family-friendly event is one of the largest Irish festivals in the nation.

Since 1980, The Irish Fair of Minnesota has celebrated the union of Irish and Midwestern cultural heritage. Each second weekend in August, Harriet Island transforms into a mini-Emerald Isle providing an authentic Irish experience for all. The Irish Fair is good company, good Irish music of all kinds, and a good "craic" (*Gaelic for "good time").

Attendees enjoy traditional Irish dance, a variety of food stands, whiskey tastings, Irish sports demos (hurling, camogie, boxing), Irish comedy, a marketplace with handmade goods, educational and cultural programming, and activities for the wee ones. Of course, you'll hear "Sláinte" (*Gaelic for "cheers") and pint clinks quite often in the pub tents.

Hundreds of talented musicians and performers will take to six outdoor stages on Harriet Island. From traditional Irish bands and instrumentalists to sounds of the next generation of Irish entertainers, there will be music galore for all to enjoy. A full schedule will be available closer to the event, but here are the 2025 featured entertainers.

Friday

Talisk, the Scottish trio of Mohsen Amini (concertina), Benedict Morris (violin) and Charlie Galloway (guitar) have been redefining the folk genre for almost a decade.

Saturday

A true fan favorite, **Gaelic Storm** will bring their energetic mix of Irish and Scottish fare including some drinking songs, patriotic anthems, beautiful folk songs, spritely instrumentals, and more.

The Diddley Idols is the husband-and-wife team of Queens native, Dave Barckow and Dubliner, Louise Barry. This New York based duo brings a full band sound.

Saturday and Sunday

Eileen Ivers, the Grammy-winning, 9-time All-Ireland Fiddle Champion, and original Musical Star of Riverdance, returns to the Irish Fair of Minnesota. On Saturday, she'll perform with the Universal Roots and then, come Sunday, Eileen will take the stage with The Brigadeens.

Sunday

The High Kings will close out the weekend with a mighty craic! Comprised of Darren Holden, Finbarr Clancy, Brian Dunphy, and Paul O'Brien, The High Kings have set the bar for Irish Folk music and aren't stopping anytime soon.

All Weekend

Ally the Piper is a multi-instrumentalist and vocalist, best known for her work on the Great Highland Bagpipe recognized for her ability to take the centuries-old instrument and make it relevant and appealing to a modern audience.

A globetrotting troubadour from Limerick, Ireland, **Emma Langford** has become a feature of the Irish folk and songwriter scene with her storytelling and wit.

ZeroK Fun Run Sponsored by Guinness 0 and Irish Titan – Saturday & Sunday



The ZeroK Fun Run is a 3-meter race where everyone is a winner! Baarry, the Irish Fair mascot, will lead the fun on Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

The registration fee of \$45 supports the Irish Fair of Minnesota while the "athletes" will receive a complimentary beverage (beer, wine, or N/A), a bag of chips, and a commemorative jersey.

WHEN: Friday, Aug. 8 3 – 11 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 9 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 10 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

WHERE: Harriet Island, Saint Paul, Minn.
200 Dr Justus Ohage Blvd

TICKETS:	<u>Daily Pass – one day only</u>	<u>Three-Day Weekend Pass</u>
Adult (18 – 54)	\$25	Adult (18 – 54) \$60
13 – 17, 55+	\$15	13 – 17, 55+ \$45
12 and under	FREE	12 and under FREE

The Ultimate VIP Experience: Three tiers available each including VIP Lounge access, food and beverages, and a private restroom. Top level includes valet parking.

Group Tickets: Save 20% by purchasing 10+ admission tickets in one order.

For pricing and details, visit <https://www.irishfair.com/tickets>.



Irish Arts Minnesota

August
2025
Lúnasa

43rd Year, Issue No. 8

Irish Festival Preview – Stay Tuned!

Here in the Twin Cities, we have the **Irish Fair of Minnesota** at Harriet Island in St. Paul from Aug. 8 - 10. Irish Fair takes advantage of the amazing collection of **local Irish music and dance** as well as featuring fantastic international acts. The lineup already announced includes **Talisk, Gaelic Storm, The High Kings, Emma Langford, Eileen Ivers and Universal Roots, Eileen Ivers and the Brigideens, Ally the Piper.** and the **Diddley Idols**. Buy tickets and keep up to date with the plans at www.irishfair.com.

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

Dublin Irish Festival, Dublin, OH – Aug. 1 - 3.

Includes: Gaelic Storm, Solas, Skerryvore, Tannahill Weavers, StepCrew, Open the Door for Three, The Jeremiahs, Ally the Piper, Cassie and Maggie, and more. dublinirishfestival.org.

Iowa Irish Fest, Downtown Waterloo, IA – Aug. 1 - 3.

Iowa's Biggest Cultural Celebration. The Elders, The Screaming Orphans, the Byrne Brothers, Seo Linn, and Aoife Scott lead off the list of entertainment. www.iowairishfest.com.

Milwaukee Irish Fest, Milwaukee, WI - Aug. 14 - 17.

Over 100 Acts Across 16 Stages!! The 'granddaddy' festival is a 4-day event, with a substantial lineup already. The lists included Athas, Cherish the Ladies, Emma Langford, Enda Reilly, Gadan featuring Enda Scahill & Hillary Klug, The Red Hot Chilli Pipers and many more! www.irishfest.com

Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Fest, Oak Forest, IL – Aug. 22 -24.

Garron Noone, Ally the Piper, The Kilkennys, Drops of Green, The Byrne Brothers, Gadan and more. Details and tickets at chicagogaelicpark.com/

Irish Hooley Music Festival of Dubuque, Dubuque, IA – Aug. 23.

The Kilkennys, Aoife Scott, Rory Makem, Ian Gould and more. www.irishhooley.org/

Kansas City Irish Fest, Kansas City, MO – Aug. 29 – 31.

The festival offers entertainment on 7 stages including the Elders, Gaelic Storm, The High Kings, Solas, The StepCrew, the Screaming Orphans and more. www.kcirishtfest.com/

Michigan Irish Music Festival, Muskegon, MI – Sept. 11 – 14.

The 4-day festival brings great Irish music to Muskegon. Six large, covered stages featuring Ally the Piper, Goitse, Lunasa, Runa, Socks in the Frying Pan and more. www.michiganirish.org.

Irish Fest of the Fox Cities, Appleton, WI – Sept. 19 - 20.

Boxing Banjo, Skerryvore, The Drowsy Lads, and Colm & Laura Keegan and more have been announced. www.irishfestfoxcities.com/



Irish Arts Minnesota

August
2025
Lúnasa

43rd Year, Issue No. 8

Music in the Park – Summer Outdoor Music Events

Time to head to a park to hear a favorite band or a new one!

- Monday, August 11 – **Irish Diplomacy** at Lake Harriet Bandshell, Minneapolis at 7:30 pm.
 Sunday, August 17 – **Legacy** at Tighe-Schmitz Park, White Bear Lake. Music from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, Sept. 3 – **Legacy** at Como Lakeside Pavilion, St. Paul. Music from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

Music in the Vineyards – More Summer Outdoor Music

Come enjoy the music – and be sure to sample the local offerings!

- Sunday, Aug. 3 – **Locklin Road** at the Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter, Stillwater at 1:00 pm
 Sunday, Aug. 10 – **Locklin Road** at Dancing Dragonfly Winery in St. Croix Falls, WI at 1:00 pm.
 Friday, Sept. 5 – **The Belfast Cowboys** at Parley Lake Winery in Waconia at 6:30 pm.
 Sunday, Sept. 14 - **Locklin Road** at Dancing Dragonfly Winery in St. Croix Falls, WI at 1:00 pm.

Our own Irish Festival – Outdoors at Harriet Island, St. Paul

Irish Fair of Minnesota, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 8 to 10 with a new special **Ceól on the River Concert** on Thursday, Aug. 7. **All your favorite local bands plus wonderful visiting bands** at Harriet Island, St. Paul. Tickets and schedule information at www.irishfair.com.

Details for these and many more events at irishartsmn.org/events/

Celtic Junction Events



[Family Movie Night: *The Sandlot*](#), August 1 at 6:30 pm. Free

Join us for a cozy summer evening at Celtic Junction as the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) hosts a screening of *The Sandlot*! Expect baseball, s'mores, and fun for all ages. Kids 12 and up can be dropped off; younger children are welcome with a parent. Bring blankets, pillows, or pajamas for floor lounging—chairs also available. Popcorn, cocoa, and sweet treats available for purchase at the café. Please make a reservation!



[Music in the Trees at Belwin Conservancy](#), August 16 & 17 from 11:00 am–3:00 pm. \$10-\$35 per car

Celebrate the shared rhythms of people and place during this two-day outdoor event at Belwin Conservancy. Enjoy immersive performances among the red pine restoration area, followed by a Celtic Junction Arts Center program from 2–3 pm each day at the Hilltop Classroom. Featured artists include Irish American ballad singer and folklorist Brian Miller, Northern Irish fiddler Danny Diamond, Irish dancer Becky Bollinger of O'Shea Irish Dance, and author and cultural storyteller Nora Murphy. Belwin Conservancy Education Site – Hilltop Classroom, 1553 Stagecoach Trail South, Afton, MN 55001.



[Bone Tones Cajun Dance](#), August 16 at 8:00 pm. \$12

Dust off your dancing shoes for a night of high-energy Cajun music with the legendary Bone Tones! Known as the Upper Midwest's premier Cajun band from the late '80s through early 2000s, the Bone Tones return with their signature blend of two-steps, waltzes, blues, and fiddle tunes—played with authentic flair on accordion, fiddle, steel guitar, and more. Pop Wagner will emcee.



[Meadhbh Walsh in Concert](#), Wednesday, August 27 at 7:00 pm. \$20

Join us for an enchanting evening with Meadhbh Walsh, a 23-year-old Irish folk singer and multi-instrumentalist celebrated for her compelling blend of traditional and contemporary folk. From her roots in Meelin, Cork, Meadhbh has toured extensively across the USA, UK, and Dubai. Her critically acclaimed debut album *On My Own* was released in 2024 and instantly reached number one on the Irish charts. With her stirring vocals, original songwriting, and heartfelt stage presence, Meadhbh is a rising star.



Celtic Junction Summer Camp

[Irish Adventure Camp](#), August 4-7 at 9:30 am - 12 pm. \$125

Give your child a joyful introduction to Irish language, music, dance, and theater through games, rhythm, and storytelling. Led by Felix Aguilar Tomlinson, Sue Clark, and Adrienne O'Shea, this half-day camp wraps with a performance at the Irish Fair of Minnesota on August 8. For ages 6–11. Register now!



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August
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43rd Year, Issue No. 8

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SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS | 9:30AM - 12:00PM



**BOTTOMLESS MIMOSAS
NEW SEASONAL BITES
SPECTACULAR VIEWS**

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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

August 1st & 2nd - 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



August 8th & 9th - 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!)

August 15th & 16th - 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!



August 22nd & 23rd -Purgatory Creek



Purgatory Creek is a band that tracks from Nashville to Belfast featuring the music of Dee Brust, David Perry, Adam Stemple, and Ann Viviano. This group has decades of performance between them, and offers up folk rockin' Irish Americana to take you the river, the mine, the mystic, the mountain, the shady grove, and the devil's backbone

August 29th & 30th -Twin Prop Jane

Twin Prop Jane features vocal harmonies, fiddles, guitar, mandolin, and banjo, bringing to light those long lonesome waltzes, ecstatic tune sets, and folksy forays into far flung favorites.



September 5th & 6th - 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

September 12th & 13th -Purgatory Creek

Purgatory Creek is a band that tracks from Nashville to Belfast featuring the music of Dee Brust, David Perry, Adam Stemple, and Ann Viviano. This group has decades of performance between them, and offers up folk rockin' Irish Americana to take you the river, the mine, the mystic, the mountain, the shady grove, and the devil's backbone

September 19th & 20th - 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!

Sept 26th & 27th - Bonnie Drunken Lad



"Bonnie Drunken Lad. A group of 4 lads and 1 lass (all with questionable Celtic heritage) with an interest in traditional and modern Irish drinking songs, war anthems, historical oddities, sea shanties, and anything Luke Kelly sings. They practice in a shack in Apple Valley, MN. Five miscreants, one Bonnie Drunken Lad."



Each summer since 1991, the *Swannanoa Gathering* draws in students of folk music and dance to North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. The Swannanoa Gathering is the Warren Wilson College's educational program of summer folk arts workshops held on campus near Asheville.

Each year, week-long programs are offered in various forms of folk music and dance, taught by some of the finest folk artists and instructors in the world. Celtic Week is the largest stand-alone program at the Swannanoa Gathering, bringing together musicians, dancers, and singers to celebrate the rich musical traditional of Scotland and Ireland. Set against the breathtaking Blue Ridge Mountains, this expansive event offers a wide variety of workshops, lectures, and panel discussions while retain the intimate, welcoming atmosphere that the Gathering is known for.

Evening concerts and spontaneous sessions add to the vibrant atmosphere, creating space for musical exploration. The week culminates with the legendary Thursday night ceilidh. New this year, three staff musicians will provide live music for the accompaniment and dance classes, as well as enhance the concerts, sessions and ceilidh. Celtic Week fosters a strong sense of kinship, welcoming participants of all skill levels to develop alongside each other as musicians, performers, and collaborators. It the best of both worlds: the excitement of a large-scale program combined with the warmth of a close-kinit community. Many noteworthy musicians have taught at Swannanoa, including our own Daithi Sproule.

This year, three IAM Educational Grant Recipients are included in Celtic Week:

- Musician and singer **Adrienne O'Shea**, who received her grant in 2021, is teaching Intro to Irish Tin Whistle and Intermediate/Advanced Tin Whistle.
- Fiddler **Joe DeGeorgeo**, who received his grant in 2021, is serving as a Staff Musician.
- Uilleann Piper **Will Johnson**, who received grants in 2023 and 2024, is also serving as a Staff Musician for the week.

In addition, **Séan Gavin**, who teaches at *the Center for Irish Music*, coordinates Celtic Week.

What a wonderful opportunity for these dedicated young musicians to share their gifts in such a special place. *Maith thú* (well done, way to go) to Adrienne, Joe and Will.



***New Outdoor Concert with an Irish Accent to Showcase
'Ireland's Hardest Working Band', The Coronas***

Thursday, Aug. 7 on Saint Paul's Harriet Island

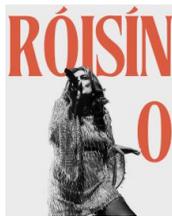
Saint Paul, Minn. (May 29, 2025) --- Introducing “**Ceol on the River**,” an outdoor concert experience with a distinctive Irish accent. Ceol (KEY-yole) in Irish is translated to “music.” A production of the Irish Fair of Minnesota, the inaugural Ceol on the River concert will be held Thursday, Aug. 7 on Saint Paul’s scenic Harriet Island.

The Coronas, dubbed as “Ireland’s Hardest Working Band,” will headline the vibrant evening with support from Róisín O and The Belfast Cowboys. Tickets are now on sale.



The Coronas

The Coronas are known for their blend of indie, folk, pop, and rock sounds, often described as having anthemic indie rock with catchy tunes and an Irish accent. Based in Dublin, the band's core members, Danny O'Reilly, Graham Knox, and Conor Egan, met in college and formed the band in 2003.



Róisín O

Róisín O (RO-sheen) is a celebrated Irish singer, songwriter, and musician, known for her powerful vocals and captivating stage presence. Her music is described as folk and alternative pop with influences from Joni Mitchell and Haim.



The Belfast Cowboys

The Belfast Cowboys are a nine-piece horn-driven band from Minneapolis that specializes in the music of Van Morrison. They blend rock, blues, roots, and soul sounds.

WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 7, 2025 6 PM- 10:30 PM
WHERE: Harriet Island- 200 Dr Justus Ohage Blvd, Saint Paul, Minn.
TICKETS: \$50 GA- \$125 VIP

For pricing and details, visit <https://ceolontheriver.com/>

Rest in Peace Georganne Hunter

Our friends from Willowgreen shared the news that their dear friend, bandmate, and founding member of Willowgreen, Georganne Hunter, recently passed away peacefully.

“Georganne’s spirit was the heartbeat of Willowgreen from the very beginning. Her music—rooted in Celtic tradition, spiritual depth, and heartfelt storytelling—touched the lives of so many over the decades. Whether playing harp, teaching her students, or composing tunes inspired by her loved ones, she brought a profound grace and magic to every note.

Georganne’s legacy lives on in the music she created, the friendships she nurtured, and the love she gave so freely. We are endlessly grateful to have had Georganne as a part of our music family for these many years, and we will continue to carry her spirit forward in everything we do.

Our hearts are with her family and all who loved her.
Thank you for keeping Georganne in your thoughts.”

From Willowgreen’s website:

Georganne played Gaeic Harp and Whistle with Willowgreen. She has a B.A. in organ, but fell in love with the Gaelic harp after hearing one at the Renaissance Faire in California. Her love of Celtic music comes from her great grandmother, who immigrated to the U.S. from Shetland as a singer with a Chautauqua group. She has studied harp in Scotland and Ireland and performed at venues from Newfoundland to California. She has also taught harp, hammered dulcimer, piano and tin whistle. For more about her life story, please see her memorial website at www.huntermusic.com.

Fellow Harper Ann Heymann shared these remembrances of Georganne:

“Oh our dear Georganne—you were one of my first harp friends (meeting in California) and we’ve stayed friends forever. Thank you for getting David Kortier to make his first ever Gaelic harp (a Queen Mary)—and I will always think of you when I play it. Thank you for creating the fabulous team of Duluth players for the “Gaelic Harp Legacy Project”. Thank you for bringing a team of neo-Irish harp players for the SHSA competitions—and thank you for nurturing the amazingly talented Katie Elmer. Charlie and I were just enjoying one of your notebooks... I’m hoping that there will be a place in Duluth, the Twin Cities or the Library of Congress for a collection from your personal library... of course, including your recordings with Willowgreen. Your musicianship, kindness and love of beauty and nature will be long remembered and dearly missed by those who were fortunate enough to know you.”

Musician Charlie Heymann added this poem from Sarah Morgan:

Warm be the sun that shines upon you
Soft be the winds as they breathe on you
Smooth be the roads that rise before you
Keep you in peace 'till we meet again

May you have shelter in storm to hide you
May you have stars in the night to guide you
May you have ever a friend beside you
Keep you in peace 'till we meet again

May you not lack for good bread to feed you
May you not lack for good hope to speed you
And for your singing a heart to heed you
Keep you in peace 'till we meet again



Smidiríní*

(*Irish for 'Bits and Pieces')

by Copper Shannon

Deepest Sympathy to the family and many friends of **Wendi Ward**. Known most widely for her store Practical Goods, Wendi was a supporter of traditional music and a regular at pub and community sings. Tom Klein remembers that she “used to run a modest concert venue (Toad Hall) where a ton of people (including Tom) earned some performing chops in the warmest of settings.” An insightful obituary in the St. Paul Pioneer Press gives a peak into a life lived authentically. [Wendi Ward, Practical Goods owner believed in recycling, community](#)

Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann (There will never be the likes of her again).

Comhghairdeas le (Congratulations to) and best wishes all the dedicated musicians who are traveling to Ireland for the *Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2025* in Wexford Town, Ireland (lovingly known as the All Irelands). Among the many Minnesotans making their way to the world's largest annual celebration of Irish music, language, song and dance are two *IAM Educational Grant* recipients who will compete in solo competitions (**Teddy Brandt** on accordion and **Katya Roberts** on uilleann pipes, whistle and flute). The Minnesota representatives will attend Scoil Éigse, the Summer School where emerging talent are encouraged and guided by the cream of Irish traditional artists. We know that everyone will enjoy the opportunities to learn, make music, make new friends and savor the time together.

Maith sibh! (Good on you!) to **all the Irish dancers** who danced their very best at the *North American Irish Dance Championships* in National Harbor, MD in July and at the *CRN World Open Championships* in Dublin, Ireland in June. Good on ya!

Comhghairdeas le (Congratulations to) the **several local Irish dancers** who competed in the *North American Irish Dance Championships* and qualified for the upcoming World Irish Dance Championships in greater Chicago next Spring!

Comhghairdeas le (Congratulations to) **Gus the Bardic Troubadour** who recently welcomed a new member to the family. Gus needed to take a bit of time away from the stage to “our little 'bardling' settled.”

*May strong arms hold you, Caring hearts tend you,
And may love await you at every step.*

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



Irish Arts Minnesota

August
2025
Lúnasa

43rd Year, Issue No. 8

IAM Members

Irish Arts Minnesota Members

Membership is important to Irish Arts Minnesota as both a financial and social support of our mission of fostering a vibrant and diverse community of artists, dancers, musicians and businesses – a community where Ireland’s traditional arts and culture are celebrated to instill an appreciation for generations to come. Membership is also a meaningful indication of community support when IAM seeks grant support and sponsorship.

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 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

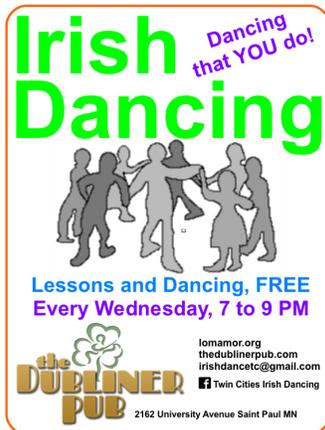
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Questions? Comments? Contact Us!

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: _____
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Address: _____	How did you hear about us? _____
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Membership Type (circle one)
Individual \$20 _____ Family \$25 _____
Band/Organization/Business \$25 _____ Name _____
(Name of Band/Organization/Business)

Interests (circle all that apply)
Music Dance Theatre Language Volunteer

E-mail Address: _____ **Phone Number:** _____
 Your monthly newsletter is delivered electronically via e-mail. Please advise us at
 Info@irishartsmn.org if your e-mail address changes.

Tear out the above form and send it with a check made out to "IAM" to:
 The IAM Membership Coordinator c/o Jan Casey 400 Macalester St.
 St. Paul, MN 55105
 Or visit the IAM website (www.irishartsmn.org) to pay electronically.