

**Comhaltas Ceóltoirí Éireann  
Tom Finucane Branch  
Rochester, New York**



## **Newsletter**

January/February 2021

### **Eanáir agus Feabhra 2021**

An organization dedicated to the advancement of traditional Irish music, language, dance and culture

#### **In This Issue:**

COVID19 Status	1
Zoom Session	2
Tunes by ear	2
Link to Calendar	3
Amy's Irish Roots	3
David Munnely	4
Lyon from Dublin	5
Membership	6
Advertisements	7
Officers, etc.	8
Football in Munster	9



Due to the COVID19 pandemic, until further notice, there will be no regularly scheduled in-person workshops or ceili dances.

For specific music events, check the calendar on the website: <http://irishrochester.weebly.com/calendar.html>

Some recurring calendar events have been cancelled or modified so it is best to check with the host before attending.

**We hope that the new year of 2021 will bring you new optimism and restore your faith in humanity - and, of course, bring health and happiness to everyone.**



Branch website: [www.irishrochester.com](http://www.irishrochester.com)  
Facebook: rochester irish musicians association

**Watch your email for announcements of Irish music and cultural events.**

## Sunday Johnny's VIRTUAL Learners' Session with Mark Ballard

Tentatively, January 31 and February 28 at **3:30 pm**

A playlist of videos with the sheet music for this month's (and previous months') tunes is available on Facebook and [www.irishrochester.com](http://www.irishrochester.com). Watch your email for an invitation.

If you are not on the email list, contact Mark at [mark55ballard@gmail.com](mailto:mark55ballard@gmail.com)

**VIRTUAL**  
**IRISH TUNES BY EAR • FREE WORKSHOP**  
 SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

All melody instruments welcome! Learn Tunes! 2:00-4:00pm



Photos: Cathy McGrath & Bill Hallahan

via Zoom

**February 14      2-4 pm**

**WHERE:** via Zoom. Join Zoom Meeting: For details: Facebook and [www.irishrochester.org](http://www.irishrochester.org).

**WHO IS WELCOME?**

*All acoustic melody instruments. The only prerequisite is that you can play the D and G scales on your instrument.*

**GOAL:** *That everyone will learn at least one tune by ear, modeling the method used in most traditional music camps.*

**WHAT DO YOU NEED?**

- *Your instrument. A recording device (smartphone will do!)*

**WHEN:** *Second Sunday of the month, 2:00-4:00 pm*

**COST:** *Free*

Rochester CCE Tunes by Ear Workshop, 2nd Sunday/Month, 2-4PM

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87482729512?pwd=ZGV6SjFQcjNTWDFpUkJKS5mw2Y051UT09>

Or connect by phone: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 874 8272 9512

Passcode: 207159



**CALENDAR of all events** <http://irishrochester.weebly.com/calendar.html>

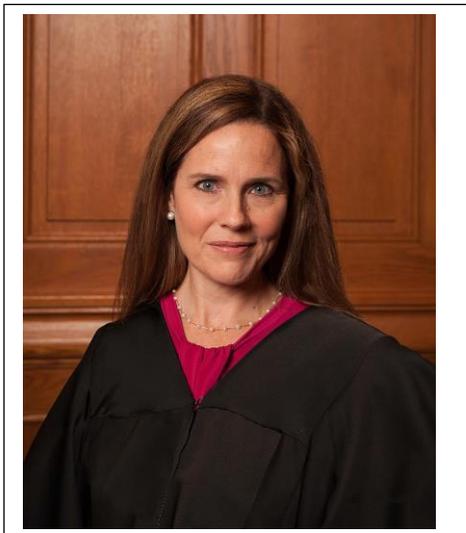
**Facebook Event Links:**

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/RochesterIrishMusiciansAssociation/events>

## Coney Barrett's Cavan Roots

October 30, 2020

[By Irish Echo Staff](#)



Newly appointed Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett is primarily of Irish and French ancestry so if she's a rugby fan she will be cheering for both sides in the Six Nations rugby clash between Ireland and France. Her maternal great-grandparent's hailed from Ballyconnell, County Cavan and she also has Irish ancestry on her father's side.

Here's a fun website: <https://irishmusicstories.libsyn.com/>

Listen to a selection of podcasts on various topics

### Welcome to Irish Music Stories!

**This is the LIBSYN Landing page for Irish Music Stories.**

- Visit the [OFFICIAL IrishMusicStories.org page](https://irishmusicstories.org)
- Or [CONTRIBUTE to the SHOW](#)

Irish Music Stories is the show about traditional music.... and the **much** bigger stories behind it. *IMS* is about everything--through an Irish music lens.

Whether you already play the fiddle or **you know nothing** about trad music or dance, I hope you'll join me, Shannon Heaton, as I learn how a band of Boston tweens ended up at a big music competition in Sligo, and what it meant to their families... and as I dig into the darker, sweeter side of Irish humor... and as I explore what learning Irish songs together is *really* all about.

Meet thoughtful and incredibly charming people in pubs, kitchens, and backstages throughout the U.S., Ireland, and beyond, underscored with toe-tapping and heart-soaring melodies that seem familiar, even if you've never heard them before.





David Munnely

## **Stór Ceoil Mhaigh Eo explores Irish music and folklore during pandemic**

OVER the past six months, Mayo artist David Munnely has embarked on a rich and cultural journey to document some of the many characters involved in traditional Irish music and folklore across the county of Mayo, interviewing both established and new talent within the art-form.

Stór Ceoil Mhaigh Eo is a project exploring Ireland's song, music and storytelling traditions, which are arguably amongst its richest cultural resources.

It comprises of 11 one-hour interviews by Munnely, who commented: "The landscape of traditions is changing - this includes the physical and linguistic landscape, in addition to the landscape of music, song and the imagination. Music and song are fundamental elements of folklore, just as folklore is a fundamental element of music and song."

From: The Connaught Telegraph (posted on Facebook by Paul Groff (<https://www.con-telegraph.ie/>)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/172933479226/permalink/10158235011149227/>



## Thanksgiving's Irish Twist



*"The First Thanksgiving 1621," by J.L.G. Ferris (c. 1932). A band of starving pilgrims at Plymouth Rock were saved at the last minute by the arrival of a ship from Dublin. (Photo: Library of Congress)*

By John Cusack\*

In 1621, the pilgrims, just arrived in the New World, had no idea how wild their new frontier could be. Winter arrived and with it came starvation, death, and the idea that maybe it was time to give up and go back to Europe where the strict confines of politics were easier to deal with than the utter randomness of Mother Nature. The real story of what happened next is all but lost.

On February 20 of that same year, a ship called *The Lyon* arrived and delivered much needed provisions which helped sustain the humble colony. The ship was sent over by a Dublin merchant whose daughter was married to one of the pilgrims. Grateful for their salvation, the pilgrims dubbed the following day, February 21, a Day of Thanksgiving.

Over 200 years later, President Lincoln decreed the day a national holiday and moved it to the fourth Thursday of November. The pilgrims' amiable relationship with the Native Americans became the focus of the holiday, and the true origin of the first Thanksgiving remained misconstrued for the next 75 years.

In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving back a few weeks because of its proximity to Christmas. He thought that providing more time between holidays would help merchants. The move proved very unpopular with the general public and one year later the date was again changed back to the fourth Thursday in November. Amidst the brief change, however, the origin of Thanksgiving was studied to validate the original date.

*\*This article originally appeared in the December / January 1997 issue of Irish America. Reprinted in the November 21, 2020 issue of Irish America.*



# It's not too late to renew your membership

**For all that have already renewed, membership cards will be mailed soon**

Dear Friends and Supporters of Irish Culture,

Please renew your membership of Ceoltas Ceoltoiri Eireann as this will enable the Tom Finucane branch in Rochester, NY to flourish and rejuvenate with activities as soon as everyone has been vaccinated and the pandemic is under control. Our mission has always been to bring the finest in the traditional Irish arts to a local audience.

Without you we don't exist. We will see better times ahead and with your help we will be successful here in the Rochester area for years to come. Don't forget to check in from time to time with our web site ([irishrochester.com](http://irishrochester.com)) and newsletters. Our Facebook page is also alive and well and can be found at **Rochester Irish Musicians**.

Thank you from the CCE Board

## MEMBERSHIP AND DUES INFORMATION 2020-2021

<u>Dues:</u>		<u>Enter amount enclosed:</u>
First Adult	\$25.00	_____
Second Adult	\$ 8.00	_____
Family	\$40.00	_____
Junior (under 18, 1/1/2019)	\$ 4.00	_____
Gift		_____

Your gift is greatly appreciated and is fully tax-deductible and supports branch-sponsored concerts and workshops and special events.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ (please print clearly)

Please make your check payable to: CCE Rochester

Mail to: Comhaltas  
6658 North Avon Road  
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472



# Rince Na Saor

Rochester's Non-competitive Irish Dance School since 1997!

Irish Stepdancing, Ceili, Sean Nós, and Country Sets

Classes for ages 7 to Adult  
at Dance Biz  
Longview Plaza--1742 Long Pond Road



www.rns.dance  
227-6614



Comhaltas Rochester T-Shirts are only \$15.  
To purchase a t-shirt,  
Contact Kate Ballard at  
[katekballard@gmail.com](mailto:katekballard@gmail.com)



## **This space available, paid advertisements and classifieds.**

Only \$100 per year (six issues of the newsletter) – goes out to 200+ people  
For information, please contact Bill Hallahan ([whallah3@naz.edu](mailto:whallah3@naz.edu))



**Branch Officers - 2020**

Cathairleach (Chair)  
 Dave Halligan  
 Leas-Cathairleach (Vice Chair)  
 Mark Ballard  
 Runai (Secretary)  
 Bill Hallahan  
 Cisteoir (Treasurer)  
 Lynn Pilaroscia  
 Michoir (Auditor)  
 Peg Halligan  
 Youth Officer  
 Lydia Fanara  
 Youth Protection Officer  
 Gavin Barry  
 Public Relations Officer  
 Jess Kamens

**Programs**

Music Events  
 Dave Halligan  
 Kate Ballard  
 Ceili Dancing  
 Arlene Miller  
 Membership  
 Bill Hallahan  
 Singers' Session  
 Chris Brennan  
 Music Learner's Session  
 Mark Ballard  
 Website & Facebook  
 Ben Hockenberry  
 Newsletter  
 Bill Hallahan  
 Music Instrument Library  
 Mark Gowman

Look for us on Facebook:

**Rochester Irish Musician's Association**

## Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

### MEMBERSHIP AND DUES for 2021

Dues:

First Adult	\$25.00
Second Adult	\$ 8.00
Family	\$40.00
Junior	\$ 4.00

Make check payable to: "CCE Rochester"

Mail to: Comhaltas  
 6658 North Avon Road  
 Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

**Your donations are tax-deductible.****Irish Rochester CDs are still available.**

This classic, 2-CD set, produced by John McGraw contains many of the traditional tunes you will hear at sessions as well as local musicians from the Rochester area. **Only \$20.**

To purchase a CD, contact Lynn Pilaroscia:  
 pilarins@frontiernet.net

**Irish music on the internet:**

<http://www.clare.fm/listen-live/>

**JOIN COMHALTAS AND SUPPORT IRISH MUSIC, AND CULTURE.****NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR: NOVEMBER 1 (2020) TO OCTOBER 31 (2021). YOU CAN STILL JOIN OR RENEW ANY TIME.**

If you have ideas or articles or announcements or photos to include in this newsletter, please send them to Bill Hallahan at [whallah3@naz.edu](mailto:whallah3@naz.edu).



## Tipperary Football Team Win Munster Final after 85-Year Wait



The Tipperary team celebrate 22/11/2020. Munster GAA Senior Football Championship Final, Pairc Ui Chaoimh, Co. Cork, Cork vs Tipperary.

Photo: ©INPHO/James Crombie **Tipperary marked the centenary of Bloody Sunday with a historic win over Cork to win the Munster Final for the first time since 1935.**

In one of the most dramatic days in Irish sporting history, the Gaelic football team from County Tipperary won the Munster provincial championship last Sunday when they beat the favourites Cork. The historic drama had two dimensions: it was the first time Tipperary had taken the Munster title in 85 years and it was also 100 years almost to the day since a football match between Tipperary and Dublin at Croke Park came under attack by British forces, leading to the deaths of 14 people including a member of the Tipperary team.

The terrible events of November 21<sup>st</sup> 1920 resulted in that day being called Bloody Sunday (sadly, we had another Bloody Sunday over half-a-century later in Derry.) The sequence began with a series of assassinations in different parts of Dublin organised by the legendary Michael Collins which left 15 people dead, most of them suspected British intelligence agents. It was one of the most dramatic developments in Ireland's War of Independence and left the British authorities severely rattled and very, very angry.

By Deaglán de Bréadún, Irish America, November 28, 2020

