

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



# Newsletter

January/February 2022

## Eanáir agus Feabhra 2022

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

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Due to the continuously evolving virus-related regulations check with the venue regarding their mask and vaccination policy for entrance.



**Because of the success of vaccination against COVID-19, many sessions have opened with no restrictions. See pages 2 and 9 and the website and Facebook for details.**



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.**



**Local IRISH MUSIC SESSIONS & Workshops****Last Sunday each month: 3 pm  
Johnny's Learners' Session with Mark Ballard**

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).

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

Now that Johnny's is open and Zoom attendance has fallen off, the Zoom option is discontinued (unless things change).

Every month on the Last Sun, until Mar 27, 2022:

Jan 30, 2022 03:00 PM

Feb 27, 2022 03:00 PM

Mar 27, 2022 03:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingId=tZEIc6uqDlRhdGF8mgmvIBXw6lra1YQNLHi&icsToken=98tyKuGtpj0tHNKcsR6CRpwMGo\\_oKO7wplhcggd6ukfoBC1FbiHOlbRrILMuKen-](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingId=tZEIc6uqDlRhdGF8mgmvIBXw6lra1YQNLHi&icsToken=98tyKuGtpj0tHNKcsR6CRpwMGo_oKO7wplhcggd6ukfoBC1FbiHOlbRrILMuKen-)

**The Last-Sunday-of-the-month Johnny's session (5 pm)  
Back in-person.**

**Intermissions session** every Wednesday night in Geneseo is **back in-person**.

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

**Facebook Event Links:**

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

**Barry's session** is back on at the normal time,  
**Saturdays 2:00 pm.**



## Upcoming concerts planned

These are potential dates; nothing is firm yet

Arise and Go	March 2022	location TBD
Frankie Gavin	June 4, 2022	

## Indoor Cornhole League

**Thursdays 1/20/22 thru 3/10/22 between 6:30pm and 10:30pm**

**8 full weeks for only \$80 per 2 person team**

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), are hosting an indoor winter activity for the Irish community that will be a fun way to raise funds for charity. They will be **donating proceeds to the Veterans Outreach Center.**

It will take place once a week in McGinnity's back room. Each weekly match will be per American Cornhole Association rules, <https://www.playcornhole.org> with ten innings capped at one hour. The 21 year old and over league will be a round robin format with an end of season single elimination tournament. Four games will go on simultaneously each hour. Teams will be rotated through assigned game times and court locations. League info and standings will be on the AOH website.

Teams with less experience have time to improve and become champions! The league champions will receive a custom cornhole set with their own board design. A \$340 value!

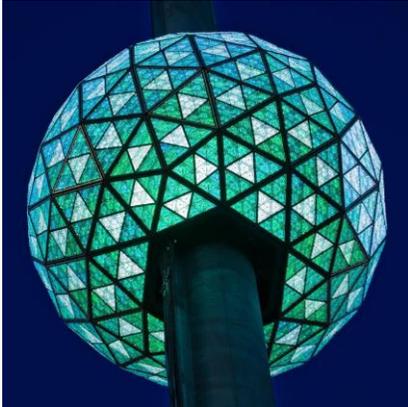
**Register and pay online at <https://www.aohrochester.com/cornhole.html>**

The venue can only accommodate 32 teams. Sign up quickly because slots are already being filled!



## From Irish America:

### **The Gift of Wisdom Welcomes in 2022**



The “Gift of Wisdom” was the message as the ball dropped in Times Square, and we said goodbye to 2021. Waterford Crystal has designed the famous ball since the turn of the millennium, has been carrying out a “Greatest Gifts” series since 2014.

### **In Our Own Image**

Curated by Gallery of Photography Ireland and the Office of Public Works, Dublin Castle, this launch exhibition charts how the medium has both reflected and shaped Irish cultural identity, from the work of the earliest photographic pioneers up to the emergence of a recognizably modern state.

[Read more +](#)

### **Clare Cronin**

Congratulations to Claire D. Cronin officially approved on December 18 to become our next U.S. Ambassador to Ireland. The 61-year-old Massachusetts state legislator, with family roots in Donegal, was first nominated by the White House on June 23 to be U.S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America Ireland.

### **Paddy Moloney Leaves a Legacy of Irish Music**

Founding member of The Chieftains Patrick “Paddy” Moloney died October 11, at the age of 83. As the leader of the groundbreaking Irish band, Moloney played several different musical instruments with legendary skill, though he was lauded most and longest for his abilities with the uilleann pipes and tin whistle. [Read more +](#)



**Irish American Cultural Institute (IACI) events:****JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING PRESENTATION**

As part of our monthly virtual presentation series, our next program will come directly from Ireland. This event will take place on **Sunday, January 23rd** and features Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, who will discuss the current situation in Northern Ireland, particularly the fallout from Brexit. A publisher, politician and tireless promoter, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir is determined to “change the narrative” of his city.

In the 1980s, he was a flak jacket-wearing Sinn Féin councilor, barred from the Lord Mayor’s parlour, yet he went on to become Lord Mayor of Belfast in 2014. He followed that up by becoming a Sinn Féin member of the Northern Ireland Assembly and later Minister for Finance in the N.I. Government.

An Irish speaker, he credits the Irish language movement in the late 1970s, and later “the life-changing hunger strikes of 1981,” with awakening him to his heritage and sparking his activism. “I am more convinced than ever of the need for all Irish people of all religions to be sovereign and independent. Equally, I believe in a vision of a fairer and more equal world where social justice is paramount.”

Whether in business or politics, Ó Muilleoir is driven by a vision of a new Belfast, transformed from “a city of division and warfare to a city of unity and peace.” He speaks constantly of “editing out the negativity.” As chairman of Belfast Media Group, he publishes four weekly newspapers, including New York’s Irish Echo. “It is a commercial business which has been at the heart of the community it serves since 1972, when it was set up to provide a voice for the voiceless.”

He points to tourism statistics to back up his contention that Northern Ireland is on the move, and he supports Belfast’s political tourism economy. “I prefer to call it cultural tourism. I think it is authentic, has integrity, and is fun and exciting. Heritage, history, ‘Troubles’ is a key part of that mix.”

**Tickets to the online event are free for members of the IACI. If you are an IACI Member you will automatically receive a link to the program. If you would like to join to take advantage of this member benefit**



## Geneva Irish Music Sessions Begin Again at Big aLICE

Traditional Irish musicians at all levels and the public are invited to a new monthly event to be hosted by Big aLICE Brewing in Geneva (located at 4180 Rt. 14, Geneva, south of the city). This is a resumption of the Geneva Irish Music Sessions formerly held at Bottomless Brewing.

The first Session will be held **Sunday, January 16th from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.** A *Beginner's Session* will be from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m and the *Open Session* (for more seasoned musicians) will be from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Because this is a small venue, the maximum number of musicians for each will be 10 and advance sign-up will be required. E-mail [FTFiddler@gmail.com](mailto:FTFiddler@gmail.com) to hold your seat. One free drink token per person will be offered to musicians! Mask up for safety.

Kit Fallon will lead both Sessions and will offer written music and ear training techniques for beginners. Kit has been an active traditional fiddler, fiddle teacher and supporter of community music for over 45 years. We hope to see you there!

**The Irish Music Session at Big aLICE Brewing in Geneva, scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 16 has been cancelled because of public health considerations.** We will try another launch date on Sunday, Feb. 20, from 2 - 5 p.m. Beginners Session from 2 - 3, Open Session 3 - 5.

**In the interim,** I will be offering pre-Session mini-workshops for beginners who are looking for experience playing with others, but are shy about going out in public. Titled TWO PLUS ONE, these will be two-hour events for two beginners plus me (everyone masked), at my home studio. We will use the Beginners Session Tune List (which I will forward to interested people) and work on basic ensemble playing. E-mail me with your available day and evening times and I will coordinate dates in late January and early February. These will be **free of charge** - to foster participation in community music!

Kit Fallon



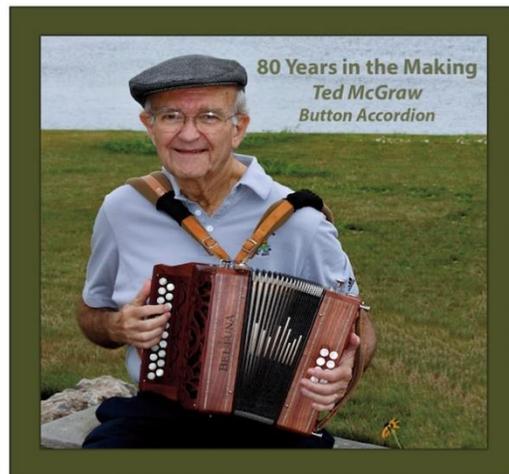
Check out Ted's web page for tunes you know and can play along to.

## TED McGRAW Official Web Site



My '80 Years in the Making' CD of Button Accordion music is no longer available at cdbaby; it can be purchased for \$15 at [ossianusa.com](http://ossianusa.com)

[track list](#)



- 1. History:** This site was constructed about 2004. It was constructed with Dreamweaver software with updates done in Mac iWeb software. Both of these software packages are outdated and no longer used. They still work on my computer and therefore I'm still using them for this major, first revision ever, in 7/2020. The site has not been revised for SEO (search engine optimization), therefore it doesn't pop to the front in most searches.
- 2. Radio Shows:** We retired the "Irish Party House" and "Ol' Fiddler" Radio Shows on 6/20/2017 after 43 years. Many thanks to all our listeners and supporters! There are still some old playlists on this site.
- 3. Records & Books:** My record and book collections have gone to the Ward Irish Music Archives in Milwaukee ([www.celticmke.com](http://www.celticmke.com)). The record & book lists on this site will not be further updated and remain here for information only.
- 4. In the near future,** I plan to add more discographies and button accordion information.



## 2020- 2021 CD Project

### Ted's Tunes on Concertina and Accordion

This is a documentation project to record some of the tunes I have learned over the years while I'm still able to play the instruments. There are 7 CD's in this project. These, along with my 80 Years in the Making CD, include 300 tunes. There is a playlist, notes, mostly about my source for the tune, and an MP3 file for listening to each track. These are NOT professionally recorded, so the files include flaws, with no apology. Also, there is no accompaniment; it's just me sitting in front of a microphone in my office. I did a little editing to remove some dead space in the files. Three instruments were used, 1. 41 key Wheatstone Edeophone Anglo concertina in D/A. 2. Beltuna Sara 3 in C#D modified to be MMM. It has 2 sets of Artigiana and 1 set of Binci reeds. 3. Hohner Xtreme 3 row, 2 voice, 34 key box in BCD with 2 sets of Ciccarelli reeds. Click [HERE](#) to view instruments.

You can listen to the tunes, play along or save them to make your own CD.

[CD 1](#) Mostly Set Dances, 10 trks.

[CD 2](#) Tunes, 22 trks

[CD 3](#) More Tunes, 22 trks

[CD 4](#) Irish Waltzes, 19 trks

[CD 5](#) Scottish, etc. Waltzes, 18 trks

[CD 6](#) Square & Contra Dance Tunes, 17 trks

[CD Concertina](#), 15 trks



**Comhaltas-Sponsored Music Sessions**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month:** **open**

4:00 pm **The American Hotel** 7304 E. Main Street, Lima, NY  
Phone: (585) 624-9464

**Last Sunday of every month:** **the bar is open but not the kitchen;**

**Johnny's Irish Pub**, 1382 Culver Road, Rochester, NY  
Phone: (585) 224-0990

3:00 pm Music Learning Session with Mark Ballard

5:00 pm Regular session

**OTHER TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC SESSIONS**

**Every Tuesday:**

7:00 pm (study session) **Charlotte Tavern**, 2 River Road & Lake Ave.  
Phone: (585) 663-9649

(open)

**Every Saturday:** **Barry's Old School Irish**, 2 W Main St. Webster.NY 14580  
Phone: (585) 545-4258

2:00-5:30 pm. Leaders: Ben Goehring & Sean Rosenberry

(open)

**Wednesdays at Intermissions** (Intermissions Bar and Grille) **BACK IN PERSON!**  
8 Center St, Geneseo, NY 14454  
Phone: (585) 519-4165  
7:00-10:00 PM



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

Irish Stepdancing, Ceili, Sean N6s, 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 Only \$15.  
To purchase a t-shirt, contact Kate Ballard at

[katekballard@gmail.com](mailto:katekballard@gmail.com)



**Branch Officers – 2020-2021**

Cathoirleach (Chair)  
Mark Ballard  
Leas-Cathoirleach (Vice Chair)  
Dan McGrath  
Runai (Secretary)  
Bill Hallahan  
Cisteoir (Treasurer)  
Dave Halligan  
Míchoir (Auditor)  
Peg Halligan  
Youth Officer  
Lydia Fanara  
Youth Protection Officer  
Gavin Barry  
Public Relations Officer

**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 2022

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 welcome.****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 Dave Halligan:  
[halligan33@gmail.com](mailto:halligan33@gmail.com)

**Irish music on the internet:**

<https://www.clare.fm/listen-back/the-west-wind/>

**JOIN COMHALTAS AND SUPPORT IRISH MUSIC, AND CULTURE.**  
**NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR: NOVEMBER 1 (2021) TO OCTOBER 31 (2022). 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).

