

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann

Tom Finucane Branch Newsletter

July - August 2023

CONTENTS

[JOHN WHELAN IN CONCERT: JULY 29](#)

[BRANCH PICNIC AUGUST 13, 2023](#)

[WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH COMHALTAS?](#)

[CATSKILLS IRISH ARTS WEEK](#)

[FIDDLERS FAIR & MAKING MUSIC WEEKEND, AUG 19-20](#)

[SESSION UPDATE](#)

JOHN WHELAN IN CONCERT: JULY 29



John Whelan is coming back to Rochester! For over 50 years John Whelan has been hailed as one of the world's best living Irish button accordion players. Originally from England and now based on the US West Coast, the seven-time All-Ireland champion fearlessly explores the creative reaches of music, artistry, and expression while carefully preserving the musical roots from which he originally flourished, and passing those on to the next generation.

As a celebrated recording artist, John has recorded more than 15 CDs, appeared on more than 30 albums with other artists, and spent several weeks in the top 10 of the Billboard World Music Charts. John is also a sought-after composer and producer and has written more than 65 original tunes, many of which have been recorded and performed by artists all over the world. He is widely recognized for forming the John Whelan Band, and also his duo performances with Grammy Award-winning fiddle player Eileen Ivers during the first years of Riverdance.

Find out more about John Whelan at www.johnwhelanmusic.com

"Humor and high energy blend with impeccable musicianship in the performances of Whelan...true master..." - The Wall Street Journal

"...takes Irish Music into an energetically eclectic direction...finds magical associations between Celtic sounds and many of the world's other musics." - The Los Angeles Times

BRANCH PICNIC AUGUST 13, 2023



WHERE: Ellison Park, Sycamore Shelter (south of Blosson Rd, [directions](#))

WHEN: Sunday August 13, 2023, 2:00-7:00 pm

BRING:

- Dish to pass
- Meat/veggies to grill
- Beverages
- Table service
- Lawn chairs
- And of course, INSTRUMENTS AND TUNES!



WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH COMHALTAS?

Rochester's Tom Finucane Branch of Comhaltas has officer openings!

- Secretary
- Youth Officer
- Public Relations Officer
- Elections for all positions in the Fall

If you're interested in helping promote Irish music in the Rochester area, please email us: rochesterccce@gmail.com

CATSKILLS IRISH ARTS WEEK

Never been to CIAW? This world-renowned week of Irish music, dance and culture is in our backyard – only 3.5 hours from Rochester – and is a great place to learn from and play with some of the best musicians and teachers around. Registration is still open:

<https://www.catskillsirishartsweek.com/>

starts
July
16th



through
July
22nd

29th Annual CATSKILL IRISH ARTS WEEK

FIDDLE

Brian Conway
Sorcha Costello
Rose Conway Flanagan
Liz Kane
Willie Kelly
Patrick Ourceau
Sean Quinn
Yvonne Kane

FLUTE

Kevin Crawford
Siobhan Kelly
Larry Nugent
Nuala Kennedy

WHISTLE

Kathleen Conneely
Brenda Dowling
Eileen Clune-Goodman

ACCORDION

Patty Furlong
Danny O'Mahony
Loretta Egan Murphy
Billy McComiskey
Diarmuid O'Meachair

CONCERTINA

Brenda Castles
Mary MacNamara
Caitriona Fee

PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

Brendan Dolan
Michelle Bergin

HARP

Aisling Lyons

UILEANN PIPES

Joey Abarta
Kara Doyle
Michael Stribling

BANJO

Pauline Conneely
Daniel Neely

GUITAR/BOUZOUKI

John Blake
Nathan Gourley
Alan Murray

BODHRÁN

Anna Colliton
Cara Wildman

IRISH LANGUAGE

Siobhán Ní Chiobháin

DANCE

Padraig McEneaney
Set Dancing
Jackie O'Riley
Sean Nos Solo Steps
Regan Wick
Contemporary Solo Step

CREATIVE WRITING

Deirdre Cronin

SINGING

Liz Hanley
Nuala Kennedy

MIXED INSTRUMENT ENSEMBLE

Annmarie Acosta

Daily (M-F) Classes

10-11:30AM &
1:30-3PM in
designated
venues around
East Durham

Topical Lectures

Mon - Fri
4PM-5:15PM
at Shamrock
House

Nightly Concerts

M, T, Th, Fri
7:30-9:30PM
on MJ Quill
Festival Grounds

Nightly Ceilithe

M, T, Th, Fri
9PM-Midnight
at Shamrock
House

Wednesday Barn Dance

7:30-10PM
on MJ Quill
Festival Grounds

Closing Sat. Festival

Noon-6PM
on MJ Quill
Festival Grounds

MJQ IRISH SPORTS & CULTURAL CENTRE - EAST DURHAM



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



Cultúr Éireann
Culture Ireland



PIOBAIRÍ
UILEANN
Supporting the Spirit of Ireland

REGISTER TODAY
catskillsirishartsweek.com
201-965-6598 for more info

FIDDLERS FAIR & MAKING MUSIC WEEKEND, AUG 19-20



Fiddler's Fair & Making Music Weekend will bring together musicians on different stages around the Museum grounds for a weekend of non-stop entertainment. Settle in to hear the variety of performers, grab food and drinks, or wander the Historic Village and spend the day immersed in live performances.

Explore the influence of Irish musical stylings brought through New York State by laborers on the Erie Canal, meet a luthier crafting stringed instruments on-site and learn about his process, listen to a song series focused on the history of the Underground Railroad, and more. Settle in to hear the variety of performers, enjoy food and drinks, wander the Historic Village, and spend the day immersed in live musical performances.

<https://www.gcv.org/event/fiddlers-fair-making-music-weekend/>

WANT TO PLAY AT FIDDLER'S FAIR?

Comhaltas will have performance timeslots (exact times TBD) Saturday and Sunday. If you're interested in playing, send an email to rochesterccce@gmail.com and let us know!

SESSION UPDATES

The Charlotte tavern will be closed for the next two Tuesdays, which are July 4th and July 11th. Tuesday Tunes will therefore resume July 18th.

No session at American Hotel on July 2nd – the Hotel will be closed for the holiday weekend.

A list of currently active sessions is on our website at
<http://irishrochester.weebly.com/sessions.html>.

2024 CCE NORTH AMERICA CONVENTION IN BUFFALO

The North American Provincial Convention of Comhaltas wApril 4-6 2024 in Buffalo. Our branch is a part of it next year, and we're taking a lead for on-site registration and check-ins.

We would LOVE branch volunteers to help us with a short shift at the convention!