

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



Newsletter
July/August 2018

**Lúil
Agus
Lúnasa
2018**

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

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Old Time Fiddlers' Fair

August 18, 2018 to August 19, 2018
10:00am-5:00pm on Saturday and 10:00am-4:00pm on Sunday

Genesee Country Village & Museum

Comhaltas musicians will be performing. Time and location is yet to be determined. Musicians may gather and jam at the Freight House Pub.

FREE ADMISSION FOR PERFORMERS!

All fiddlers and their accompanists are admitted for FREE to this event only if you are playing on one of the stages. Please have your instrument IN HAND at the admissions gate in order to receive your pass for the day (pianists may simply identify themselves). Additionally, performers are allowed to bring one guest with them to the fair for FREE!

Admission:

Adults: \$22
Senior citizen (62+): \$19
College student: \$19
Youth (4-17): \$14
Child (3 and younger): Free



Branch website: www.irishrochester.com
Facebook: rochester irish musicians association

Irish Music & Culture Workshop Day at St. John Fisher College

September 29, 2018
Noon to 5 pm

I'm still soliciting feedback at the survey, <https://goo.gl/forms/dnC2ljw0gPRbGDxq2>
So far instructors/leaders are lined up for the following workshops:

- Bodhran (Beginner and Intermediate levels)
- Fiddle (Beginner and Intermediate levels, incl. regional styles)
- Whistle (Beginner and Intermediate levels)
- Variation and Ornamentation (all instruments)
- Anglo Concertina
- Button Accordion
- Sean-Nos Dancing
- Step Dancing
- Tenor Banjo and Mandolin
- Singing
- Irish Language
- Scottish Tunes

Instructor needed:

- Intro to Playing by Ear (lots of votes)
- "Standard" Session Tunes for all instruments (several votes)
- Irish Flute
- Bouzouki and/or Guitar Accompaniment
- Benjamin Hockenberry benhockenberry@gmail.com

Fall ceili schedule
October 20 and December 1, 2018 at McGinnity's

8 pm, \$5 for Comhaltas members, \$7 for nonmembers, children with parent are free
Bring an item for the Raffle and receive free admission
McGinnity's Restaurant and Party House, 534 W Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY 14615

Tullamore Celtic Band

Performance **Friday, July 13, 2018 - 8-10 pm**
with the Rochester Academy of Irish Dance

Moonlight Strolls Concert, at Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park
151 Charlotte Street Canandaigua, NY 14424
Snacks, soft drinks, wine & beer available

Brenna & Terry O'Toole, Brian Coughlin, Dick Bolt & Rachel Burke, Irish Dance Instructor
Irish/Celtic tunes & songs with fiddles, flutes, Guitar, whistles, concertina, Irish harp





JULY 8 through JULY 14 2018

For concert, workshop schedules, etc.
<https://www.catskillsirishartsweek.com/>

If you are going to Irish Arts Week,
 please send some photos.

Comhaltas Chicago Convention 2018
 (from the current Treoir pg. 45)



Lynn Pilanoscia and John Ryan Chicago 2018.

Popular baby names are link to ancestry

Like the names Liam and Emma? So does every other new parent, according to national records.

The names, Liam and Emma, were announced Friday in a Facebook Live on the Social Security Administration's page as the most popular baby names of 2017. The Social Security Administration releases the 1,000 most popular baby names each year.

The data is based on just over 3.8 million babies born in the United States for 2017, the lowest number of births in nearly three decades.

This shouldn't come as a surprise, as they both were popular last year, too— Emma was actually the most popular girl name of 2016, 2015, and 2014; and Liam was second most popular for boys last year, following Noah.

Pamela Redmond Satran, co-founder of the baby name site Nameberry.com, told the Associated Press that the rise of Liam reflects the Irish population of people in America who may not speak Gaelic, but have pride in their Irish roots.

“I think you see ethnic influences coming into play in a more indirect way. You see more parents looking back and looking for places in their lives that hold meaning that can be translated into names,” said Satran.

Baltimore's Guinness brewery (first US location in 64 years) to open in August

Opening August 3; \$80 million project. Guinness Open Gate Brewery & Barrel House; “mid-sized brewery” targeting the US market with Guinness Blond, Guinness Cherry Stout, Guinness IPA. There will be 92 taps on site.





New postage stamp celebrating uilleann pipes

The Pipes Take Center Stage

By Paul Keating
Irish Voice. June 6-12. 2018

If one were to imagine a more auspicious way to celebrate 50 years of dedicated service to one of Ireland's foremost cultural contributions to the world, it would be hard to top the accomplishments of Na Piobairí Uilleann (NPU) over the past half century and duly recognized publicly in the past half year in two very significant and important ways for Ireland's native instrument.

Last December, UNESCO decreed that Ireland's uilleann pipes would be added to its lists of "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" which may be a mouthful but nonetheless a deserved accolade for the instrument that defines the sound of Ireland around the world.

And two weeks ago, the Irish government's An Post certified that designation nationally in Ireland by issuing a postage stamp acknowledging the importance of the Irish pipes and, in particular, NPU as the august organization who spearheaded the UNESCO campaign celebrating its 50 years as the organization for the promotion and preservation of the uilleann pipes.

Since its founding in May of 1968 when traditional Irish music was still trying to climb out of the rural bog ghetto that too many people in Ireland relegated its native music to, NPU set out to establish an organization with a singular focus on staving off the elimination of the Irish pipes due to the lack of dedicated resources to its continuance.

Even though a hard core of traditional musicians and followers of the uilleann pipes convened for years around the Pipers Club in Thomas Street in Dublin, including many of the founding seminal members of **Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Éireann**, the peripatetic nature of shifting from

rented premises and lack of dedicated resources and commitment could not ensure the pipes would endure.

The legendary Leo Rowsome, a Comhaltas stalwart and iconic teacher of the pipes was also challenged beyond belief as the only full-time pipe maker at the time in Dublin trying to satisfy the demands of a handful of pipers playing around the country. The demands on him and even Comhaltas were too much to be handed such an awesome responsibility if the uilleann pipes were to survive much less prosper, as the tide of interest in traditional music was increasing thanks to the Trojan work of many fervent followers and practitioners.

Breandan Breathnach, Rowsome and a number of other musicians deep in the trenches in Dublin saw the need for a new organization to focus on the uilleann pipes alone and thus was NPU born. The long march through 50 years has been extraordinary and fruitful and aided by the increased interest in the pipes which were gaining worldwide recognition thanks to bands like the Ceoltoiri Chulann, the Chieftains, Planxty and the Bothy Band in the tradition who blossomed in the folk music revival arena of the 1970s.

The mission of NPU as the singular organization to preserve and promote piping was recognized later in the 1970s when access to a historic Georgian building at 15 Henrietta Street was granted to it with a 99-year lease signed in 1982. Along with the massive task of promoting piping was added the task of expensive and extensive renovation of a "registered" premise, but gradually where there is a will there is a way and Arts Council funding aided, perhaps, by the Celtic Tiger made that happen.

Into the fray, stepped a savvy and experienced account executive, Gabriel McKeon, whose own family had roots going back to the Pipers Club and the founding of NPU and who also was one of the last piping students of Rowsome. His ascension as Chief Executive Officer in 2006 working with long-time archivist and Irish music and dance activist,



Terry Moylan helped solidify NPU operating in a much more demanding regimen of arts organization and management and promotion.

Through national recognition and a vibrant volunteerism, NPU now offers piping classes at capacity in their Henrietta Street headquarters plus massive support for classes around the world with activities and musicians in over 50 countries worldwide. Every major piping event draws their support, with a special outreach to the Willie Clancy Summer School founded and named after the legendary Clare uilleann piper.

In the wake of the UNESCO achievement, a major concert was held at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin in January attended by President Michael D. Higgins which raised the national profile of NPU in advance of the postal stamp release. But for a grass-roots organization like NPU, the concert they hosted after that launching a new CD, A New Harvest, exhibiting the skills of 15 young impassioned pipers with a firm grasp of the tradition along with technique told the tale of how far they have come.

Also there are over three dozen pipe makers (as indicated on the www.pipers.ie website) providing the high-quality instruments demanded by younger committed players in greater abundance these days. And NPU still dreams big with planning permission in hand for 16 Henrietta Street next door to expand and open a visitor's center dedicated to piping history and an adjoining theater connecting the two buildings should another €5 million come their way.

FOR SALE

Seth Gallagher brass half-set uilleann pipes, hardly used, well stored

[email dkbwell@frontiernet.net](mailto:dkbwell@frontiernet.net)

After making pipes for 20 years, Seth is no longer taking new orders. Information and reviews at: <http://www.uilleann.com/>



Local (Pembroke, outside Batavia) **pipe makers** and O'Lacy's session staples Tim and Stephanie Benson. Tim and Steph make and distribute pipes throughout North America And, they're gorgeous pipes. <https://bensonuilleannpipes.com/about-us>

Music club activities**July 7, 2018**

Box Club, 10:00 am – 12:00, Meets at home of Jon Berkner
407 Edgewood Ave in Brighton, 585 953 5670. jonasan@rochester.rr.com.

August 4, 2018

Box Club, 10:00 am – 12:00, Meets at home of Jon Berkner
407 Edgewood Ave in Brighton, 585 953 5670. jonasan@rochester.rr.com



The Irish and The Erie

Craobh Dugan's musical tribute to the hardworking Irish immigrants who helped build the Erie Canal

CDs are now available to buy on CD Baby! CDs are \$15 and digital downloads are \$10. All proceeds go toward Craobh Dugan's efforts to promote Irish culture.



On July 4, 1817, a shovel plunged into the soil in Rome, NY, thereby beginning one of the most significant turning points in American history. On that day, the Erie Canal began and set in motion the new nation's future of transportation, trade, and technology. To celebrate the 200th anniversary of this historic moment, museums, local governments, schools, and civic organizations all over New York are hosting events and creating special projects. The Irish and the Erie CD is Craobh Dugan's contribution.

Having lived his whole life near the Erie Canal, Craobh Dugan's lead fiddler and creative director **Mike Hoke** was inspired to look into the history of our Irish ancestors' contribution to the digging of "Clinton's Ditch". He knew that thousands of Irish immigrants had spent long hard days digging through the rough wilderness, facing perils like malaria and cholera, and he wanted to make sure the 200th anniversary commemorations didn't leave them out.

Mike wrote the script for The Irish and the Erie live performance filling it with stories and humor. Then he blended in traditional Irish tunes and songs and even added some new lyrics about the Erie Canal. Craobh Dugan mandolin and banjo player Bill Fahy contributed an original Erie Canal song too. Then a group of Craobh Dugan musicians performed the piece for many appreciative audiences in Central New York.

But there's more! On the website, you can read an abridged version of the story that goes along with the music. <https://www.uticaireish.org/the-irish-and-the-erie.html>



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 www.rns.dance 
227-6614

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

Fiddle lessons: Taught by veteran teacher and performer **Kit Fallon**, various traditional fiddle styles, from Bluegrass to Quebecois. No music background is required. Quality rental instruments available. Pre-registration is required; E-mail ckfallon@hotmail.com (put "Beginning Fiddle" in the subject line).



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Christopher Brennan, MA, MLS
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Mark Gowman
Concerts & Festivals
Dave Halligan
John Ryan

Look for us on Facebook:

Rochester Irish Musician's Association**Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
MEMBERSHIP AND DUES for 2017**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 (2017) TO OCTOBER
31 (2018). 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.



Comhaltas-Sponsored Music Sessions, Dancing, Singing**1st Sundays of every month:**

4:00 pm **The American Hotel** 7304 E. Main Street, Lima, NY

Last Sunday of every month:

Johnny's Irish Pub, 1382 Culver Road, Rochester, NY
3:00 pm Music Learning Session with Mark Ballard
3:00-5:00 pm Singer Session with Chris Brennan
5:00 pm Regular session

Set Dancing Every Wednesday:

McGinnity's Bar & Restaurant
7:30 pm 534 West Ridge Road
No experience, no partner necessary.
Instructors: Arlene Miller (585) 663-4438. James Coughlin, caller.

NOTICE: The Second Friday Session - suspended for an indefinite period of time.

OTHER TRADITIONAL IRISH & CELTIC MUSIC SESSIONS**Every Monday:**

Colie's Café, Nazareth College campus
7:00-8:00 pm waltz session
8:00-9:00 pm: jigs, reels, etc. Beginners are especially welcome
Ben's website for the Monday session:

<https://sites.google.com/site/rocnyslowsession/>

Every Tuesday:

7:00 pm (study session) **Charlotte Tavern**, 2 River Road & Lake Ave.

Every Saturday:

Barry's Old School Irish, Webster.
2:00-5:30 pm. Leader: John Ryan

First Wednesdays:

7:00 pm **Scottish Sessions** at 7:00-9:00 pm
Check Facebook for current location:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rochscotstrad> .

Two East side **Scottish music sessions** in new venues! And one on the West side too!

All sessions are 7-9 pm

Monday, Feb. 19 at the Kanack School, 2077 S. Clinton Ave, Rochester, 14618

Wednesday, Feb 28 at Parkminster Presbyterian, 2710 Chili Ave, Rochester, NY 14624

Our regular 4th Wednesday session:

Wednesday, March 14, the Wintergarden room at Brickstone, Elmwood Ave, just east of the old Psych center, (next to Joey B's restaurant, but please leave their parking spots free)

