

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



**Newsletter**  
July/August 2021

**Lúil  
agus  
Lúnasa  
2021**

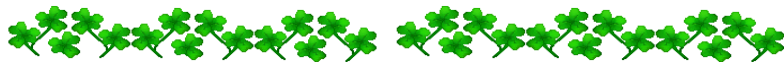
An organization dedicated to the advancement of traditional Irish music, language, dance and culture

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From the Governor of New York: "... we need to get every New Yorker vaccinated—especially with the risk of the Delta variant, also known as B.1.617.2. The CDC has designated this more contagious variant as a "variant of concern." It poses a serious threat to communities with lower vaccination rates. The good news is, all the COVID-19 vaccines have proven extremely effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19—even against variants of concern such as the Delta variant. Those who are unvaccinated have the greatest risk of becoming seriously ill, which is why the New York State Department of Health urges all eligible New Yorkers to get vaccinated."

**Because of the success of vaccination against COVID-19, many sessions have opened with no restrictions. See page 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:

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Jul 25, 2021 03:00 PM | Aug 29, 2021 03:00 PM |
| Sep 26, 2021 03:00 PM | Oct 31, 2021 03:00 PM |
| Nov 28, 2021 03:00 PM | Dec 26, 2021 03:00 PM |
| 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/meeting/tZEIc6uqDlrHdGF8mgmvIBXw6Ira1YQNLHi/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtpj0tHNKcsR6CRpwMGo\\_oKO7wplhcgqd6ukfoBC1FbiHOIbRrILMuKen-](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEIc6uqDlrHdGF8mgmvIBXw6Ira1YQNLHi/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtpj0tHNKcsR6CRpwMGo_oKO7wplhcgqd6ukfoBC1FbiHOIbRrILMuKen-)

**The Last-Sunday-of-the-month Johnny's session (5 pm)  
Back in-person.****Virtual Irish Tunes by Ear – Free Workshop**

**Second Sunday of every month: July 11; August 8 2-4 pm**

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

**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*

Zoom link for the ear workshop is the same each month:

- Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87482729512?>
- Passcode: 207159
- Meeting ID: 874 8272 9512

**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.**

**Catskills Irish Arts Week** is virtual this year, starting July 12, 2021. Workshops and concerts will be online. The schedule, registration and other info can be found at:

[Catskillsirishartsweek.com](http://Catskillsirishartsweek.com)

Comhaltas, Tom Finucane Branch (Rochester) plays at the Genesee Country Village & Museum Celtic Faire, June 2021



## Irish American Cultural Institute (IACI) events:

### PARTICIPATE IN OUR NEW MEMBER BENEFIT - MONTHLY VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

In partnership with the IACI Jersey Shore chapter, we are proud to announce a new monthly virtual program, which is **free** to IACI Members. July 12, 7 pm

LIVE FROM IRELAND

Sponsored by



IRISH  
AMERICAN  
CULTURAL  
INSTITUTE

John Walsh Chapter

Liz Gillis  
Irish Historian &  
Author



LIVE FROM IRELAND



Burning of the Custom House, Dublin, May 25, 1921

“Revolutionary Dublin, 1921”

Speaker: Liz Gillis

Monday, July 12, 2021  
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. ET  
Online presentation

In this continuing series, the July, September, October and November monthly online programs will also be live-streamed from Ireland and presented by well-known Irish historians.

[Learn More](#)

**Tickets to the online July event are free for members of IACI**, however, advance registration is required. If you are an IACI Member you will automatically receive a link to register. If you are not a member, but would like to join to take advantage of this member benefit [join now](#). A limited number of tickets are available to non-member guests for \$10.

[Click here to purchase ticket.](#)

#### Schedule of Presentations:

7/12 “Revolutionary Dublin, 1921” Liz Gillis (Dublin), author of Women of the Irish Revolution  
8/9 TBD

9/13 “Mapping the Burning of Cork” – Helene O’Keeffe (Univ. College Cork)

10/11 “Outrage: Women’s Experiences of Violence and War in Ireland, 1921” Mary McAuliffe (UCD), author of We Were There: 77 Women of the Easter Rising

11/8 “The Anglo-Irish Treaty & Creation of Irish Free State” Speaker TBD

12/13 Holiday Musical Party





## Comhaltas Ireland to Present Fleadhfest this Summer

CCE Ireland will be joining with TG4 to broadcast four Provincial Fleadh Cheoil programs in July and a follow on All Ireland Fleadh in Sligo in August. The Fred Finn branch in Sligo that happens to be a Sister Branch of ours will be the host and lead organizers of the Festival. Please follow both [comhaltas.ie](http://comhaltas.ie) and Irish television at TG4 to enjoy these “almost back to normal” annual events.



From left: Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, James Maynard, Ciarán Madden, Tim Kennedy and Satish K. Tripathi stand together in front of the new James Joyce mural. Photo: Meredith Forrest Kulwicki

## James Joyce Mural Unveiled in Downtown Buffalo

The University at Buffalo Libraries celebrated Bloomsday with the creation of Buffalo’s newest mural, a 36-foot-tall, vibrant artwork of renowned author and poet James Joyce, regarded as one of the most influential writers of the 20th century.

[Read more +](#) (from: Irish America, June 19, 2021)

## Songs of the Irish American and Canadian Diaspora Great Famine Voices Roadshow Manchester

Great Famine Voices 2021 is back this Sunday, with a new standalone short film and online discussion. *Songs of Irish American and Canadian Diaspora* shares Brendan Graham’s music that was inspired by the historical experiences of Irish migrant communities in the United States and Canada. [Read more +](#)

(from Irish America, June 12, 2021)



### Wild Irish Women: Isadora Duncan

A great fire raged in her house when she was an infant. A fireman raced into the burning room and threw her out an open window into the arms of another fireman. So began the high-pitched drama that was the life of Isadora, a life that ended even more theatrically than the firemen's game of catch. [Read more +](#)

(from Irish America, May 29, 2021)

## Irish Echo Campfire 2021

### A Hybrid Forum

**Start time:** 10:00 am

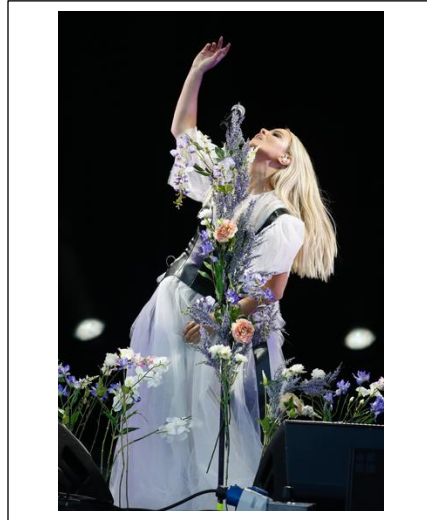


**Featuring:** Speakers covering major sectors including Business, Labor, Pandemic Lessons from the Great Hunger, Theatre, Arts, Politics, Literature, Sport, Heritage Museums, Irish Centers, Irish American Community Organizations, Film, Start-Ups, Travel & Tourism, Media, College Partnerships, Irish Studies, Philanthropy and Irish Peace Process.

**Be part of it:** The Irish Echo is hosting the second annual The Big Irish Campfire showcase, spotlighting Irish American organizations across the US which will give the most comprehensive picture to date of the scale and scope of our community. This showcase will be a permanent online celebration of Irish America and will also appear in the print and digital versions of the Irish Echo. We invite you to ensure your organization or enterprise is featured by providing us with a rundown on your group, including contact information by filling in our [questionnaire](#). We encourage you to upload two photos with captions as well.

Registration closes on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021.





## Testing The Festival Waters

Last weekend featured the Pilot Music Festival in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin, which was hosted by the Irish Museum of Modern Art. 3,500 antigen-tested fans enjoyed the one day event. Artists taking part included Gavin James, Denise Chaila, Wild Youth, Sharon Shannon, Lyra, and Wyvern Lingo. The festival was the fourth in a series of pilot events supported by the Irish government's Department of Tourism, Arts and Culture. Photo shows the performance of Lyra. Photo by Leon Farrell/Photocall Ireland. Google "Pilot Music Festival in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin" for photos and description of the festival. (from the Irish Echo, July 6, 2021)



## Jig and Reels in San Antonio

It was a touch of Riverdance in a city famous for its River Walk. Members of the Inishfree School of Irish Dance in San Antonio, Texas, here go through their routine as part of St. Patrick's Day celebrations. (From The Irish Echo)



## 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**Last Sunday of every month:****the bar is open but not the kitchen;  
bring a snack to share**3:00 pm **Johnny's Irish Pub**, 1382 Culver Road, Rochester, NY  
Music Learning Session with Mark Ballard

5:00 pm Regular session

## OTHER TRADITIONAL IRISH & CELTIC MUSIC SESSIONS

**Every Tuesday:**7:00 pm (study session) **Charlotte Tavern**, 2 River Road & Lake Ave.  
(open)**Every Saturday:****Barry's Old School Irish**, 2 W Main St. Webster.  
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 7:00-10:00 PM

For a summary of all local sessions:

<http://irishrochester.weebly.com/sessions.html>





Dog Daisy Afternoon. A field of Dog Daisies near the Curragh racecourse in County Kildare. RollingNews.ie photo. (from The Irish Echo, June 22, 2021)

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

**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](http://www.rns.dance)   
 227-6614



**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 – 2020-2021**

Cathoirleach (Chair)  
 Dave Halligan  
 Leas-Cathoirleach (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 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 (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).

