

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



Newsletter

July/August 2019

**Lúil
agus
Lúnasa
2019**

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

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Summer Irish Entertainment Events

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Friday, July 12

Moonlight Stroll Concert Series: Tullamore Celtic Band

July 14-20

Irish Arts Week, East Durham, NY

July 26

Réalta at Lovin' Cup

August 17 & 18

Fiddlers' Faire: Genesee Country Village & Museum

August 17

Barry's Old School Irish Festival

September 5

Aoife Scott will be in Rochester at Lovin' Cup

September 6, 7, 8

Turtle Hill Folk Festival

Discounts & Advance tickets ... details, page 7

Branch website: www.irishrochester.com

Facebook: rochester irish musicians association

**Watch your email and online
announcements for concert ticket
information as well as workshop details.**

Moonlight Stroll Concert Series: Tullamore Celtic Band

Traditional Irish music & dance

Friday, July 12, 2019, 8 PM
Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion State Historic Park,
151 Charlotte Street, Canandaigua, NY
With Brenna O'Toole on fiddle, Scott Smith on fiddle,
concertina, bouzouki and
The Rochester Academy of Irish Dance.



Fiddlers' Fair

August 17, 2019 to August 18, 2019



An extraordinary music experience that brings together over 100 musicians on six stages for a weekend of non-stop entertainment! Bring your lawn chair, 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! Admission includes our **NEW evening concert by Koehler & Kelly**, 4-6pm! Are you a musician? Bring your own instrument and get free admission!

This melodious weekend features hundreds of musicians on four stages with non-stop entertainment. Music flows continuously with performances by more than 100 musicians - from polished professional to the youngest beginner - from across New York State. Tickets valid either Saturday 8/17 or Sunday 8/18. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. Event is RAIN or SHINE! **GCV&M Members FREE!**

FREE ADMISSION FOR PERFORMERS!

Fiddlers and accompanying musicians planning to perform, jam and/or participate in workshops, and performing dancers are admitted FREE. Please have your instrument IN HAND at Admissions. Musicians age 16 and under are admitted FREE w/ 1 GUEST.

STUDENT FIDDLER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITY!

Join Koehler & Kelly on stage for a live group performance of "Boil 'em Cabbage Down"! If you're interested in participating, plan to rehearse with North American Fiddlers' Hall of Famer and instructor, Gretchen Koehler, at Genesee Country Museum on Saturday, August 17 at 2:15pm in the Town Hall. Together you'll go over the song and "visual tricks" (over the head, behind the back, behind the legs and more!) to create a novel rendition of this traditional tune. Then, stick around for the evening concert and join the duo and fellow fiddlers on stage immediately following intermission. Remember, musicians with instruments in hand are admitted free! ALL LEVELS & AGES.



NEW! STRING & ACCESSORIES DRIVE

In keeping with the festival's mission to support burgeoning fiddle generations, we are welcoming **donations of new or used strings, bridges, chin rests, pegs, shoulder rests and rosin at the check-in tent to benefit ROCmusic**. ROCmusic offers tuition-free, high-quality music instruction and instrument lessons to students in grades 1-12 who reside in the city of Rochester, NY. No previous musical experience or training is required, and there is no charge for instruments, participation, or instruction! The program is designed to instill a love of learning, responsibility, respect, and academic success, ultimately positively affecting social change in our students and the community. Please join us in supporting ROCmusic!

<https://www.gcv.org/events/fiddlers-fair-evening-concert/>

NEW! Evening Concert! Koehler & Kelly

Saturday, August 17, 2019 at 4:00pm - 6:00pm

When a full day of fiddlin' just isn't enough, stay for our after-hours show from 4pm-6pm.

Koehler & Kelly set fiddle tunes ablaze. Their unique soundscape infuses the energy of traditional dance music with the irresistible rhythms of jazz, weaving in and out of jigs and reels with a delivery that ranges from elegant to fierce, searing to sensitive. Fiddler Gretchen Koehler's (North American Fiddlers' Hall of Fame, '12) left hand boasts a fierce Irish brogue, her bow arm provides a distinct American Old Time drive while her feet hammer out accompaniment on the floorboards in typical Quebecois style. Daniel Kelly (U.S. State Dept. Jazz Ambassador) is an award-winning pianist and composer who blends jazz, classical and folk music into a signature sound.

"Masterful." - Fiddler Magazine

"Kept our full house enraptured from first note to last." - Artistic Director, Festival of the Arts, New Paltz

"[They] deliver the picture and the thousand words." – FolkAlley.com

The evening concert is included in festival admission for both the general public and GCV&M members. Tickets for just the concert may be purchased separately at a reduced rate. Doors for those attending just the concert will open at 4:00pm.

\$10 general admission and FREE for GCV&M Members.

25th Annual Irish Arts Week

July 14 through July 20, 2019

East Durham, NY

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



Barry's Old School Irish Festival

August 17, 2019

Saturday, 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM EDT

2668 Brick Schoolhouse Road

Hilton, NY 14468

Admission: \$15



Barry's Old School Irish presents our first annual Irish Fest on August 17, 2019!

Live Irish music, food trucks, brews and more!!!

Info/Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/barrys-old-school-irish-festival-tickets-63149286215/amp>

Coming to the Lovin' Cup

300 Park Point Dr, Rochester, NY 14623

Réalta - their very first Rochester appearance! Friday July 26, 8:00 pm, at Lovin' Cup Bistro & Brews, 300 Park Point Dr. off Jefferson Rd near RIT. Admission \$20 at the door.

Réalta take a lively, exciting, and respectful approach to Irish traditional music. Reared on a staple diet of The Bothy Band, Planxty, and other such classics, this Belfast-based band captures the timeless aspects of the tradition and presents it in its raw form – fresh and beautiful. Described by Irish Music Magazine as “A full bodied pipe and whistle extravaganza” Réalta make full use of the intricate melodies and driving rhythms that make Irish music so loved throughout the world.

Réalta features Conor Lamb (Uilleann pipes, whistles, piano), Aaron O'Hagan (Uilleann pipes, whistles, flute), Deirdre Galway (guitar, vocals, piano), Dermot Mulholland (bouzouki, double bass, banjo, vocals), and All-Ireland champion Dermot Moynagh (bodhrán).





Does Anyone Still Play Cassettes?

As we all know, as generations come and go, music has come in various formats: from 78 rpm records (later 33 1/3 rpm long-play records); to reel-to-reel tapes; to 8-track tapes; to cassette tapes; to CDs; and now MP3 files one can download from the Internet. Time will tell what the next format will be. Chris Brennan has a collection of cassette tapes he no longer needs for which he would like to find a good home. Most are of Irish music (a few more broadly Celtic); some instrumental, a couple storytelling, most traditional singing. He would long ago have donated them as a ceili giveaway but did not think anyone collected such tapes anymore. If anyone is interested in seeing a listing of Chris' tapes, please contact him directly at: (585) 319-3806 or by email: cristoir@twc.com



Come All Ye ... by Chris Brennan

The opening line of many Irish songs begins with Come All Ye [something or other], such as: "Come all ye dry land sailors," "Come all ye fellow Irishmen," "Come All Ye lads and lassies," etc. The line is an invitation to gather listeners, to indicate for whom the song might be of interest, and to set the scene for the song's narrative. Using the traditional form, this is a hearty "Come All Ye" for those interested in Irish traditional singing, in the hope that you will join your voice with ours.

For those who may not know, as part of the last Sunday of the month sessions at Johnny's Irish Pub (1382 Culver Road at Merchants), there is a regularly scheduled Irish Singers Session. It normally meets 3:00 to 5:00 PM (Irish time) in the snug by the bar. Participants have the choice of singing a song by themselves, asking another singer to sing a song for them, or inviting the entire group to join them in a particular song. Repertoire should be something Irish, or at least generically Celtic (given the tendency of songs to travel beyond the lands of their birth).

Don't worry if your voice is not of the best. Some of the best traditional singers did not have professional quality voices. The idea is to "Say a song," in the words of traditional singer Joe Heaney, meaning that the point is to get across the meaning of the song. If you have the gravelly voice of a Ronnie Drew or the dulcet tones of a Mary Black, you are as welcome as the flowers in May. We meet every last Sunday of the month. See you then.



Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 2

Annual Comhaltas Workshops at St. John Fisher College

Brian Conway & Pat Egan concert, June 22



Music club activities

July 8, 2019

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

July 13, 2019

For July and August, we've scheduled the Irish Tunes by Ear workshop on the SECOND SATURDAY (not Sunday) afternoon, and a little earlier (from 12-2 PM). The Rec Center is closed on Sundays during those months. Thanks to Dave for setting up the alternate dates! Also, a favor? I'll need someone to sit in to **lead** the workshop this month, as I'll be playing a wedding out of town. Email me if you're interested! I'll send an update to everyone closer to the date.

Location: Pittsford Recreation Center, 35 Lincoln Ave, Pittsford, NY, Room #113.

Time: 12:00-2:00 PM

August 3, 2019

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

August 10, 2019

Learn a tune by ear Workshop, 12:00-2:00 pm. Room #113, 2-4 pm at Pittsford Recreation Center, 35 Lincoln Ave., Pittsford, NY.

Turtle Hill Folk Festival

September 6, 7, 8, 2019

Rotary Sunshine Campus, 809 Honeoye Falls Five Points Road, Rush, NY

Link to event and featured performers:

https://www.goldenlink.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=724073&module_id=335563

Comhaltas members get same discount as Golden Link Society members.

For online tickets until September 3: www.goldenlink.org/festival

Early Bird, all weekend: July 15

Advanced tickets by mail August 31



Jay Ungar & Molly Mason



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www.ms.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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Chris Brennan
Music Learner's Session
Mark Ballard
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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 2019

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 (2018) TO OCTOBER 31 (2019). 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 Sunday of every month:**

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**

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.

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 and the use of sheet music is acceptable, copies & pdfs are available.

Ben's website for the Monday session:

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

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

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

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

Every Saturday:

Barry's Old School Irish, 2 W Main St. 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> .

