

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



Newsletter
March/April 2020

**Márta
agus
Aibreán
2020**

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

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Irish Music Concert

COMHALTAS ROCHESTER PRESENTS
Arise & Go
CELTIC MUSIC

MARCH 12
7:30 PM
ROCHESTER, NY

ariseandgo.org



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

**Watch your email for announcements of
Irish music and cultural events.**



Back by popular demand ... 'Arise & Go' brings new life to traditional Irish tunes

7:30 pm First Baptist Church, 94 South Main Street, Fairport, NY

\$12 (CCE GL) -15 presale/\$15 (CCE GL) -20 at the door

To purchase tickets: brownpapertickets.com/event/4490725



Arise & Go returns for a concert on March 12

Click and listen now:

Kickstarter Tune a Day #30- The Acadian Reel:

<https://www.facebook.com/AriseandGo/videos/1894127970666483/>

Live at Wilburland - Arise & Go: <https://youtu.be/dlahAnwyId4>

A new local group from Ithaca, NY, specializing in traditional Irish and Scottish music takes its name from the opening lines of a famous Yeats poem: "The Lake Isle of Innisfree." The trio, consisting of **Mike Roddy** on uilleann pipes, border pipes, smallpipes, and whistles, **Tim Ball** on guitar, and **Ellie Goud** on fiddle, does indeed play traditional tunes – chiefly from Ireland, Scotland, Cape Breton and French-Canada – but they play them with a precision and an energy not often encountered in this style of music.

"So much of the music we play is dance music, and as such some sets are straight ahead traditional jigs, reels, and the like," notes Roddy. "However, one of the things we really enjoy is taking these traditional tunes a step further. Sometimes the sets seem to take on a life of their own, ending up in a very different place than we expected them to go."

Listen and buy: <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/arisego>



Celebrate Irish American Heritage Month with us



The Monroe county Irish organizations would like you to enjoy an hour and a half of a variety of authentic Irish entertainment. Known in Ireland as a Siamsa (Shee-am-sah), it includes traditional cultural music, dancing, and historical stories. Please join us in commemorating the city of Rochester's and county of Monroe's declaration of Irish American Heritage Month while enjoying some traditional soda bread.

All Siamsas are on Wednesdays from 7-8:30. Dates and locations are:

Gates Library: March 4

Webster Library: March 11

Ogden Library: March 18

Penfield Library: March 25

Event schedule:

7:00-7:15 pm Soda Bread Making Demonstration – LAOH (Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians).

Depending on the rules or regulations of the town library, either the homemade or store purchased bread will be available to try.

7:15-7:45 Traditional Irish Music Session- Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann (Irish Musician Association).

Several members of the music organization will play some traditional Irish music.

7:45-8:15 Historical Presentation or Story- IACI (Irish American Cultural Institute). Significant events in Irish and American history will be presented and discussed to enable a better understanding of Irish influence in the world.

8:15-8:30 Irish Step Dance Demonstration.

8:30 Conclusion of the program and soda bread tasting.

Program brought to you by Comhaltas, AOH, IACI, local Irish dance schools, and LAOH. All for the minimal donation of \$80 to help these organizations cover their expenses. We also request to be able to promote our organizations to the community through brochures that would be available before and after the programs along with representatives to answer any questions about the groups.

For more information, please contact Jim Gilmore, AOH member and IAHM Committee Chair at 585-353-5236 or contactjfg@gmail.com.

This March, **Comhaltas** is partnering with several other Irish organizations to host Siamsas, community events in local libraries. These are a fun, relaxed way to share Irish culture with a wider audience. Comhaltas will contribute 30-45 minutes of the program, focusing on iconic reel and jig sets (as well as possibly playing for some live dancers). If you're interested in playing music at a Siamsa, please contact Lydia Fanara at ligfan5@gmail.com for a set list.



March is (Irish) music madness

- March 3:** Irish Folk Group: The High Kings
The Smith Opera House in Geneva. Contact: Jenna Korus <jenna@dpsshows.com>
- March 3:** [An Glór Óg](#) (JMR, Ben G, and Sean R) playing Abilene on Tuesdays 3/3 and 3/31 and at St. Paul Proper on 3/14
- March 3:** [Dervish at Buffalo Irish Center](#) , 7-10 PM ([tickets on BPT](#))
- March 5:** The Bobbens (Bob B, Ben G, and I) are playing for [Contra dancing](#)
- March 6:** Irish-American Heritage Month Proclamation press conference at 10am at City Hall. President and Congress honor the achievements and contributions of Irish immigrants and their descendants living in the United States.



details, page 8

- March 13:** Lunasa in Ithaca, NY. [Cornell Concert Series](#)
Friday, March 13, 2020 at 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM EDT

The hottest Irish band on the planet just in time for St. Patrick's Day!!!

[Workshop](#) with the band: Friday, March 13, 5:00 pm-6:30 pm

[Bailey Hall](#). Ithaca, New York 14853. [Show Map](#)

Calling all Irish musicians! Before the big evening show (tix at www.cornellconcertseries.com), come bring your instruments to this *free* workshop and come learn how to play them even better... WITH LÚNASA!!!!!! We'll be in the downstairs of Bailey Hall (enter through the ADA door down to the left of the main entry stairs).

- March 14 (Parade Day)** Celtic Family fair at the Raddison Riverside hotel in Rochester NY on Saint Patrick's Parade Day. It's upstairs on the second floor and runs from 11am until about 4pm. There will be activities for children, juggling show, storytelling, Celtic jewelry, stuffed animals and food for purchase. Lots of fun, and no alcohol allowed in the room. The pipe band and the dancers usually come, too, as the parade winds down.





Spring Ceili

April 25.

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



Joanna Geraghty, Kate Johnson, Judy Collins, Colleen Kelly

Judy Collins Opens Concern Gala

Concern Worldwide U.S.'s Seeds of Hope annual awards dinner got off to a good start with singing legend Judy Collins singing her classic "Both Sides Now," and classic anthem "Amazing Grace," telling how she first came across the song.

The event took place on Tuesday, October 29, at Cipriani South Street. Concern honored Microsoft and Kate Johnson (President, Microsoft U.S.)

Dominic MacSorley, the CEO of Concern talks about the 50-year-old organization founded by Irish missionary priest Father Aengus Finucane. "The lifeblood that started Concern all those years ago is what drives our 3,500 staff every day to work in some of the toughest places on earth." Dominic cited Concern's work in Afghanistan as an example. "Today almost four million children are currently out of school in Afghanistan, sixty percent of them girls, but in the areas where Concern is working we have increased female school attendance to eighty percent. But this achievement can be fragile, especially where security continues to deteriorate.

"Our Irish heritage contains many tragic reminders of the desperate plight of migrants fleeing their country either because the land had failed them or to escape insecurity and decades of conflict... It is this history that doesn't just create empathy; it creates an obligation to respond."

source: Irish America, December/January 2020, p. 25



Music club activities

March 7, 2020

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

March 14, 2020

Irish Tunes by Ear workshop
Location: Pittsford Recreation Center, 35 Lincoln Ave, Pittsford, NY, Room #113.
Time: 12:00-2:00 PM

April 4, 2020

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

April 11, 2020

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.

A Piece of Galway in Connecticut

The band from Galway that plays a blend of traditional Irish, old-time, and bluegrass music they call Celtgrass is being touted one of the best live acts to come out of Ireland in recent years.

By Christine Kinealy

Irish America, December/January 2020, p. 90-91



The banjo has a long, contested, and even controversial history. Musicologists now generally agree that an early form of the instrument was first brought to America by enslaved people from west Africa. It was possibly an akonting, a three-stringed instrument with a long neck, mostly associated with Gambia. The modern American version of the banjo is credited to Joel Sweeney, who was born in Virginia in 1810. He, in turn, probably learned about the instrument from enslaved African Americans.

Sweeney popularized the playing of the banjo by bringing it over to Europe during his successful tour in the early 1840s. In 1844, the "Virginia Minstrels" made it to Ireland. In the advance publicity, Sweeney was described as "the original banjo player," although the Minstrels included Dan Emmet, also a banjo player. Other members played the violin, the tambourine, and the bones. Their repertoire included "negro melodies," which they promised would be delivered with "not a shade or trace of vulgarity." The Virginia Minstrels played in Belfast, Dublin, and Cork.

(... lots more to read on page 91) We Banjo 3 will return to the United States early in 2020.





The John O'Sullivan Memorial Film Series

At St. John's Meadows
March - April 2019-2020
4:00 - 7: 00 p.m.

St. John's Meadows has easy handicap access, parking in front of building, full buffet, drinks, and signage will direct attendees to the door.

Join members of the **Rochester Chapter of the Irish American Cultural Institute** for a feis that celebrates some of Ireland's best films.

Buffet will be supplied by the Briarwood Catering and will change monthly. Cash bar available. We will eat first and follow with the film and discussion.

March 1st: **Hunger** Drama 96 min. 2008

Hunger follows life in the Maze Prison with an interpretation of the events surrounding the 1981 IRA hunger strike.

April 5th: **Circle of Friends** Drama, Romance 103 min. 1995

Based on the Maeve Binchey novel. A coming of age story of 3 girls from an Irish village, attending college in post WWII Dublin.

Contact: Katherine McMahon- Flynn kmcfly@gmail.com

Pre-St Patrick's Day Concert

Pre-St. Patrick's Day Concert. The Geneseo String Band, under the direction of James Kimball, will give its annual Pre-St. Patrick's Day Concert, Saturday, March 7, at 7:00 pm in Wadsworth Auditorium on the SUNY Geneseo campus. Celtic music and dance will be featured. Guest performers will include the Drumcliffe Dancers and Geneseo's own Sláinte Irish Dancers, Ted McGraw, Brian Clancy, Mary Lester, John Ryan, Bill Henrie, Adie Maher, Tim Benson, Mitzie Collins, John Heyer and more.

Admission \$10, seniors and students \$5, 12 and under free. Tickets available at the door only.

Saturday, March 7 at 7:00pm to 10:00pm Wadsworth, Auditorium



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

Brennan Genealogical Research
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 Bill Hallahan
 Music Instrument Library
 Mark Gowman

Look for us on Facebook:

Rochester Irish Musician's Association

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES for 2020

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 (2019) TO OCTOBER 31 (2020). 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/>

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> .

2nd Sunday of each month The **Geneva Irish Music Session**, which had been meeting the second Sunday of every month at Bottomless Brewing from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. is temporarily cancelled until we find a different venue. So, there will be no January 2020 session. For information on renewed session; Kit Fallon (ckfallon@hotmail.com)

For a summary of all local sessions:

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

