

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



Newsletter
March/April 2021

Márta
agus
Aibreán
2021

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

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Due to the COVID19 pandemic, until further notice,
there will be no regularly scheduled in-person
workshops or ceili dances.

For specific music events, check the calendar on the
website: <http://irishrochester.weebly.com/calendar.html>

Some recurring calendar events have been cancelled or
modified so it is best to check with the host before
attending.

**We hope that the new year of 2021 will
renew your optimism and restore your
faith in humanity - and, of course, bring
health and happiness to everyone.**



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

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

IRISH MUSIC SESSIONS & Workshops

Last Sunday each month:

Johnny's Learners' Session with Mark Ballard

Tentatively, March 28 and April 25 at **3:30 pm**

A playlist of videos with the sheet music for this month's (and previous months') tunes is available on Facebook and www.irishrochester.com. Watch your email for an invitation.

If you are not on the email list, contact Mark at mark55ballard@gmail.com

The **Last Sunday sessions** gone back to in-person at Johnny's; we also hope to be able to do Zoom from Johnny's for those who are still not comfortable with in-person gatherings.

The Last-Sunday-of-the-month Johnny's session (5 pm) back in-person.

Capacity is limited to 15 people at a time; be sure to register via the Google Form link:

- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjdPUgVpM4cCF-SKn-DwLnPk1kTliWU3O2flcb1w_u0KL63A/viewform

Virtual Irish Tunes by Ear – Free Workshop

Second Sunday of every month: March 14, April 11 2-4 pm

WHERE: via Zoom. For details: Facebook and www.irishrochester.org

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.

On the third Sunday of each month: from 5-7 PM, we added a Zoom session.

Zoom link is the same each month:

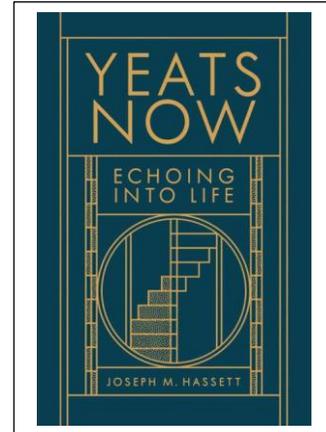
- Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82646049717?>
- Passcode: 644659
- Meeting ID: 826 4604 9717

CALENDAR of all events <http://irishrochester.weebly.com/calendar.html>

Facebook Event Links:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/RochesterIrishMusiciansAssociation/events>



**ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE IRISH STUDIES PROGRAM
PROUDLY PRESENTS**

Yeats Now: Echoing Into Life

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day early, the St. John Fisher College Irish Studies Program is pleased to announce a presentation on William Butler Yeats by Joseph Hassett, renowned Yeats scholar and author.

W. B. Yeats often has just the right words for important occasions. Joseph Hassett will discuss memorable lines from Yeats's poetry that help us articulate our thoughts about significant moments in our own lives. Inviting Yeats into our lives line by line turns out to be an easy point of entry into the work of this astonishingly vital poet.

The presentation will include a video of acclaimed actor Lisa Dwan reciting three of the poems to be discussed. Audience questions are welcome.

Joseph Hassett is a Washington trial lawyer and author. His newest book, *Yeats Now: Echoing into Life* can be ordered now from Book Depository at <https://www.bookdepository.com/Yeats-Now-Joseph-M-Hassett/9781843517788>. Distinguished critic and Notre Dame Professor Declan Kiberd called it "one of the most beautiful and enjoyable books on Yeats" in his review in the *Dublin Review of Books*.

Hassett's books include *W. B. Yeats and the Muses* (Oxford University Press, 2010) and *The Ulysses Trials: Beauty and Truth Meet the Law* (Lilliput 2016). He attended Canisius College, Harvard Law School, and University College Dublin (PhD).

Presented by the St. John Fisher College Irish Studies Program

Date and time: Wednesday, 10 March 2021 from 4:20-5:40 PM, Eastern Standard Time

Zoom link:

<https://sjfc.zoom.us/j/94511620945?pwd=L0oxM0hvZjRXN0xieW1BQzMwQU5qZz09>

Passcode: St.Patrick (no spaces)

For further information, please contact Fionnuala Regan at fregan@sjfc.edu





Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Sean Nós Workshop!

St. Patrick's Day won't be the way we want it this year, but we can still dance! Irish stepdancing is uniquely suited for these times, and Sean Nós dancing is suited for everyone.

Sean Nós ("shah-noze"), or "old style" stepdancing is a gentler, more traditional style of Irish dance than the high-kicking modern style made popular by Riverdance. With its slower music, close-to-the-ground steps, and relaxed posture (you can use your arms!), Sean Nós allows each dancer to develop their own personal style at a pace which suits them.

When: Monday, March 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00

Level: Beginner—No experience necessary!

Where: **Rince Na Saor Irish Dancing.** (Located at Dance Biz in Longview Plaza, 1742 Long Pond Road, near Unity Hospital and just off Route 390.)

Register: www.rns.dance, email kathyw@rns.dance, or call **227-6614**. Space is limited so we can keep everyone distanced, and all dancers must wear a mask.



Irish Hurling!

Music and Dance are, and have been, a major factor in preserving and expressing the Irish culture here in the US for a long time. In an effort to continue this tradition, I would like to promote the sport of Hurling here in the Rochester area. I am teaching introductory skills classes for kids at local Rec centers this May. A friend mentioned you guys to me as someone who might be willing to help me promote Irish Hurling (maybe in your newsletter) or collaborate with me in some way to do that. I am very open to ideas around this and discussion with you. As you consider this please take a moment to check out my webpage about the program here... <https://progressiveearlylearning.com/irish-hurling/>

Drew Beeman
 Founder and Director
 Progressive Early Learning
www.ProgressiveEarlyLearning.com

Introductory skills classes for children 4-17 years old

Learn to play the ancient sport of Hurling! Described as “the fastest game on grass,” hurling has been played in Ireland for at least 4,000 years. It is now one of the fastest growing sports in America with new clubs sprouting up everywhere, including here in Rochester. Combining the skills learned playing lacrosse, field hockey, soccer, and baseball, hurling is a full body workout.

Come learn the basic skills that it takes to begin playing the game. This four-session class lays the foundation on which to build your skills in order to play the game of hurling.



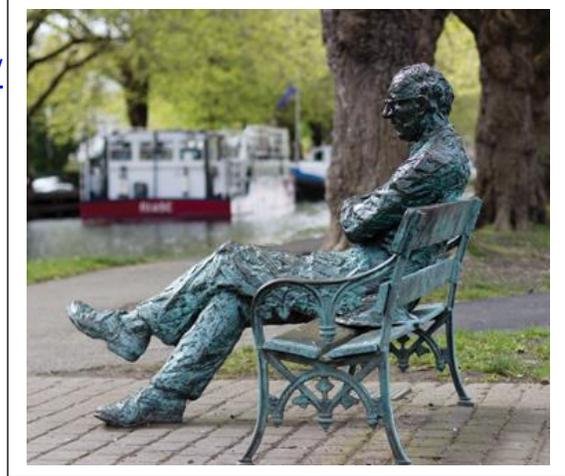
Coming to Perinton Rec. Tuesdays at 5pm May 4-25 and June 1-22

Coming to Penfield Rec. Thursdays at 5pm May 6-27 and June 3-24

Coming to Pittsford Rec. Mondays at 5pm May 17-June 14 *no class May 31



The poet who penned "On Raglan Road."
<https://irishamerica.com/2018/12/patrick-kavanagh/>



The history of the Shamrock

Slainte columnist Edythe Preet explores the story behind Ireland's national symbol.

(edited for brevity, first published in 2017; reprinted in Irish America, Feb-2021)

The word "shamrock" is an anglicized form of the Irish term seamir og, which means "little clover." While there is no plant botanically classified "shamrock," there are dozens of types of clovers. Ireland is covered with gazillions of them, and a shamrock is really just a young clover. Like the Irish themselves, clovers are found all over the world, but only in Ireland has a cloverleaf become a primary national symbol. Saint Patrick gets most of the credit.

Celtic beliefs included many gods and goddesses, each manifesting different aspects of human life, and some even embodied triplicity. Perhaps the most revered Celtic divinity was the triple goddess Brid, who represented the three aspects of womanhood – maid, mother, and crone. Brid's female triplicity provided a yin balance to Christianity's yang Trinity.

The shamrock began to change from a Christian symbol to a national symbol, when it was adopted in the late 1700s as a motif by several revolutionary groups fomenting Irish independence from the British Crown. The resulting brief but bloody Irish Rebellion of 1798 (May 24 to September 24) was so brutally put down by British forces that it inspired folk ballad "The Wearing of the Green," which lamented, "they're hanging men and women for the wearing of the green [shamrock]." With the 1800 Acts of Union, Ireland's shamrock was added to the Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom alongside England's rose and Scotland's thistle.

When the Royal Regiment of the British Army adopted the shamrock as its emblem, Queen Victoria ruled that Irish soldiers should wear shamrock sprigs to honor their fallen fellows. During World War I, the famous Connaught Rangers (who called themselves "The Devil's Own") marched to battle wearing shamrock emblazoned badges and singing "It's A Long Way To Tipperary," which became a unifying anthem of the conflict.

These days, the shamrock is as internationally recognized a symbol of Ireland as the Statue of Liberty is for the United States.

Every year on Saint Patrick's Day, the Irish taoiseach presents the president of the United States with a bowl of shamrocks in a special Waterford Crystal bowl featuring a shamrock design.



It's not too late to renew your membership

For all that have already renewed, membership cards have been mailed

Dear Friends and Supporters of Irish Culture,

Please renew your membership of Ceoltas Ceoltoiri Eireann as this will enable the Tom Finucane branch in Rochester, NY to flourish and rejuvenate with activities as soon as everyone has been vaccinated and the pandemic is under control. Our mission has always been to bring the finest in the traditional Irish arts to a local audience.

Without you we don't exist. We will see better times ahead and with your help we will be successful here in the Rochester area for years to come. Don't forget to check in from time to time with our web site (irishrochester.com) and newsletters. Our Facebook page is also alive and well and can be found at **Rochester Irish Musicians**.

Thank you from the CCE Board

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES INFORMATION 2020-2021

<u>Dues:</u>		<u>Enter amount enclosed:</u>
First Adult	\$25.00	_____
Second Adult	\$ 8.00	_____
Family	\$40.00	_____
Junior (under 18, 1/1/2020)	\$ 4.00	_____
Gift		_____

Your gift is greatly appreciated and is fully tax-deductible and supports branch-sponsored concerts and workshops and special events.

Name(s): _____

Address _____

Phone# _____

Email: _____ (please print clearly)

Please make your check payable to: CCE Rochester

Mail to: Comhaltas
6658 North Avon Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472



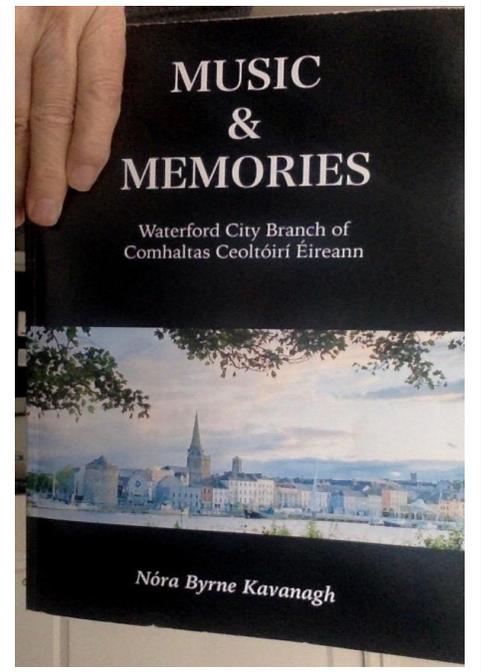
Nora's Book Review

“Music and Memories”, Nora Kavanagh’s new 99 page book, is a great tribute to Waterford musicians and their continuing contributions to the culture of Ireland. The large format book, centered around the local Comhaltas Branch, concentrates on the traditional music and dance of the of the area with many photographs of musicians and dancers, and their stories. The book also contains 50 pieces of music played in the area including 14 compositions by local Waterford artists. It is a wonderful documentary of the history of Irish music in the Waterford area, Nora Kavanagh is a well-known musician and music teacher in Waterford. Waterford is a “Sister City” of Rochester. NY. Nora and a group of her musicians performed here in Rochester in 2008.

ISBN 9781916197602.

Ted McGraw

CCE N. American Archivist, musician, and Irish music radio broadcaster in Rochester, N.Y.



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



Branch Officers - 2020

Cathoirleach (Chair)
Dave Halligan
Leas-Cathoirleach (Vice Chair)
Mark Ballard
Runai (Secretary)
Bill Hallahan
Cisteoir (Treasurer)
Lynn Pilaroscia
Míchoir (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 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 (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.



Memories from Jim Kimball

at O'Lacy's

