

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



Newsletter

May/June 2018

**Bealtaine
agus
Maitheamh
2018**

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

In This Issue:

Concert	1-2
Ceili	3
Unsung Irishman	4
Concert Photos	5
Concert Photos	6
Upcoming Events	7
Ads	8
Officers, etc.	9
Sessions	10



**Irish Traditional Music
on Uilleann Pipes and Fiddle
May 9, 2018**



**Nick Brown
and
Alison Perkins**



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

A delightful and entertaining traditional Irish music concert

"Perkins is a brilliant fiddler who sometimes flashes an aggressive drive. Brown is an excellent piper who incorporates smart, subtle touches in his ornamentation and regulator work to yield a smooth, gentlemanly style. The warmth between the two players and their instruments is complemented by the sensitivity each has for the other's playing. Perkins and Brown are terrifically responsive to each other and together they make a grand duo and a lovely racket."

— The Irish Echo

Johnny's Irish Pub, 1382 Culver Rd, Rochester, NY 14609

Concert will begin at 7:00 pm

Admission is \$20 at the door, \$15 for Comhaltas members, \$10 for students

Under age 12 – free admission.



All Covered With Moss was released in October 2016

"This is one of the best fiddle and uilleann pipes albums of the past ten years. It's long, it's packed full of big tunes, it is grounded in the tradition, it's as raw bar as you can get, it's never flash and it's marvelous for it. Perkins and Brown are a husband and wife duo, fiddler Alison Perkins from Detroit and piper Nicolas Brown from Fergus, Ontario. That's a long way from Ireland, but as each track unfolds you'd think they were regulars in Henrietta Street Dublin."

— Irish Music Magazine



To learn more about Alison & Nick and to listen: www.pipesandfiddle.com



Spring ceili – May 19 – 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

Please note:

The LAST SUNDAY SESSION at Johnny's Irish Pub has been moved from May 27 to May 20.

Irish not keen on royal nups

A poll taken by RTE shows that 57 percent of Irish will NOT be tuning in to watch the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meaghan Markle on May 10.

While billions around the world will be tuning in, it seems the Irish still dislike all the royal pomp and circumstance which surrounds such a day.

There is still strong enough Republican sentiment in Ireland that almost two thirds of the people are not amused by the royal frolics.

- Irish Voice, May 1, 2018

One of the reasons that Irish traditional music has been able to last for generations is that it's been passed on in many cases through the comfortable confines of an Irish homeplace, where it is known as fireside music warming the cockles of the hearts of all who are in earshot.

It was meant to be shared with family, friends and neighbors who all lived within one another's shadow.

I was thinking of those humble aspects last weekend when I took in two separate concerts by New Jersey fiddler Willie Kelly and Waterford piper David Power. The two artists represent the very best of the Pure Drop tradition and in doing so proved their value as cultural homes for keeping the tradition alive. Kelly took lessons from the legendary Limerick music master Martin Mulvihill. David Power came to New Jersey a number of years ago with his young family when his wife was working for Waterford Crystal.

- Paul Keating, Irish Voice, May 1, 2018

Irish Lace for Meghan?

By Paddy Clancy

Designers of Carrickmacross lace are hopeful Markle will seek the pattern used by Harry's mother, Princess Diana, and his sister-in-law Kate Middleton, on their wedding days, Elizabeth Daly, chairperson of the Carrickmacross Lace Gallery, told the Irish Independent that it would be "lovely" if Markle wore the design.

Daly believed Harry's older brother, Prince William, arranged for Kate to wear the design as a tribute to his mother Diana. She said the thought crossed her mind that Harry might persuade his new American fiancée to do the same.

Carrickmacross lace was introduced into Ireland in about 1820 by Mrs. Grey Porter of Donaghmoynne, who taught it to local women so that they could earn some extra money.

The scheme was initially of limited success, and it was only after the 1846 Famine, when a lace school was set up by the managers of the Bath and Shirley estates at Carrickmacross as a means of helping their starving tenants, that the lace became known and found sales.

Middleton's wedding dress was made by English designer Sarah Burton, of luxury fashion house Alexander McQueen. Daly said that while the gallery was not involved in the design of her dress, they were thrilled to see the Carrickmacross stitching technique was used on her gown.

Carrickmacross lace is hand-stitched by a select group of craftspeople.

- Irish Voice, December 5, 2017





The Unsung Irishman

By Niall O'Dowd
Irish Voice, December 19, 2017

IN an era where Russian spying and stealing state secrets are the order of the day, it is timely to remember the greatest American spy of all.

If you have seen Hamilton, the Broadway musical which also has a U.S. tour, you will know of whom I speak, but alas, Hercules Mulligan is played by an African American, a needless piece of miscasting given Mulligan was a native of Ireland and a proud Irish Republican.

Mulligan saved George Washington's life twice, and the Revolution would have turned out very differently were it not for the Irishman.

In addition, it was Mulligan who took the young and penniless immigrant Alexander Hamilton under his wing and fired him with enthusiasm for the American cause.

Indeed, were another Broadway show to be made about the period, Mulligan's story would have powerful impact. He is arguably the most underrated Irish hero in history, as much a founding father as any other figure of the time with the exception of Washington.

Mulligan moved with his family to New York in 1746 when he was six years old from Coleraine in Derry. He graduated from Columbia University and became active in the Sons of Liberty, the underground movement to make America independent.

The ties with Britain were loosening and what had once been benevolent oversight has turned into mutual hostility.

By 1776, when the British occupied New York City, Mulligan embarked on his secret life, a tailor by day who fitted English generals for their uniforms, and informant by night, smuggling

information he gleaned via his servant Cato to the American lines.

Marriage to the daughter of a leading British officer made him an even more trusted figure by the top brass.

In 1779, Hercules saved Washington's life for the first time. A British officer came calling on the Irish tailor seeking a warm watch coat immediately.

When Mulligan inquired about the haste the officer replied they had Washington in their sights. "Before another day, we'll have the rebel general in our hands," he said.

Mulligan immediately sent Cato to warn Hamilton who was by now Washington's aide de camp. The message arrived just in time.

Then in 1781, two years after his first escape, the British came to capture Washington again. Mulligan's brother Hugh, who ran a goods company, received a huge order for supplies for 300 soldiers whose general believed they had Washington in their sights and were about to hunt him down.

Hercules Mulligan warned Washington in advance, and once again the leader escaped.

After the rebels had won, Washington would not forget his chief spy who had saved the day on two occasions. On November 26, 1783, Washington led the Evacuation Day parade and called to Mulligan at what is today 218 Pearl Street. He tethered his horse, dismounted and ate breakfast with Mulligan, calling him "a true friend of liberty." Washington generously ordered a full set of civilian clothing. Mulligan proudly erected a sign outside his shop: "Clothier to Genl. Washington."

Mulligan detested slavery and became one of the 19 founding members, with Hamilton and John Jay, of the New York Manumission Society, an early organization to abolish slavery.

He prospered as a businessman with Washington's seal of approval. He retired in 1820 and died in 1825, aged 84. Few Irishmen have done more for liberty



Photographs from the March 6 concert with **John Whelan** and Low Lily (**Liz Simmons, Flynn Cohen and Lissa Schneckenburger**)



Flynn Cohen and John Whelan



Lissa Schneckenburger



Liz Simmons



Location:

**First Baptist Church of Fairport,
94 S. Main St., Fairport.**



Photographs from the. **IACI & CCE sponsored concert** April 13, 2018

Manus McGuire (fiddle) and Dave Curley at St. John Fisher College.



Music club activities**May 5, 2018**

Box Club: there is no meeting this month.

June 2, 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**Irish Music & Culture Workshop Day at St. John Fisher College**

September 29, 2018

Noon to 5 pm

Celtic Fest at Genesee Country Museum & Village, Saturday, June 16.

CCE will have a space in the Freight House Pub for gathering and jamming.

Comhaltas performances will be at the Church: 11 am and 1:30 pm

Fiddlers' Fair at Genesee Country Museum & Village. August 18-19, 2018.

CCE will have a space in the Freight House Pub for gathering and jamming.


Finger Lake Celtic Festival. May 19, 2018. 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM. Website: <http://flceltic.org>**New Irish Study Abroad Program for U.S. Teens**

A new three-week pre-college program for U.S. high schoolers is set to begin this summer as part of a collaboration between Drew University in New Jersey and the Donegal-based Institute of Study Abroad Ireland. The program, for which students will receive three college credits, is the first high school program in Ireland that is accredited by an American university.

The Institute of Study Abroad Ireland was launched in 1996 by then U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy-Smith and has since partnered with hundreds of U.S. colleges, providing study abroad opportunities for thousands of American college students.

"A big emphasis of our trip is not just the history and culture of Ireland, but looking at global themes of civil rights, social justice, peace and conflict resolution, poverty, and emigration through the lens of Irish and Irish American experience," says ISAI founder and director Dr. Niamh Hamill.

--Irish America, May 2018, page 20.



DUNLEAVY
5TH ANNUAL
SHOWCASE

SATURDAY, MAY 12TH
DOORS- 12:30pm
CURTAIN - 1:00pm
PRESALE \$10 DOOR \$12

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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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Concerts & Festivals
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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: **see note on page 3 for May reschedule**

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)

