

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



## **Newsletter**

November/December 2018

### **Meán Fomhair Agus Deireadh Fomhair 2018**

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

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### **Tom Finucane branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Éireann presents Trad Irish Music Concert**

Friday, November 30, 2018  
7:30 pm

### **First Baptist Church**

Main Sanctuary  
94 South Main St., Fairport, NY 14450

Celtic trio from Ithaca, NY, recording debut album of Scottish, Irish, and French-Canadian music



Branch website: [www.irishrochester.com](http://www.irishrochester.com)  
Facebook: rochester irish musicians association

November 1 is the Celtic feast of Samhain. Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhuit

## Arise and Go

*"I will arise and go now..."*

*The Lake Isle of Innisfree, W.B. Yeats*

**Arise & Go** is an exciting Celtic trio that finds its roots in the dance music of Ireland, Scotland and Atlantic Canada. Blending pipes, whistles, fiddle, and guitar, the group's varied musical backgrounds combine to produce a sound which is both grounded in tradition and uniquely fresh and driving.

Music sample: "The Dirty Bee" (<https://youtu.be/IUaH-cLgId8>)

You can also check out (listen to) their 30 Kickstarter, tune-a-day series on Facebook.



Concert on November 30, 2018 at  
The First Baptist Church, 94 South Main St., Fairport, NY 14450  
Sanctuary, 7:30 pm  
General admission (at the door):  
\$20; \$15 for Comhaltas and Golden Link members.  
\$10 students, free for under 16



## The exciting **CD release party** you've been waiting for ....

**Ted McGraw presents: newly recorded Irish tunes on the button accordion.**

**Location:** Carroll's, 1768 E. Main St. across from East High School

**Date: Saturday, November 17, 2018**

At 4 pm

Refreshments provided

23 tracks; 41 tunes

Polkas, slides, hornpipes, waltzes,  
reels, jigs, set dances, air, barn dance

Some tunes you will recognize, others  
are new and will capture your attention.

After playing his accordion at numerous  
sessions and public events, Ted was  
persuaded by Seamus Connolly to  
record a collection of his favorite tunes  
and produce a CD for everyone to enjoy



Cover photo: Trish McGraw

## Do you remember when Irish music was on the radio in Rochester?

Listen to the **RADIO** with **Ted & John McGraw**.  
Now a live feed on the **WEB** at: **WRUR.ORG**

### [Ol' Fiddler](#)

WRUR 88.5 FM  
Sundays 12:00-1pm, EST

### [Irish Party House](#)

WRUR 88.5 fm  
Sundays 1pm-2pm, EST

**Congratulations** to Ted McGraw, recipient of the Comhaltas North American Region Service Award given at the Chicago North American Convention, April 2018 and presented at the Northeast Regional Meeting, October 27, 2018.



## Irish Folk and Trad Day

at

McGinnity's Party House, 534 W. Ridge Road, Rochester, NY  
Saturday, November 10, 2018

4 pm CONCERT    \$10

Cuisle Mo Chroí  
The Bensons  
Tin Dipper  
Treasa ní Chatháin

6 pm DINNER        \$30

Roast Beef and Gaeilge

8 pm CEILI    \$10

Music by John Ryan and Friends

Whole Event Ticket: \$40 each, \$60 per couple

**To benefit Banjo Burke Memorial Fund**

## Fall ceili December 1, 2018 at 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

### **Report** from the Comhaltas **Northeast Regional Meeting**, October 27, 2018

At the Buffalo Irish Center, 245 Abbott Rd, Buffalo, NY

Annual General (business) Meeting

Hall of Fame inductees:

Dick Bolt  
Mitzi Collins  
Mike Leach  
Rick Muir  
Bob Taylor

Workshops (fiddle, whistle, button accordion, uilleann pipes), seisiuns, concert.

Concert: Damien Connolly and Jerry O'Sullivan

### **Report** from the **Comhaltas Branch Annual General Meeting**, October 29, 2018

Election of officers and confirmation of appointed positions (see 9 for results).  
Planning for upcoming concerts and ceilis (to be featured in upcoming newsletters).

Johnny's Irish Pub is now open for Last Sunday Sessions and Singers & Learners Sessions.

Spring ceili schedule: February 16 & April 27 at McGinnity's



### Comhaltas Hall of fame inductees, Tom Finucane branch:

**NOTE:** There will be a special branch celebration of our inductees on **December 15, 2018** at the Brickstone, 1325 Elmwood Ave, Rochester, NY 14620. Begins at 7:15 pm with Hall of Fame awards ceremony at 7:30 pm followed by special music tribute and session with option for spontaneous ceili dancing.

#### Dick Bolt - Musician and Teacher

In 1977, Dick joined *Blackthorn Ceilidh Band* playing fiddle with Ted McGraw on accordion, Mike Leach on banjo and whistles & Skip Evans on piano and whistles. They performed at many local and regional events including several years at the New York State Irish Festival at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse before and after headliners Tommy Makem and Brian Clancy.



Dick also attended local sessions he met and played with many fine Irish musicians including Jack and Marty O'Keefe, George and Sean Walker and Frank Murphy. In 1999 Dick started to teach traditional Irish fiddle in private lessons which he has continued to the present. Also in 1999, Dick formed the *Tullamore Celtic Band* with Terry O'Toole on vocals, guitar, concertina and Irish banjo, Brian Coughlin on vocals, flutes and penny whistles and Dick on vocals, fiddle, Irish harp and guitar.



**Mitzie Collins** - Mitzie Collins, affectionately called Rochester's "folk music guru" by City Newspaper, is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and the president of Sampler Records Ltd. For 40 years she has forged a singularly successful career in folk music, dazzling audiences with her skilled dulcimer playing and enchanting them with her warm personality and ability to communicate through music. "I am proud to be one of the founders — in 1971 — of Rochester's Golden Link Folk Singing Society," and she still gives concerts and workshops both by herself and with other musicians. Mitzie plays and contributes to the Irish music events in Rochester and beyond. Sampler Music has published, *TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC, TUNES FROM THE REPERTORY OF WILLIAM SULLIVAN*; book designed and edited by Thomas M. Bohrer. Music (35 dance tunes) transcribed by Eric Rounds and Jim Kimball. The book and CD are an excellent resource of Irish music.

**Mike Leach** - Michael Doran Leach, was raised in the cultural traditions of his dad's Yankee Anglo-Irish family and his mother's Texan/Anglo-Irish family. With Ted, Skip Evans, Marie Brate, Dick Bolt, Frank Murphy and others, he was a 30-year member of *Blackthorn Ceilidh Band* and joined Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. He serves as a musician, dancer, and singer in local Comhaltas activities. After 36 years as a "local government bureaucrat," Mike continues to serve the community as International Programs Liaison for the City of Rochester Mayor's Office, providing support for such international relationships as International Sister Cities of Rochester (ISCOR).



In 1986 he set up the Folk Arts Program for the Arts and Cultural Council of Greater Rochester (featuring, of course, a project on Rochester's traditional Irish musicians) and continues to serve as a consultant in traditional folk arts and organization management; works with several ethnic community and folk arts organizations; and performs and teaches traditional music and dance of North America and Europe with local bands and dance ensembles.



**Rick Muir - Musician, Instructor, Composer, and Author**

Many know Rick as the ever sharing, ever caring piano accordionist who taught the Celtic music learning sessions at Johnny's Irish Pub for many years. His dedication to these sessions is a gift to many learners both new and experienced. We are truly blessed to have his gifts and talents so openly shared with all. Retired from the Rochester City School District in 1999, his passion for teaching never ceased. Rick states that learning can be achieved by hearing, seeing, and feeling. He incorporates all 3 styles into his learning sessions. He is dedicated, patient, determined, and always seeking ways to reach out.



Rick's interest in Celtic music began in 1976 when he served as Chairman of the Beach and Port Subcommittee for the Charlotte Community Association. He was the founder and organizer of Rochester's annual Gaelic Gathering, which ran for 14 years. He met his future bride, Margaret Briody, at a session of the Rochester Irish Musician's Club. They married in 1985. In 2000, Ted McGraw asked Rick to run a learning session for the Tom Finucane Branch of CCE in order to prepare new musicians to perform at ceili dances. His teaching experience led him to create music books of Irish dance tunes which were the more frequently played at the ceilis. Rick continued to add and make available additional books, including Irish songs and the music of Turlough O'Carolan, and eventually the music of other Celtic cultures. He also compiled a large reference containing the music of George and Sean Walker. He has now composed well over 200 tunes. Rick's music books have provided the foundation and record of session tunes played at the Rochester area sessions, and have provided a sheet music reference for both beginners and seasoned players alike. Rick's bibliography (books he has compiled for those who wish to play traditional Irish music): The Source Book, Volume 1; The Source Book, Volume 2; The Song Book, Volume 1; The Song Book, Volume 2; Turlough's Tunes; The Trad Sails On (Rick's own compositions); and The Walker Collection. He has also put the sheet music for the tunes from these books, plus many additional Celtic tunes, on a CD entitled "Ten Years of Tunes".



Photo: Mark Deprez

**Bob Taylor (RWWT)** - Some 50 years ago, with a new guitar and an analytical mind, he plunged into the midst of the "Folk Revolution" see just what he might be able to learn on his own. His acquaintance with Irish traditional music began when he arrived in Rochester and discovered the local Irish music community, flourishing then as it still flourishes today. "I was warmly welcomed as a raw recruit, and I started on a course of serious study of instrumental technique, song and tune histories, and much else that pertains to this fascinating area of culture." Bob's acquaintance with and appreciation for Irish traditional music increased when he picked up a copy of O'Neill's "Music of Ireland" and tried playing through all of the tunes in the book. He liked the sound of many of the tunes, and he began adding more collections of Irish instrumental music to his bookshelf. In order to manage his growing collection of tune settings, Bob developed a computerized master database to provide a grand cross index of the contents of these tune books, allowing him to quickly locate titles and related information.

Bob began playing at local Irish sessions, including those sponsored by Comhaltas. He eventually became involved, in particular, with a "Tuesday Tunes" group that met (and still meets) Tuesday evenings at the Charlotte Tavern. The group now has some 300 Irish tunes in their repertoire.

Bob says "I count as a particular treasure the many friends I have made over the years as I have worked on musical projects with members of one or another local organization and engaged with correspondents from literally around the world. I look forward with pleasure to the prospect of continuing these relationships in years to come."



**Music club activities**

**November 3, 2018**

Box Club: there will be no meeting this month

**December 1, 2018**

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](mailto:jonasan@rochester.rr.com)

**Irish American Cultural Institute (IACI)**

John O’Sullivan Memorial Film Feis continues with 2018-2019 schedule:

**November 4, 2018: The Boxer**

117 min. 1997

Young Danny Flynn is released from prison after 14 years. After "taking the rap" for the IRA, he returns to Belfast and tries to rebuild his life. Stars Daniel Day-Lewis and Emma Watson. Directed by Jim Sheridan

**January 6, 2019: The Journey**

94 min. 2017

A gripping account of how two enemies, Martin McGuinness (Colm Meaney) and Ian Paisley (Timothy Spall) find humanity in one another. Could peace be possible?

**February 10, 2019: A Love Divided**

98 min. 1999

Oral Brady and Liam Cunningham star in this true story of a Catholic, Protestant marriage that runs into conflict with the parish priest.

**March 3, 2019: War of the Buttons**

94 min. 1995

When rival gangs of Irish kids win a battle, they remove the buttons and laces of the losers. Trouble is sure to follow!

**April 7, 2019: Sing Street**

116 min. 2016

End the season with music and comedy! A Dublin boy starts a band to impress a mysterious girl.

**Location:** St. John’s Meadows, 1 Johnsarbor Dr. W., Rochester, NY 14620

4-7 pm. Dinner buffet included. \$25 general admission, \$20 for IACI members

For information: contact Katherine McMahan-Flynn: [kmcfly@gmail.com](mailto:kmcfly@gmail.com)

Hall of Fame  
Inductees

October 27, 2018



Ted McGraw

Comhaltas Service  
Award

October 27, 2018



**BELLINGER'S**  
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227-6614



Comhaltas Rochester T-Shirts are only \$15.

To purchase a t-shirt,  
Contact Kate Ballard at

[katekballard@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ckfallon@hotmail.com) (put "Beginning Fiddle" in the subject line).



**Brennan Genealogical Research**

Christopher Brennan, MA, MLS  
Genealogical and Historical Researcher  
116 Wildwood Drive, Rochester, NY 14616  
585-319-3806 [cristoir@twc.com](mailto:cristoir@twc.com)

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**Branch Officers - 2016**

Cathoirleach (Chair)  
Ben Hockenberry  
Leas-Cathoirleach (Vice Chair)  
Mark Ballard  
Runai (Secretary)  
Bill Hallahan  
Cisteoir (Treasurer)  
Lynn Pilaroscia  
Míchoir (Auditor)  
Shawn Casey  
Youth Officer  
Lydia Fanara  
Youth Protection Officer  
Gavin Barry  
Public Relations Officer  
Dave Halligan

**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 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 (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](mailto:whallah3@naz.edu).



**Comhaltas-Sponsored Music Sessions, Dancing, Singing****1<sup>st</sup> 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> .

