

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



## **Newsletter**

November/December 2014

**Samhain  
agus  
Nollaig  
2014**

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

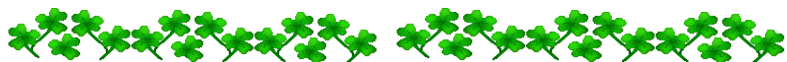
### **In This Issue:**

George Keith concert	1-3
Christmas Tune	4
Springwater Festival	4
From the Branch Chair	5
Christmas Concerts	6
Nov & Dec Events	7
IACI Events	8
Officers, Membership	9
Local Sessions	10



**George Keith is coming to town!  
There will be workshops and a  
concert.**

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



In July, 2014, George Keith taught a week-long fiddle class at the Irish Arts Week.

“George is somewhat analytical in his approach to playing. He talked about sound production, bowing styles, cross bowing techniques. He is a very good teacher, easy to listen to and follow.”

- Ralph Minervino



**Concertina workshop:** at Scott Smith's house:

**November 24, 2014**

7 p.m.                    \$15

511 List Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617

Send email to Scott if you plan to attend: bothy1932@gmail.com

**November 25, 2014**

**Fiddle workshop :** at The First Baptist Church ( Mark Ballard's church)

6:30 pm                    \$15

94 South Main Street

Fairport, NY

**CONCERT:**

Concert:                    at The First Baptist Church :                    8 pm                    \$15

**For workshops and admission to the concert: \$25**



Christmas Concert 2013 at The First Baptist Church, Fairport



## George Keith Biography

**I play traditional Irish music**, mostly on the fiddle (though I have been known to dabble on the concertina now and again).

I grew up playing violin in a family of classical musicians, but fell in love with Irish traditional music in the early 1990's at sessions in Chicago and later Boston, where I've been living for nearly 20 years now.

Over the years, I've competed in, and won a few competitions (most notably both North American Fleadhanna Cheoil), I've performed in a number of relatively high profile groups (with Robbie O'Connell, Aoife Clancy, and Tim O'Brien's band *The Crossing* at the GreyFox bluegrass festival). I've been on a few videos and DVDs (*Dancing at the Crossroads*, *Secrets of the Sole*, and "[A Christmas Celtic Sojourn LIVE](#)" from WGBH).

Most recently, I returned from a 6-month stint in Dublin, where I worked during the day, and played as much as I could manage at night on the weekends.

These days, I mostly play in local sessions at the Druid and The Burren, [teach fiddle](#), and host [House Concerts in Medford](#). When I'm not working as a Site Reliability Engineer for a [certain well-known internet company](#)

### Irish Traditional Fiddle Teacher

I have taught Irish traditional fiddle classes for Boston's Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Music School for 15 years, specializing in intermediate through advanced students interested in improving their quality, technique, and style.

Here are a few clips of my former students:

- [Heather Cole-Mullen](#)
- [Adam Cole-Mullen](#)
- [Liz Alexander](#)
- [Amanda Cavanaugh](#)

[if the links don't work, go to George's website, below]

Go here for more information on classes:  
Boston CCE Music School:  
<http://www.ccebostonmusicschool.org/>

This page, all written by George Keith.  
Created 2014

Link to George's music:  
<http://www.georgekeith.net/#!/media/c1yi7>



# Here's a traditional tune for the holidays: The Ducks Die on Christmas Day

Ducks Die at Christmas  
Básaitear na Lachain Lá Nollag

*www.traditionalmusic.co.uk*

♩ = 360

Here's a version of the tune on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIP7FHZYPUe>

The first part is "Colcannon: Mrs. Hooligan's Christmas Cake" from the Colcannon Christmas Show..... a song in honor of the mighty fruitcake. The traditional tune that follows is called "The Ducks Die on Christmas Day"...really. (Fast forward to 3:32 to hear it.)



## From the Branch Chair

Hello everybody!

Our CCE branch is growing and reaching more people as the months roll by. The new sessions, new workshops, new faces both at ceilis and at sessions are a good sign that the branch is alive and vibrant. The 9pm session on the second Friday has been well received.

There are a couple of new ideas that I would like your thoughts on. First, is the possibility of an alcohol-free party after the parade on March 14, 2015. We need to talk about this because there is no sense in holding a party no one is interested in. Would you let me know by e-mail or phone if you would attend something like this? This would be a social event post-parade for anyone: children's dance schools, session people, punters, dancers, etc. The event would include a session, a ceili, a time to celebrate Irish culture, and a social time. You would be instrumental in crafting this event. Let me know because March is on its way and this would mean some planning.

The second is the idea of an Irish Arts Week (in Rochester) of music and dance this summer. It would be styled loosely after Irish Arts Week in East Durham. I already have found one location that is available and well-disposed to learning. I would like to meet at Sheridan's Pub 1551 Mt. Hope Ave. on November 9 at 1 pm to discuss this event. I hope you can attend!

The music clubs are going well. Fiddle club is being reorganized by Scott Smith. Contact Scott at 794-2395 with questions.

Thank you for your membership and your participation.

Please keep spreading the word About the Tom Finucane branch of CCE!

Yours,  
Jean

You can email Jean at: [jeanjesserersmith@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jeanjesserersmith@rochester.rr.com)



Comhaltas musicians play at the Irish Festival 2014



# Celtic Yuletide

**BENEFIT CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
IN VICTOR, NY**

Concerts featuring  
The Christmas  
Ceilidh Band

## Celtic Christmas Benefit Concert

Victor, New York

Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Victor, NY

Don't miss this great holiday event of Christmas & winter themed Celtic music. Concert to benefit Serenity House - Victor, NY's local hospice - celebrating loving, caring & compassionate comfort care.

## Celtic Yuletide – A Christmas Concert in Caledonia, NY

Friday, December 5 at 7:30 pm

At the Caledonia First Presbyterian Church in Caledonia, NY



The Christmas Ceilidh Band



## November and December Events

Check the Calendar at: [irishrochester.com](http://irishrochester.com)

**November 1** Button Box Club, 10:00 – 12:00

Pittsford Recreation Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsford, NY

**November 8** Flute and Whistle Club, 10:00 – 11:00

Sets for Sessions Practice: 11- 12

Pittsford Recreation Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsford, NY

**November 15** Fiddle Club, 10:00 – 12:00

Pittsford Recreation Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsford, NY

**December 6** Button Box Club, 10:00 – 12:00

Pittsford Recreation Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsford, NY

**December 13** Flute and Whistle Club, 10:00 – 12:00

Pittsford Recreation Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsford, NY

**December 20**, Fiddle Club, 10:00 – 12:00

Pittsford Recreation Center, 35 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsford, NY

### CEILI

**December 13** McGinnity's (534 West Ridge Road) begins at 8 pm.  
\$7 (\$5 for CCE members)

Live music, dance instruction and raffle for surprise goodies!

### Session news:

**Monday session** is now at Colie's Café on the Nazareth College campus. Park in stadium parking lot; there's a sign out front by the sidewalk. There's a sign on door too.

**Thursday session** at Duffy's Irish Pub, 100 West Main Street, Avon, NY (old railroad station at the tracks).

**Second Friday session** has moved to "Jo's Place"  
1768 E Main St, Rochester, NY 14609.

**Last Sunday of month:** Singers' Session revived. 4 pm

**Wren day** (Lá an Dreoilín) is celebrated on  
26 December, St. Stephen's Day.  
Jo's Place



*Rochester Irish American Cultural Institute,  
Rochester, NY Chapter*

## Rochester Irish American Cultural Institute Film Feis

Our popular Film Feis series of Irish movies will continue in January, but at a new venue and with different prices than previous years. It will take place at McGinnity's Restaurant and Party House, 534 Ridge Road West in Rochester. A dinner buffet will be included during the intermission.

Single-film prices: IACI members \$20; general admission \$25

Full series (6 films): IACI members \$108, general price= \$138.

For pdf of Film Feis Brochure: <http://www.rochesteriaci.org/>

The St. John Fisher College Irish Studies Program Presents

### **“The Final Push in Digging the Erie Canal”**

by Michael McCarthy, author of Irish immigration to the New World

**Lavery Library, St. John Fisher College, Lower Level Gallery**

**Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

**Free and Open to the Public**

This presentation will examine the difficulties the engineers faced and how the Irish laborers contributed in making the nearly impossible task a reality.

For details, contact Tim Madigan, Director of Irish Studies  
at (585) 385-5259; [tmadigan@sjfc.edu](mailto:tmadigan@sjfc.edu)

### **The Irish and the Erie Canal Display**

The Lavery Library is now hosting the Irish American Heritage Museum's “Irish and the Erie Canal” exhibit in the Lower Level Gallery. The exhibit was created by James Zibro, and will be on display through November 25.

This new exhibit reveals the historical contributions of the Irish to the planning, designing, engineering, funding, and construction of the famed achievement that transformed early America. Also housed at St. John Fisher College is the **Irish Famine Memorial**, a bust and display of **Colonel Patrick O'Rorke**, and a limited facsimile edition of the **Book of Kells**. Admission: \$25 (IACI members, \$20)





**Branch Officers - 2014**

Cathoirleach (Chair)  
Jean Smith  
Leas-Cathoirleach (Vice Chair)  
John Ryan  
Runai (Secretary)  
Bill Hallahan  
Cisteoir (Treasurer)  
Lynn Pilaroscia  
Míchoir (Auditor)  
Shawn Casey  
Youth Officers  
Marta Driscoll

**Programs**

Music Events  
Cathy McGrath  
Ted McGraw  
John Ryan  
Ceili Dancing  
Arlene Miller  
Membership  
Bill Hallahan  
Singers' Session  
Becky Farrell Ferrigno  
Music Learner's Session  
Mark Ballard  
Website  
Marta Driscoll  
Newsletter  
Bill Hallahan  
Music Instrument Library  
Mark Gowman  
Concerts & Festivals  
Dave Halligan  
John Ryan

Look for us on Facebook:

**Rochester Irish Musician's Association**

## Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann MEMBERSHIP AND DUES for 2015

Dues:

First Adult	\$25.00
Second Adult	\$ 8.00
Family	\$40.00
Junior	\$ 4.00

Please make your check payable to: CCE

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

There will be regular **Comhaltas Branch Meetings** on the last Sunday of every month at Johnny's at 4:30 – 5:00 pm for members to contribute ideas and learn how to support upcoming activities.

### Irish music on the radio with Ted & John McGraw:

O! Fiddler Show

WRUR 88.5 FM  
Sundays 12:00-1pm

Irish Party House

WRUR 88.5 FM  
Sundays 1pm-2pm



*Join Comhaltas and support Irish music and culture.*

*Check your membership card for expiration date.*

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> Sundays of every month:

4:00 pm

**The American Hotel**

7304 E. Main Street, Lima, NY

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month:

8:00 pm CCE music session

Now at **Jo's Place**, 1768 E Main St.

### Last Sunday of every month:

3:00 pm Music Learning Session **Johnny's Irish Pub** with Jean & Becky

4:30-5:00 Comhaltas branch meetings 1342 Culver Road, Rochester, NY

5:00 pm Regular session

### Set Dancing Every Wednesday:

7:30 pm

**McGinnity's Bar & Restaurant**

534 West Ridge Road

No experience, no partner necessary.

Instructors: Arlene Miller (585) 663-4438 and Matt Ruf

## OTHER TRADITIONAL IRISH & CELTIC MUSIC SESSIONS

### Every Monday:

Leader: Jane Sturmer

6:00 pm waltz session

7:00-9:00 pm: jigs, reels, etc. same tune set each week (mostly)

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.**Tuesdays:** 7:00 pm **McColley's**, 89 S. Union Street, Spencerport

Leaders: Shawn Casey and John Ryan

### Every Sunday:

7:00 pm. Leader: John Ryan. Seisiun Dé Domhnaigh at 2:00-7:00 pm

**Sheridan's Pub** 1551 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester.

### Every Saturday:

**Barry's Old School Irish**, Webster.

2:00-5:30 pm.

Leader: John Ryan

### Every other Monday:

**Kelly's** in Geneseo, 8 pm.

Leader: Jim Kimball &amp; Geneseo String Band

### First Wednesdays:

Scottish Sessions at **Sheridan's** beginning at 7:00 pm

### Thursdays

Duffy's Irish Pub, 100 West Main Street, Avon, NY (RR station at the tracks)

Begins at 7 pm Leaders: Bill Henrie &amp; Adriene Mahar

