

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



Newsletter

September/October 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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Irish Workshop Day

Saturday, September 29, 2018
12:00 noon-5:00pm

St. John Fisher College

FREE ADMISSION!

If you are thinking about learning a new instrument or just improving your current skill, there is a workshop for you. This is an opportunity to ask questions, meet musicians and learn before you buy.

There are also workshops for dancing, singing and learning the Irish language (Gaelic). Schedule: page 2



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

Irish Music & Culture Workshop Day at St. John Fisher College

September 29, 2018

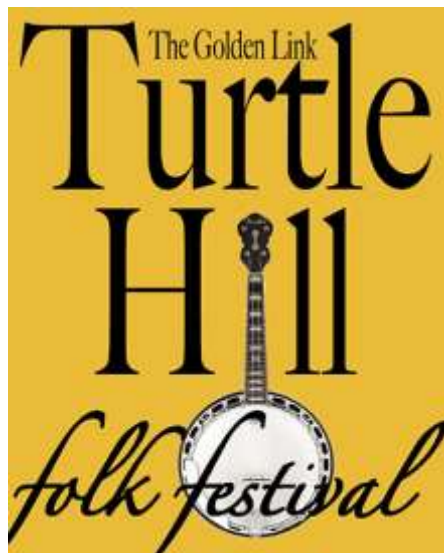
Noon to 5 pm

Location: Cleary Auditorium in St. John Fisher's Kearney Hall (the old building with a steeple visible from East Ave and Fairport Rd).

Session A: 12:30-1:30	Session B: 1:45-2:45	Session C: 3:00-4:00
Irish Step Dance Fisher Irish Dance Club	Old-Style Irish Step Dance (Sean-Nos) Kathy Whitfield	Irish Social Dance (Set and Ceili Dancing) Kathy Whitfield and Friends
Beginner Tin Whistle James Hallahan	TBD	Intermediate Tin Whistle Ralph Minervino
Intermediate Fiddle Kit Fallon	Intermediate Fiddle (Sligo Style) Ben Goehring	Intermediate Fiddle (Sliabh Luachra Style) Sean Rosenberry
Beginner Fiddle Ben Goehring	Tenor Banjo & Mandolin Mike Keyes	Hammered Dulcimer Mark Ballard
Intermediate Bodhran (Irish Drum) Sean Rosenberry	Beginner Bodhran (Irish Drum) Kate Ballard	Guitar Accompaniment Cathy McGrath with Pat Carey, Flute
Intro to Playing by Ear (All Instruments) Ben Hockenberry	Session Standards for All Instruments Tony Scalise	Variation and Ornamentation (All Instruments) Ben Hockenberry
Irish Language Brian Clancy & Mary Lester	Singing Becky Ferrigno & Mary Lester	Scottish Tunes (All Instruments) Jeremy Button
Internet Sources & Tools Bob Taylor	Anglo Concertina Jim Kimball	Accordion (Button & Piano) Ted McGraw & Jane Sturmer

Informal Session and Dancing at 4:00 -- all musicians, dancers and friends welcome!





Turtle Hill Folk Festival - Sept 7, 8 & 9

Don't miss this chance to immerse yourself in song, workshops, concerts, jam sessions, sing-alongs and all things folk music! Three days of fun, friends, and folk with our lineup of headliner artists such as Bruce Molsky, Christine Lavin and many more. To see the full list of performers, get details on the schedule, accommodations, and location, and to purchase tickets, check out our [Festival Home Page](#).

For detailed schedule:

https://www.goldenlink.org/festival_schedule_2018

Friday, September 7, 2018

5:30 pm	Gate opens Craft Vendors on site
7:00 - 10:00 pm	Evening Concert: Pepper & Sassafras Jamcrackers Christine Lavin
10:15 til ...	Post-concert fireplace sing-around

Saturday, September 8, 2018

9:30 am	Gate opens
10:00 am - 3:45 pm	Daytime workshops, round-robins, and jamming on three stages 3pm Squeeze Me – Wendy Sassafras Ramsay, Kathleen Cappon, Ted McGraw
4:00 - 5:30 pm	Contra dance with Jamcrackers and caller Margaret Mathews
7:00 - 10:00	Evening Concert NERFA Young Folk: Meadows Brothers Reggie Harris and Scott Ainslie Bruce Molsky with special guest Allison de Groot
10:15 til ...	Post-concert fireplace sing-around

Sunday, September 9, 2016

9:30 am	Gate opens
10:00 am - 1:45 pm	Daytime workshops, round-robins, and jamming on three stages
2:00 pm	Grand Finale with featured performers



Fall ceili schedule
October 20 and 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

Upcoming October events sponsored by the IACI:

Sean Tyrell Irish folk and traditional musician

Free - Donations accepted October 6, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

St. John Fisher College, Basil Hall - Golisano Gateway, Use parking lot "F" follow signage

Gabriel Fitzmaurice Irish Poet and author

Free - Donations accepted October 12, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

St. John Fisher College, Basil Hall - Golisano Gateway, Use parking lot "F" follow signage

For further information: www.rochesteriaci.org



Bob Taylor, Mark Ballard and Tony Scalise play at the Brooks Grove Church, representing Comhaltas at the Fiddlers Fair, Genesee Country Museum & Village August 19, 2018

Bag of Spuds (John Whelan & Dylan Foley)

<https://www.facebook.com/john.whelan.142/videos/2068166983193538/>

thanks to Arlene Miller





Flower City Feis

Music Scholarship

The Flower City Feis is honored to be hosting this year's Under 15 NAFC (North American Feis Commission) Edward Callaghan Music Scholarship Competition. This prestigious music competition encourages young musicians to keep our traditions alive while also perhaps becoming a feis musician in the future. Perhaps you have or know of a student that would be interested and qualified for this competition.

Rules and qualifications for this competition are as follows:

1. Age will be determined as of January 1
2. Musicians who have received compensation to play at a feis are not eligible.
3. Competitor must supply own instrument and metronome and be capable of playing the melody of tunes specified in the syllabus to the proper metronomic speeds. Competitors must choose to play an instrument from the following list:

Button or Piano Accordion, Concertina, Melodeon, Piano or Keyboard, Violin, Flute, Tin Whistle, Banjo, Uilleann pipes, Harp

\$500 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD 1ST PLACE

\$250 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD 2ND PLACE

Competitor must be prepared to play one soft shoe dance (Slip Jig or Reel) and one hard shoe dance (Hornpipe, Treble Jig).

If you have any questions regarding the competition, please feel free to ask one of our Rochester Feis committee members:

Sandy Oswald soswald62@gmail.com

585 734 1758

Rachel Burke rachelburke56@gmail.com

585 978 6271

Or Anne Gervin from the NAFC Music Scholarship committee: tgervin@hotmail.com



Ben Goehring (fiddle) and John Ryan (button accordion) play at the Fiddlers Fair, Genesee Country Museum & Village, August 19, 2018

Video of Ben & John:

<https://www.facebook.com/jim.kimball.982/videos/10155726508773170/>

thanks to Jim Kimball

Same tune, different venue?

<https://www.facebook.com/martin.donohoe.1/videos/10156872446047502/>



Music club activities**September 1, 2018**

Box Club, 10:00 am – 12:00, Met at home of Scott Bellinger

October 6, 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 American Cultural Institute (IACI)

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

October 7th:

Philadelphia, Here I Come

95 min. 1975

Based on the stage play by Brian Friel and filmed in Ireland with an all Irish cast includes Donal McCann, Des Cave, Siobhan McKenna. The hero is leaving for Philadelphia. His alter ego tells the truth while the "public man" hides his emotions.

November 4th:

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 6th:

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 10th:

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 3rd:

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 7th:

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



Comhaltas Regional Meeting. October 27 in Buffalo.

Buffalo Irish Centre, 245 Abbott Rd. Buffalo, NY 14220,

We are most pleased to announce that the music will be great with Jerry O'Sullivan on pipes and flutes and Damien Connolly on button box and fiddle. Jerry and Damien will also hold workshops on both of their instruments. There are full [bios and music samples on our website](#)



Jerry O'Sullivan has been widely hailed as America's premier uilleann piper. His reputation for technical and melodic mastery of the instrument, an Irish bagpipe known for its subtlety and expression, is unsurpassed in the United States, and is demanding considerable attention overseas. Jerry is also widely recorded on the tin whistle, the low whistle, the Highland Pipes and the Scottish smallpipes.



Damien Connolly hails from Co. Clare, Ireland. He began learning the accordion when he was 11 years old, taught by his father Martin, renowned manufacturer of the Kincora Accordion. He competed in the Fleadhanna (Irish Music Competitions) throughout his teenage years, taking first place both locally and regionally. At age 16, he took up the fiddle, under the tutelage of his step-mother Maureen Glynn of Brooklyn NY. In 1997, Damien took first place in both the Under-18 All Ireland accordion and melodeon competition held in Ballina, Co. Mayo.

Tom Finucane branch nominations for the Hall of Fame:

- a. Rick Muir
- b. Bob Taylor
- c. Dick Bolt
- d. Mike Leach
- e. Mitzie Collins

The Martin Wynne Branch, was founded in 1995, and is dedicated to the renowned fiddler from Ireland who also found himself at home here in Western New York. Martin Wynne was an outstanding musician, teacher, and composer. He was also a mentor for many to live and learn from. Buffalo Comhaltas is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and proliferation of traditional Irish music, song, dance and language, keeping it alive and lively in Western New York!



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 www.rns.dance 
227-6614

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).



Brennan Genealogical Research

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

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Branch Officers - 2016

Cathoirleach (Chair)
Mark Ballard
Leas-Cathoirleach (Vice Chair)
John Ryan
Runai (Secretary)
Bill Hallahan
Cisteoir (Treasurer)
Lynn Pilaroscia
Míchoir (Auditor)
Shawn Casey
Youth Protection Officer
Gavin Barry

Programs

Music Events
Cathy McGrath
Ted McGraw
John Ryan
Ceili Dancing
Arlene Miller
Membership
Bill Hallahan
Singers' Session
Chris Brennan
Music Learner's Session
Mark Ballard
Website
Ben Hockenberry
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 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.



Comhaltas-Sponsored Music Sessions, Dancing, Singing**1st Sundays of every month:**

4:00 pm **The American Hotel** 7304 E. Main Street, Lima, NY
September session will be held on September 9, 2018

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. James Coughlin, caller.

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> .



(left)
 Jim Kimball plays
 "Home on the Range"
 on the saw.



(right)
 Ted McGraw plays the
 "Lunan Bay Waltz" on
 the Baldoni button
 accordion.
 Fiddlers Fair, GCM&V
 August 19, 2018

