

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



Newsletter

September/October 2021

Meán Fomhair
agus
Deireadh
Fomhair
2021

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

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Governor Kathy Hochul today (9/2/21) updated New Yorkers on the state's progress combating COVID-19.

"As we address challenges and work to rebuild on several fronts, it's critically important that we double down on all the essential efforts and precautions we've been taking to beat back the virus," **Governor Hochul** said. "The Delta variant is a serious threat and we cannot let down our guard. If you still need to get your shot, please don't hesitate another day. The faster we get everyone vaccinated, the faster we can overcome the challenges of the pandemic and come back stronger than we were before.



Because of the success of vaccination against COVID-19, many sessions have opened with no restrictions. See pages 2 and 9 and the website and Facebook for details.



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

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



Local IRISH MUSIC SESSIONS & Workshops

Last Sunday each month: 3 pm Johnny's Learners' Session with Mark Ballard

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

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

Now that Johnny's is open and Zoom attendance has fallen off, the Zoom option is discontinued (unless things change).

Every month on the Last Sun, until Mar 27, 2022:

Sep 26, 2021 03:00 PM	Oct 31, 2021 03:00 PM
Nov 28, 2021 03:00 PM	Dec 26, 2021 03:00 PM
Jan 30, 2022 03:00 PM	Feb 27, 2022 03:00 PM
Mar 27, 2022 03:00 PM	

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. Monthly:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEIc6uqDlrHdGF8mgmvIBXw6Ira1YQNLHi/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtpj0tHNKcsR6CRpwMGo_oKO7wplhcgqd6ukfoBC1FbiHOIbRrILMuKen-

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

Intermissions session every Wednesday night in Geneseo is **back in-person**.

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

Facebook Event Links:

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

Barry's session is back on at the normal time,
Saturdays 2:00 pm.

September 25, 2021

Ellison Park, Richs Dugway Road, Rochester, NY 2pm-7pm

All around the world, in over 100 countries, there's a new holiday being celebrated: **Halfway to St. Patrick's Day!** Halfway to St. Patrick's Day finds its roots in "Arthur Guinness Day" or "Arthur's Day," which celebrates that patron saint of beer, Arthur Guinness himself.

Tickets: \$20 from any AOH member. Music, food, drink provided.



From Irish America, August 21, 2021:

Michael Collins: From the GPO to Béal na mBláth

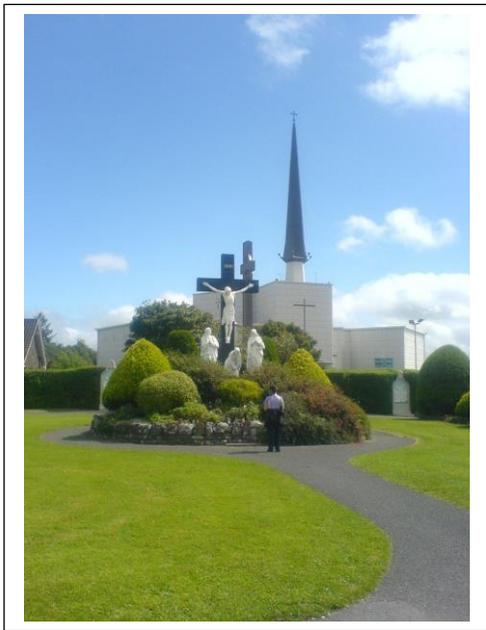
Michael Collins was born into a farming family near Clonakilty in County Cork in 1890. In 1906 he passed a civil service exam and went to London to work in the British postal system, which included the banking and communications sections – an invaluable learning experience for the future Minister for Finance in the first Dáil. While in London, Collins joined the usual Irish organizations such as the Gaelic League and Gaelic Athletic Association. [Read more +](#)

Internment: Unspeakable Acts, Ordinary People

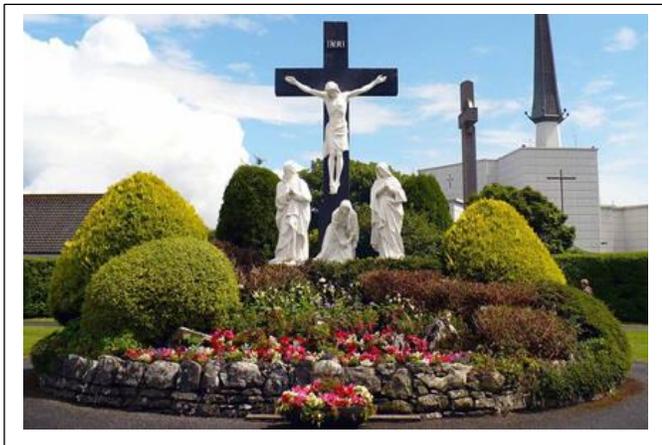
When the British government-imposed internment without trial in 1971, army personnel at the Castlereagh Interrogation Centre carried out an experiment known as “the five techniques” on 14 men. They covered their heads with hoods, bombarded them with “white noise,” deprived them of food and sleep, and forced them to lean with arms raised against a wall.

The Knock Shrine

The story of one of the world’s most famous Marian Shrines began in 1879 at 8 o’clock on a Thursday evening, August 21, 1879, when the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, and John the Evangelist appeared on the south gable end of a church in the rural village of Knock, County Mayo. To the left of John, there was a plain altar with a cross and a lamb (the Lamb of God) surrounded by angels.



The Knock Shrine, Mayo, Ireland



JOANIE MADDEN AND MIRELLA MURRAY at The BIC Sept 15, 7PM

The Martin Wynne branch of Comhaltas is proud to present Joannie Madden and Mirella Murray of Cherish the Ladies in concert on Weds Sept 15 at 7PM at the Buffalo Irish Center on Abbott Rd in Buffalo. The Ladies will be joined by singer songwriter Gabriel Donohue.

Since its inception in 1985, JOANIE MADDEN has been the leader and driving force behind the all-female Irish music and dance troupe, Cherish the Ladies. As the group enters its 34th year, her devoted, tireless leadership of Cherish the Ladies has been crucial to that ensemble's growing global appeal. As the first full time all-female ensemble, she continues to break down barriers as she leads the group around the world to perform in the finest venues while representing the strong roots and pride as Irish-American ambassadors of Celtic music

MIRELLA MURRAY grew up in Claddaghduff, near Clifden, on the north west coast of Connemara. Her father John Joe, a notable sean nós dancer, comes from Inishark Island and has a deep understanding of, and love for, traditional music. Mirella learned the piano accordion from Mary Finn, herself a great player from the musical Finn family of Ballymote, Co. Sligo.

Irish born multi-instrumentalist, Singer Songwriter GABRIEL DONOHUE is based in Philadelphia. He performs mostly on guitar and piano but also plays many more instruments from bouzouki/mandolin to Irish and exotic percussion. Gabriel performs throughout the USA, solo and along with a cadre of top flight musicians. He toured for three years with the Grammy Award winning Chieftains. He has recorded with the Boston Pops, Eileen Ivers, Joanie Madden, James Keane, Sean Quinn, Brian Conway, John Whelan, Karen Mal, Aoife Clancy, Liam Clancy, to name a few. He also produces and engineers albums for a broad array of artists at Cove Island Productions in center city Philadelphia. A state-of-the-art facility using top quality microphones and gear. The lists of artists he has collaborated with, is a who's who of the top musicians in the acoustic and Celtic music field. He performed with Michael Flatley at the National Heritage Awards in Washington DC. And, he played with Eileen Ivers at the Clinton Whitehouse entertaining Irish and American dignitaries and signers of the Good Friday peace accords. He enjoys working with new talent and often gets involved with projects with emerging artists. He also teaches songwriting in a classroom setting and records the finished songs in house, so that the students get to see the process from conception to the completion.

Tim Quinn
Regional Chair



Dear CCE Members, Friends and Supporters of Irish Music & Dance

We appreciate your support and participation in the activities hosted by the local Tom Finucane Branch of Ceoltas Ceoltoiri Eireann throughout the years. We are one of the most active Irish organizations in Rochester with weekly events throughout the year. Our many sessions, workshops, ceili dances and concerts are examples of the quality programming we have offered beginning with our branch foundation in 1986.

Our branch newsletters, web site and Facebook page have also served to connect the membership and general public to our activities. Our members are always foremost on our minds and we continue to hold steady at nearly 100 members each year. We collect \$25 for each member but can only keep \$4.00. The bulk of a membership dues are forwarded to our Regional and Provincial Councils as well as CCE headquarters in Dublin. These transfers cover the costs of the quarterly Treoir magazine that is published and mailed from Ireland, as well as helping to fund annual Regional and North American conventions. We currently have a balance of \$1500 in our account. On average we have had a balance of between \$1000 and \$3000 in the account so we are pleased that even after this difficult time of pandemic, we have funds that enable us to plan for future activities. The bulk of our funds derive from any profit earned from concerts or ceili dances.

We will continue to benefit from the connection in many ways to an international network of like-minded Comhaltas branches that have the same vision and goals that we do. Again, thanks to you we are happy to bring Irish traditional music, dance and song as well as the many other activities we provide to the public and will continue to do so. We also encourage you to consider renewing your donation in the form of an annual membership to our organization this fall.

A separate renewal notice will be mailed in the near future. This will go a long way in helping us continue our mission for many years to come. Our branch would not exist without dedicated people willing to serve on our board of directors each year. We usually meet monthly either in person or via Zoom to discuss issues and plan activities. **Please consider volunteering to take a turn as a board member in the future.** There is no obligation to serve for more than a one-year term and we always welcome people with new ideas and different perspectives. Our board of director terms run from November 1st each year. Please contact either Dave Halligan (halligan33@gmail.com) or Bill Hallahan (whallah3@naz.edu) if you have questions or would like to consider board membership.

Go rabid math agat (Thank You/May they be Good to You)

Dave Halligan and the entire CCE Board

Board Positions:

Chairman/Cathaoirleach

Vice-Chairman/Leaschathaoirleach

Secretary/Runai

Treasurer/Cisteoir

Auditor/Iniuchoir

PublicRelations/OifigeachPoibli (appointed)

Irish Language Officer/Treorai na Gaeilge(appointed)

Youth Officer (appointed)

** There are also a number of Music and Dance programming officers that are appointed each year.



Irish American Cultural Institute (IACI) events:

PRESENTATION: Mapping the Burning of Cork

SEPTEMBER VIRTUAL PRESENTATION ANNOUNCED

As part of our monthly virtual presentation series, our next program will come directly from Ireland. This event will take place on Monday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. This presentation, which will be comes direct from Ireland with **Dr. Helene O’Keeffe** who will present “Mapping the Burning of Cork.” Dr. O’Keeffe, an historian and author based at University College Cork’s School of History, will share a unique perspective of the devastating events that took place on the night of December 11-12, 1920 during the Irish War of Independence.

On that “night of horror,” fifty-seven premises in Cork city center were destroyed by fire, twenty were badly damaged, many others were looted, resulting in £2.5 million worth of damage and causing over two-thousand people to lose their jobs. It was the most devastating and brutal of the reprisals of the British forces during the war. The destruction of the city center was the culmination of an intense period of arson, intimidation and looting.

Dr. Peter Halas, Chairman of the IACI, said, “We’re delighted to welcome Helene to join us on September 13th. Her gripping presentation re-examines the hundred-year-old event through eyewitness testimony and detailed maps from the Atlas of the Irish Revolution that was published in 2017 as part of the centenary of the Easter Rising. Helene’s effective use of maps, witness accounts, and detailed images highlight the extent of the event on the city of Cork and the devastating and profound impact on the people of the city. ”

Tickets to the online September event are free for members of the IACI, however, advance registration is required. If you are an IACI Member you will automatically receive a link to register. If you are not a member, but would like to join to take advantage of this member benefit [join now](#). For \$50.00

In this continuing series, the October and November monthly online programs will also be live-streamed from Ireland and presented by well-known Irish historians.

Schedule of Presentations:

10/11 “Outrage: Women’s Experiences of Violence and War in Ireland, 1921” Mary McAuliffe (UCD), author of *We Were There: 77 Women of the Easter Rising*
11/8 “The Anglo-Irish Treaty & Creation of Irish Free State” Speaker TBD
12/13 Holiday Musical Party



How great to play music live once again with Flint Hill Folk at the Genesee Country Museum's Fiddlers' Fair this past weekend! Here we are: Allen Hopkins, Patricia Carey, Cathy McGrath and Jim Kimball



A session at The American Hotel August 1, 2021



More photos (by Jim Kimball) at the Fiddlers' Fair



Comhaltas-Sponsored Music Sessions

1st Sunday of every month:

open

4:00 pm **The American Hotel** 7304 E. Main Street, Lima, NY
No session September 5, due to Labor Day holiday

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

5:00 pm Regular session



Bedridden Woman Healed at Knock Shrine in First-Ever Approved Miracle by Irish Bishops

For more details:

<https://www.churchpop.com/2019/09/12/bedridden-woman-healed-at-knock-shrine-in-first-ever-approved-miracle-by-irish-bishops/>

OTHER TRADITIONAL IRISH & CELTIC MUSIC SESSIONS

Every Tuesday:

7:00 pm (study session) **Charlotte Tavern**, 2 River Road & Lake Ave.
(open)

Every Saturday:

2:00-5:30 pm. **Barry's Old School Irish**, 2 W Main St. Webster.
(open) Leaders: Ben Goehring & Sean Rosenberry

Wednesdays at Intermissions (Intermissions Bar and Grille) **BACK IN PERSON!**

8 Center St, Geneseo, NY 14454 7:00-10:00 PM

For a summary of all local sessions:

<http://irishrochester.weebly.com/sessions.html>





John Brendan Kelly, father of Princess Grace of Monaco, won two Olympic Gold medals in 1920 and one in 1924, competing in a sport which was the reserve of gentlemen, the single and double sculls. He remains the only American ever to win the Gold in single sculls. Kelly came from a family of achievers, whose story is embedded in Irish America. His daughter, Grace Kelly, became the world's princess, but John 'Jack' Kelly was a star in his own right. from Irish America, August 7, 2021

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



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)

Musical Genius Brendan Ward

Mr. Brendan Ward, who has died at his daughter's home in Rochester, New York on July 24th was hailed in his native Mayo as a musical genius. [Read more +](#)
from Irish America, August 7, 2021



Branch Officers – 2020-2021

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 welcome.

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 Dave Halligan:
halligan33@gmail.com

Irish music on the internet:

<https://www.clare.fm/listen-back/the-west-wind/>

**JOIN COMHALTAS AND SUPPORT IRISH MUSIC, AND CULTURE.
NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR: NOVEMBER 1 (2021) TO OCTOBER
31 (2022). 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.

