



President's Notes

The 2023-2024 season kicks off with the Wee Heavies, a group that caught our attention at the summer Irish festivals. We hope you enjoy them as much as our committee did! This concert is not a part of our regular season, prices are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door.

Our season line-up for January, February and March will feature Tallymoore (a repeat favorite), Heron Valley (new to us) and Dàimh (also a repeat favorite). Season tickets will be \$80 for these three concerts. Tickets are available on Eventbrite. Regular ticket prices are \$30 in advance at our ticket outlets, listed on the last page, \$35 at the door.

Please consider making a donation as a friend of the CMA. We are a non-profit organization, barely covering our costs to bring you these concerts from all over the world.

Please invite your friends to join us for these wonderful Celtic music concerts. We have plenty of room in the comfortable seating of Franklin Event Center. We will once again have our February concert at Holy Trinity Hall for a more intimate concert at tables. Beverages will be available at all events with a free will donation offering.

New this year, we are changing our performance start times to 7:30 pm, like the Civic Center and Des Moines Playhouse events. Doors will open an hour before at 6:30 pm. Beverages will be available with free will donation. Also, children under 12 are admitted free with a paying adult. Hope to see you there and bring friends!

Slainte, Virgil Kleinhesselink, President

Wee Heavies at Franklin Event Center November 11, 2023, 7:30 pm



An off-the-wall a cappella band dedicated to music from and influenced by Celtic traditions. . . and whatever they feel like singing next.

The Wee Heavies* (Jay Harkey, Peter Merideth, Steve Neale, and Aaron Schiltz) began singing together in 2013 after observing a distinct lack of a cappella Celtic music at charitable events. The all male mostly-a cappella band specializes in (but are not limited to) folk music from Scotland, Ireland and England. And maybe Wales at some point...though some of those words are awfully tricky to pronounce.

They hit all of the lyrical touchstones of Celtic folk music-- namely Drinking, Women, Fighting, and the manly pursuit of Whaling. In their personal lives, they tend to stick to just Drinking and Women. They are all happily married, so don't get the wrong idea about the Women thing. Their wives (The Wee Hotties) are the only women for them. They do, however, hold no loyalties or covenants when it comes to Drinking.

While famous for harmonies so close you couldn't slip a shilling between them, they are also quickly becoming well-known for their hilarious unscripted banter between songs. Audiences erupt with laughter one minute and then are next moved to tears by the Heavies' original arrangements and moving interpretation. They will have you stomping your feet, singing at the top of your lungs, and raising a glass with them at their next show. You'll think you're in a Glasgow pub wi' yer mates! Slàinte!

**The Wee Heavies (pronounced "Wee" and then the plural of a thing that is heavy) are named after a variety of Scottish beer that they unanimously don't recommend trying. It makes a great band name, though.*

General Admission: \$30 advance; \$35 day of show. Tickets on sale now at our outlets and online through Eventbrite at www.thecma.org.

Tallymoore at Franklin Event Center, January 20, 2024, 7:30 pm



Tallymoore is a contemporary Irish Folk band from Milwaukee, Wisconsin performing a range of Irish and Scottish folk tunes, ballads, reels and classic pub songs. The group also incorporates acoustic and vocal material from broader Celtic, traditional country, bluegrass, and Americana sources. Established in 2012, Tallymoore has made appearances at major Irish music festivals across the United States including Milwaukee, Kansas City, Syracuse, and Indianapolis. They also perform regularly at popular bars and restaurants, and for Irish-related events and private engagements. Tallymoore released their second full-length album "Drive" in March of 2016.

Tallymoore aims to breathe new life into Irish folk favorites. They are best known for their strong vocals and complex harmonic treatments of tunes, along with rich instrumentation featuring the ambitious and polished fiddle stylings of Erin Hoffmann. Their innovative arrangements of classic tunes have made them a favorite among festival goers. Their vocal harmony blend, distinctive arrangements, and strong musicianship have distinguished them on the Irish music scene.

Tallymoore's four core players are Sean Ward (mandolin), Erin Hoffmann (violin), Matt Voell (piano) and Dave Kennedy (guitar). They frequently perform with guest bassist, Karl Suechting.

They've weaved together a unique sound that is new and old at the same time. Beautiful vocal harmonies mixed with folk instrumentation at its best.

-Barry Stapleton, Entertainment Staff; Milwaukee Irish Fest



Back by popular demand! Tallymoore last performed for the CMA at Holy Trinity Hall, January 13, 2018. Photo by Linda Kleinhesselink.

Locations & Parking

Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 2926 Beaver Ave., Des Moines is located at the corner of Beaver and Urbandale Avenues inside the school building, the cafeteria area and gym are opened up for our concerts. Seating is at a table with 8 chairs to a table. Park in the parish lot.

Franklin Junior High Event Center, 4801 Franklin Ave., Des Moines. The auditorium is located at the corner of Franklin and 48th St. Construction in the area is nearly done. Hopefully, by the November concert there will be plenty of parking north of the building in the North parking lot that is closest to 48th St. and Hickman Road. This entrance has a handicap ramp and handicapped parking. Please do not park in the South parking lot. This lot for reserved for staff workers and the band and is not handicapped accessible.

Hickman Road



Heron Valley, February 24, 2024 at Holy Trinity Hall, 7:30 pm



'The energy in the room was unmatched and Heron Valley gave us one hell of a show' - Kitty Hoynes

'Heron Valley are a very accomplished set of young musicians' -Frank Finlayson Inverness Gigs

Heron Valley are an energy fueled, traditional band from Scotland. Their roots lie in Scottish and Irish traditional music, including traditional Scots song and Scottish piping tunes and Irish banjo. The five-piece group comprises, Abigail Pryde on Fiddle and Vocals, Keith Morrison on Keys, Nick Hamilton on Banjo and Guitar, Alastair Maclean on Bagpipes and Whistles, and Callum Cronin on Bass and Guitar.

Their inception as a folk band began in 2014, after spending the first few years of their musical careers perfecting their craft as a young ceilidh dance band. In 2018 they formed the line up you now know, when they embarked on their first tour of the USA.

Coming from vastly different areas of Scotland (Oban, Lewis, Cowal, Glasgow and Stirling) you are sure to hear an excellent story or two from Heron Valley, and maybe even some Scots language lessons!

In 2015 the band released their first single and music video, a set of tunes, 'Pressed for Time'. The storyline takes the band from performing out on a moving boat on the beautiful Loch Fyne in Argyll, to their journey to and performance at a gig in a local dance hall. This was extremely well received and racked up 85K views, with people all over the world purchasing the single.

A year later, they released their second single and video 'Home'. This time, they set off at 3AM to climb up Beinn an Lochainn, a hill in the west coast of Scotland residing beside the Rest and Be Thankful, a stunning area with many a story itself. The video sees this journey from bottom to top and shows them playing on cliff edges in the beautiful area where Abigail grew up.

From this, the band set off to the USA and EU and continued to release more music including their debut album 'Roam', single 'Take You There', single 'Springburn, just shy of Ireland', and EP 'Erie Storm'.

CMA Merchandise

Show your Celtic music pride!
30th anniversary unisex shirts
available. Regular sizes \$25 and \$30
for 2X and 3X. Pick them up at the
next concert.



Friends of the CMA

Please consider helping us bring quality Celtic music to the Des Moines area by becoming a friend of the Celtic Music Association. A \$25 membership fee will provide support to the organization. Memberships will include a special beverage cup (bring it back to the concerts). CMA memberships can be mailed to:

The Celtic Music Association,
P.O. Box 30001,
Des Moines, IA 50310
or online at www.the-cma.org, through Eventbrite.



We need your Email Addresses!

We are no longer printing our newsletter. We will email you when the website is updated with our newest newsletter.

We can also notify you about upcoming concerts and events. Please email us at:

cmadsmmail@gmail.com or click on the link on our website www.thecma.org.com.

We will never share our email list!





*“the sense of long family musical tradition shines through in the quality, richness and sheer expressivity of their playing.”
-Herald Scotland*

*“Tasteful, assured, and really well played, it’s guaranteed to inspire the feet and leave a smile on your lips.”
-The Scotsman*

DÀIMH

Dàimh at Franklin Event Center, March 23, 2024, 7:30 pm

Dàimh – Gaelic super group and unchallenged champions of straight in the eye Highland music are based around West Lochaber and the Isle of Skye.

Formed around the turn of the century and taking the name from the Gaelic word for “kinship” Dàimh (pronounced Dive) have taken their contemporary take of Highland and Gaelic music to over 20 countries, setting audiences alight from Moscow to San Francisco.

With a reputation as giants of the Bagpipes and Fiddle, Angus Mackenzie and Gabe McVarish lead the melodic powerhouse with fellow founder member Ross Martin underpinning the groove on the Guitar. The Band are joined by “new guy” Murdo “Yogi” Cameron on Mandola and Accordion to complete the instrumental line up.

Dàimh have always had the renown and notoriety of working with some of the finest Gaelic singers in Scotland and the current line up only serves to cement that distinction with the addition of the Gaelic firmament’s most rapidly rising star, Ellen MacDonald on vocals.

Recent accolades include last year’s award for the “Best Folk Band in Europe” at the prestigious Folkherbst competition in Germany and most recently winner of “Folk Band of the Year” at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards.



Back by popular demand also. Dàimh last performed for the CMA on February 10, 2018 at Holy Trinity Hall.



CMA's 30th Anniversary Concerts Recap

April Verch and Cody Walter opened our season with an intimate concert at the Franklin Event Center in January.

The Drowsy Lads entertained us with a rousing performance at the Franklin Event Center in February.

Aoife Scott wowed the crowds in March at Franklin Event Center with her unique style of music and stories directly from Ireland.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions of new groups or past favorites you would like to see the CMA host next year. Email us at cmadsmmail@gmail.com.



April Verch and Cody Walter performed at Franklin Event Center on January 14, 2023.



Aoife Scott performed at Franklin Event Center on March 18, 2023. Photos by Linda Kleinhesselink.



The Drowsy Lads performed Saturday, February 18, 2023 at Franklin Event Center.

Join the CMA Committee. We need you!



CMA committee march in the St. Patrick's day parade, March 17, 2023.

Join the CMA committee. Make some new friends. There are positions you can assist us with: concert selection committees, beverage dispensers, ticket takers, poster placement, merchandise sales, setup and tear down and more! Ask a current committee member for meeting information or email us at cmadsmmail@gmail.com.



Denise Dooley, treasurer



Dave Puffett and Kevin Leopold serve as bartenders.



Tina Manbeck and Margaret Stoffregen run the merchandise tables.

CMA Fall Events



*Celtic music and kilts are found during the mile-long journey for the Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023 on Beaver Ave. in Des Moines.
- Lee Navin/Special to To The Register*



Bagpiper Christopher Schmitz.



Kathleen Gradoville, Margaret Stoffgren and Doris O'Malley helped with a stand at the Downtown Farmer's Market handing out information about our CMA season. Entertainment was provided by performances of the Foy dancers and a bag piper.



Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade. Committee members handed out coasters with the CMA season listed.

CMA Officers

President – Virgil Kleinhesslink
Vice President – TBA
Treasurer – Denise Dooley
Secretary – Margaret Stoffregen
Historian – Cathy Dodds
Graphics – Colleen Bush

Remember to like us on Facebook to keep up-to-date on Celtic Music in central Iowa!



Ticket Outlets:

Celtic Music Association, (515) 771-2215, P. O. Box 30001, Des Moines, IA 50310, www.thecma.org (check only)

Eventbrite, on CMA website (credit)

Cindy's Boutique, (515)274-0118, 114 5th St., Valley Junction, West Des Moines, www.cindysboutiquevalleyjunction.com (cash or check only)

Cooney's Tavern, (515) 255-5566, 3708 Beaver Ave., Des Moines <https://cooneystavern.com/> (cash or check only)

Silver Fox, (515) 283-2725, 837 42nd St., Des Moines, www.silverfoxdsm.com (cash or check only)

Up Tempo Music, (515) 277-0145, 2714 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, www.uptempomusicstore.com (cash or check only)



Email us at: cmadsmmail@gmail.com if you would like to be removed or added to our newsletter email list. We will remind you about upcoming concerts and events.