



## President's Notes

Happy Holidays! The CMA is back with a full winter concert season. We are celebrating 30 years of bringing world-class Celtic music to Des Moines. We hope everyone is ready to enjoy some wonderful Celtic music. Last March we were able to host Cherish the Ladies and once again they didn't disappoint. We are excited to be hosting bands that were not able to perform due to the pandemic. We helped them out financially when they could not perform and now they are "paying it forward" by performing for us in Des Moines.

We are excited for April Verch on Saturday, January 14, at Franklin Jr. High Event Center. She is best known for her deep expertise in the distinctive Ottawa Valley fiddle and step dancing styles but her love for music and traditions will be sure to please. Read more about her on our website at [thecma.org](http://thecma.org). Doors open at 7:00 pm and concert starts at 8:00 pm.

We will also be hosting The Drowsy Lads on Saturday, February 18, at Franklin Jr. High Event Center. They are a traditional Irish-American band out of Columbus Ohio. In 2018 they were named the best "Irish-American Band" and will be sure to have you clapping and tapping in your seats.

Aofie Scott from Dublin Ireland will be performing for our St. Patrick's Day concert on Saturday, March 18, at Franklin Jr. High Event Center. She is the daughter of legendary Irish singer Frances Black and niece to folk singer Mary Black and is making her own mark in the traditional and folk music scene. We are excited to have such a wonderful line-up for our 30th year! Please join us in welcoming back Celtic music to Des Moines after a long 2 year hiatus.

Tickets are available at our ticket outlets listed in the newsletter and on our website. You may also purchase them on-line at Eventbrite. All tickets are \$30. If you would like to help support the CMA, become a "Friend of the CMA". Information is provided in this newsletter and will also be available at our concerts.

"Loyalty" is the theme for this year and we hope our loyal fans, friends and family will enjoy our exciting 2023 CMA season. Enjoy the beauty of this blessed season. See you January 14.

*Slainte, Kathleen Gradoville President*



## Performs January 14, 2023 at Franklin Jr. High Event Center

Born in northeastern Ontario, Verch was trained from birth in the specific rhythms and melodies of the region. Growing up bouncing between weekend festivals and listening to her Dad's country band for dances, she thought that everyone played the fiddle and step-danced. Beginning with performances as the "token cute kid" at fairs, festivals, and TV shows, she went on to study at Berklee College of Music. These educational opportunities defines her artistic, delicate voice, energetic footwork, sand paper foot percussion and stunning playing (sometimes combined all at once!) Her ability to preserve the authentic folk traditions of the past and reintroduce them into the musical landscape of the present is a testament to her expert musicianship and widespread appeal. Her historic wins at the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Championship and Canadian Open Old-Time Fiddlers' Contest at the ages of 18 and 19 provided her with the intuition to "dance the tune" and improvise fluency in both fiddling and step dancing. After touring with established acts like Canadian country music legend Tommy Hunter and Celtic pop band Mad Pudding as a back fiddler, she formed her own band, the April Verch Band (a trio of world-class musicians). They have traveled four continents, performed in fourteen countries and played from tiny pubs, festivals to legendary stages as the Kennedy Center and Ryman Auditorium. Verch toured with Canadian fiddle supergroup Bowfire and acclaimed Irish Tenor, John McDermott. The highlight of her career was participating in the Opening Ceremonies for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver. In 2016 she began partnership with American legend, Joe Newberry. Collaborations included: International Bluegrass Music Association's Wide Open Bluegrass Festival in Raleigh, North Carolina, Celtic Connections Festival in Glasgow, Scotland, Estonian quartet Curly Strings titled The Heritage Project in 2018, and now a duo with her husband, Cody Walters in 2020. Teaching has been at the heart of her work from the beginning (released a book of original fiddle tunes, Canadian fiddle method book, and a self-produced instructional step dance DVD). Verch never forgets her roots of her music.

# The Drowsy Lads

“The best Irish American Band in 2018”

Jack Baker - Irish American News



## February 18, 2023 at Franklin Jr. High Event Center

This Irish-American Folk powerhouse brings unique energy and pure friendship to their live shows. Ohio brothers John and Daniel McKewen, father and son Phil and Josh Franck, and lifelong friend Bryan Brookes brings to the stage “we dare to hold still” Irish dance tunes as well as gamut of songs and good humor. Each Lad is a multi-instrumentalist. The combined lineup includes fiddle, button accordion, tenor banjo, flute, whistle, guitar, bouzouki, Uilleann pipes, 5- string banjo, concertina and bodhran. The Drowsy Lads thundered onto the Irish music scene in the US over 15 years ago. They bring fire and excitement that is quickly winning over audiences. 2018 brought the release of their 4th album, Everyone In and with the distinction of “Best Irish American Band” The Lads are lightening up Irish Festivals including Milwaukee, Dublin, Dayton, Indianapolis, Buffalo, and Michigan. They are regular guests at theaters including Murphy Theater, Lakeside Ohio’s Chantauqua Concert Series and guest artists with the Otterbein University Orchestra.

**“These guys are SMOKIN’”**  
*- Live Ireland, Dublin, Ireland*

## 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 on-line at [www.thecma.org](http://www.thecma.org), through Eventbrite.



### *Please Join Us as a Friend of Celtic Music*

You can help us in bringing quality Celtic Music to Des Moines by becoming a Friend of the Celtic Music Association. A \$25 membership fee will provide support to the organization. Please fill out this form and mail your payment to the address below or contact any board member at the concert.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Celtic Music Association**  
**PO Box 30001,**  
**Des Moines, IA 50310**





**Aoife Scott**

One of Ireland's Best Folk Artists second only to the legendary Christy Moore and up there with Lankum as voted by the readers of *HOTPRESS* music magazine 2021.

### March 18, 2023 at Franklin Jr. High Event Center

Aoife Scott is from Dublin, Ireland, and born into the legendary Black Family. She is one of the best award winning folk singer/songwriter artists. Fragile and ethereal one minute and strong and vibrant the next, her dynamic and profound vocals explore the emotional depths of her lyrics, leaving the audience entranced. Two released albums: *CARRY THE DAY* (2016) and *HOME BIRD* (2020) were launched at the Temple Bar Trad Festival. She was awarded the ASLR Celtic Music Awards Female Vocalist of 2020 and her album received in 2021 ASLR Celtic Music Awards Female Vocal album of the year. Her success with single released songs deserve recognition. "All Along the Wild Atlantic Way" song of the year at Irish Folk Music Awards (2017), "The December Letter" (2019) the most played Christmas song on RTE Radio won single of the year at the ALSR, A new single, "Sweet October" (2020) born out of the downtime of a summer festival season cancelled and is now available across all platforms. Her association with multiple award winning musicians (Ron Block, Sierra Hull, Stuart Duncan, cousins - Roisin O & Danny O'Reilly, Barry Bales) has contributed to her career successes. Her unique sound and broad creative scope of music will entertain you.

### CMA 30th Anniversary!

In 1992, a group of 15 dedicated people headed by Jerry Freeman and Tom Crowley met at Cooney's Tavern in Beaverdale to discuss the idea of bringing Celtic music and culture to Des Moines. That October they brought in the Dublin City Ramblers to play at Holy Trinity Hall, and history was made. For 30 years the board has brought a wide variety of performers, musicians, historians and dancers to our city to share the music and culture. We will embark on our 30th anniversary year with our 2023 concerts for January, February and March. Check our to our Facebook page and our electronic newsletters on our website as we unveil what the 30th season will have in store.



Need some Christmas gifts? CMA hat or backpack, \$15 each. A variety of shirts available. We will have 30th anniversary shirts available for the January concert. Call Colleen Bush to purchase 515-279-0310.



**Newsletter Now Available Online: [www.thecma.org](http://www.thecma.org)**  
Many thanks to website designer Dan McCurley, who volunteered to help us with the new updated website. If you prefer to receive your newsletter electronically, please let us know at [cmadsmmail@gmail.com](mailto:cmadsmmail@gmail.com). As we add more features, we will keep you posted here and on Facebook. Contact Dan if you like his work at [djmccurley@gmail.com](mailto:djmccurley@gmail.com) and [www.djmccurley.com](http://www.djmccurley.com). 

# Join A Working Board

The CMA board is a working board consisting of members and representatives. All are expected to work the concerts. There is also a lot of “behind the scenes” work that takes place. We design merchandise, work parades, staff a booth at DM Farmers Market, sell ads for our programs, write and put together newsletters, social media, posters, programs, tickets and more. If you are interested in helping make Celtic music happen in Des Moines please contact us at [cmadmprez@gmail.com](mailto:cmadmprez@gmail.com) for more information.



## CMA Officers

**President** – Kathleen Gradoville  
**Vice President** – Virgil Kleinhesslink  
**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!

## COVID Policy

The health and safety of our audiences, artists and staff will always be our top priority. The CMA board monitors recommendations of health experts and industry leaders to guide our policies and ensure your safe return to our venues.

- Please stay home if you are experiencing symptoms
- Masks and hand sanitizer are available in our venues.
- The CMA will regularly review and update audience policies.

The health and safety of our audiences, artists and staff will always be our top priority. Read our COVID-19 policy.

## CMA Goes Paperless

In order to cut costs and put the savings into bringing quality Celtic music to Des Moines we will be making some changes to our “paper trail.” This newsletter will be our last paper mailing. All future newsletters can be viewed on our website: [www.thecma.org](http://www.thecma.org) If you wish to have our newsletter come to your inbox, you can send us your email. CMA will not sell or share that info with anyone.

## Ticket Outlets:

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

**Eventbrite**, on CMA website (credit)

**Cooney’s Tavern**, (515) 255-5566, 3708 Beaver Ave., Des Moines (cash or check only)

**Up Tempo Music**, (515) 277-1045, 2714 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, [www.uptempo-music.com](http://www.uptempo-music.com) (cash or check only)

**Cindy’s Boutique**, (515) 274-0118, 114 5th St., Valley Junction, W. Des Moines, [www.cindysboutiquevj.com](http://www.cindysboutiquevj.com) (cash or check only)



Email us at: [cmadsmmail@gmail.com](mailto: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.