



President's Notes

As I was gathering my thoughts for this newsletter, I was reminded that I had recently seen a poem by Tommy Makem that suits the season.



*WINTER, a sharp bitter day
the robin turns plump against the cold
the sun is weak
silver faded from gold
he is late in his coming and short
in his stay
Man, beast, bird and air all purging,
all cleansing,
earth already purified awaits the rite
of spring
Her bridal gown a virgin snow and
frosts in her hair
A snowdrop by the road today
bowed gracefully
and high upon the wing up in the
sparkling nothingness,
a lone bird began to sing
Can gentle spring be far away?*

This is that time of year that most of us endure, between New Years and St Patrick's Day, when your skin is dry, coughs are common and layers of clothes are mandatory.

Some of us escape to other climates. Some of us learn to make friends with the chill and the snow, but many of us find ways to cope with these sharp bitter days.

Let us help you cope. There is more information in this newsletter about not only coping, but thriving during these days.



President's Notes continued

We have some extraordinary musicians coming to Des Moines for your pleasure. We also have one of the warmest fan bases in this city, who can make for a memorable evening to help us along until the gentle spring returns. We hope that you will join us to thaw a little.

Slainte, Brian Smith, President

Eileen Ivers to Perform at Hoyt Sherman, Friday, February 8, 2019



Grammy awarded, Emmy nominated, London Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, guest starred with more than 40 orchestras, original Musical Star of Riverdance, Nine-Time All-Ireland Fiddle Champion, Sting, Hall and Oates, The Chieftains, 'Fiddlers 3' with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and Regina Carter, Patti Smith, Al Di Meola, Steve Gadd, founding member of Cherish the Ladies, movie soundtracks including Gangs of New York, performed for Presidents and Royalty worldwide... this is a short list of accomplishments, headliners, tours, and affiliations. Fiddler Eileen Ivers has established herself as the preeminent exponent of the Irish fiddle in the world today.

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Eileen Ivers continued

It is a rare and select grade of spectacular artists whose work is so boldly imaginative and clearly virtuosic that it alters the medium. It has been said that the task of respectfully exploring the traditions and progression of the Celtic fiddle is quite literally on Eileen Ivers' shoulders. The Washington Post states, "She suggests the future of the Celtic fiddle."

She's been called a "sensation" by Billboard magazine and "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin" by The New York Times. "She electrifies the crowd with a dazzling show of virtuoso playing", says The Irish Times. Ivers' recording credits include more than 80 contemporary and traditional albums and numerous movie scores. Eileen is hailed as one of the great innovators and pioneers in the Celtic and World music genres.

The daughter of Irish immigrants, Eileen Ivers grew up in a culturally diverse neighborhood in the Bronx, New York. Rooted in Irish traditional music since the age of eight, Eileen proceeded to win nine All-Ireland fiddle championships, a tenth on tenor banjo, and more than 30 championship medals, making her one of the most awarded persons ever to compete in these prestigious competitions.

Being an Irish-American, the intrigue of learning more about the multicultural sounds of her childhood took hold. After graduating magna cum laude in Mathematics from Iona College and while continuing her post-graduate work in Mathematics, Eileen fully immersed herself in the different genres of music which she experienced growing up in New York. Perhaps it was the mathematical mind coupled with her passion for seeking parallels in certain traditional music styles which contributed to what has become the signature sound featured in much of Eileen's recordings since the late 1980s.

Eileen and her ensemble headline prestigious performing arts centers, guest star with numerous symphonies, perform at major festivals worldwide, and have appeared on national and international television. The L.A. Times proclaims, "Ivers' presentation was music with the kind of life and spirit that come together when talented artists from different backgrounds find the linkages that connect all forms of music ...no wonder the audience loved every minute."

Get your tickets for the Eileen Ivers concert to be held at Hoyt Sherman, Friday February 8th, \$30 in advance at outlets, \$35 at the door.



Kick off the St. Patrick's Day Season with the Foy School of Irish Dance!



You are invited to our annual celebration of Irish Music and Dance.

**Sunday March 3rd
Saydel High School**

Shows at 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm

Follow us on Facebook for details
[https://www.facebook.com/
IowaIrishInc/](https://www.facebook.com/IowaIrishInc/)

The Fitzgeralds Concert from October





JigJam is a multi-award winning quartet from the heart of the midlands in Ireland. Blending the best of traditional Irish music with bluegrass and Americana in a new genre which has been branded as ‘CeltGrass’, their onstage energy along with their virtuosic musical ability has captivated audiences throughout the world. “Here’s an Irish band that’s going to impact the world as hard as Clancy Brothers or U2 if they get only half a chance.”

Jamie McKeogh, Cathal Guinan and Daithi Melia all hail from Tullamore Co. Offaly with Co. Tipperary-born Gavin Strappe completing the quartet. All four members grew up immersed in Irish traditional music and culture which is reflected by the band collectively, achieving over twenty All-Ireland titles at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann competitions. They have now developed their own unique style of music influenced by American Folk music whilst staying true to their Irish roots. Described as ‘The best Irish group so far in bluegrass’ this sharply dressed outfit deliver an energy-fueled, foot-stomping live performance. All multi-instrumentalists, JigJam interchange between banjos, guitars, fiddles, mandolins and double bass onstage which creates an experience which is pleasing to both the eye and the ear. JigJam have recorded two studio albums to critical acclaim and have been compared to the Punch Brothers by the European Bluegrass Music Association. JigJam have made a huge impact on the Irish American circuit, performing at all major festivals including the world-renowned Milwaukee Irish Fest as well as touring various parts of the UK and Europe. The words sparkling, innovative and infectious come first to mind’ when you witness your first JigJam show. Miss this band at your peril. Get your tickets for this concert at Holy Trinity, \$25 in advance at outlets and \$30 at the door.



The Connla Concert from January

Updated CMA Website - Buy Tickets Online through Eventbrite

Many thanks to website designer Dan McCurley, who volunteered to help us with the new updated, revamped website. Be sure to check out all the new features. You can now use credit cards for ticket purchases through Eventbrite on the CMA website. There will be information about the bands, links to their YouTube videos, ticket sales, friends membership, and lots more. 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 and www.djmccurley.com.



Email us at: cmadsmmail@gmail.com if you would like to be removed or added to our newsletter mailing. It will be posted online at www.thecma.org.



the
celtic music
association

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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; you will receive a 10% discount on available wearables, and be able to buy last-minute tickets at the door for \$25 or \$30 instead of \$30 or \$35. Memberships can be purchased at any time. For more information about the CMA memberships, contact us:

The Celtic Music Association
P.O. Box 30001, Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 771-2215, thecma.org, Eventbrite,
CMADSMmail@gmail.com

**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)

Holy Trinity Parish Office, (515) 255-3162, 2926 Beaver Ave., Des Moines (cash or check only)

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 (cash or check only)

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

Hoyt Sherman Box Office, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines (credit and debit cards) for March concert only

Ticketmaster, www.ticketmaster.com (credit and debit cards) for Eileen Ivers concert only



**Get ready for St. Pat's! Wear
a CMA hats! Available in
black and royal blue with
gold embroidery for \$15.
Call 515-279-0310.**