



President's Notes

At the start of the Calan concert last March, I made an offhand comment to the audience that we might be on the cusp of a moment that would mark a generation; a moment that could cloud our dreams and disrupt our future plans. I didn't realize how true those impetuously chosen words would be.

We knew by concert time that Calan had their rest of their tour dates canceled. They gave a fine final performance for our audience at Franklin Jr. High. Of note, they did make it back to London by the following Monday and home to Wales later that day.



This would have been the newsletter announcing our 2020-2021 lineup. We had some amazing bands contracted for our 29th season. The governing board of the Celtic Music Association deliberated over what action would optimize safety for each of you and would best serve our artists. The board's discussion was a fine example of our concern for the common good and for the support of the musicians who grace our stages. The unanimous decision of the board was to cancel the entire 2020-2021 season and to honor the contracts for the artists by paying the fees that had been negotiated.

We wish this decision didn't have to be made. We realize that the risks of continuing the concert experiences as we had been doing may have placed some, possibly many individuals at risk for their lives. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the artists could have come on the dates that were booked. The good news is that we do have sufficient funds to continue operations when it is safe to do so in the future.

CMA 2020/2021 Season Canceled

As it turned out, the Celtic Music Association was not alone in making a decision like this. Many other arts organizations have put their operations on hold for the coming season.

We contacted the artists about our decision. We received confirmation from them that we had done the right thing. Here are some quotes of gratitude:

"What an incredibly kind gesture from you and your board, we are all so grateful and appreciative of this especially during these hard times that we all find ourselves in - performers and presenters alike. I really do appreciate your kind words about the band. We love performing in USA so much and were glad to be getting back out there again before this covid19 situation hit the world. A Celtic Music Association performance is certainly top of my list for when we can get back over to USA." Francis McPeake

"I hope this finds you "as well as possible" during this difficult time. I just wanted to drop you a note to thank you, and the entire board, for offering to pay us for our October concert that must be canceled. It's an amazing thing that you'll be doing for us and the other artists in your season. We do not take it for granted. It really means a great deal more than you can imagine and I hope you will pass along my gratitude to your peers on the board. We would be happy to do something that might be useful to you all and keep spreading the word, music, and joy about your great CMA. We will really miss being with you again, and we hope we'll get to be with you in person someday soon." April Verch

"I really really really appreciate your kindness of paying us all in the circumstances, I am blown away by such a kind gesture. Thank you so so so much. You, the board and the entire association are one of the special ones! We are lucky to have you preserving our culture. Thank you so much again, Le deá-ghui" Aoife Scott

What is next? We do plan to have a season starting sometime in 2021. We do plan to keep up our contacts with our artists and their representatives. We do plan to stay in touch with you all, whether by social media, by our website presence or by mail...just as we always have.

The future may appear to be a bit cloudy today, but as we say around these parts, wait a while and the climate will change.

As ever; Brian Smith, President

The CMA Website will be Updated this Summer

Dan McCurley will be updating and redesigning the CMA website this summer. Please check back in August to view our updated website, at www.thecma.org. If the site is down, please check us out on facebook.





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Celtic Music in central Iowa!



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if you would like to be
removed or added to our
newsletter email list. We will
remind you about upcoming
concerts and events once we
have them again!

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 and help us enable our artists to sustain their music making livelihoods. Membership will include a special beverage cup (pick it up and 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, through Eventbrite.



Show your Celtic music pride! Wear a CMA hat or backpack,
\$15 each. A variety of shirts also available. Call 279-0310.

