

The Freebird

Volume IV

March 2008

The Freebird is the newsletter of the **Irish Fair of Minnesota August 8-10, 2008**. Its purpose is to keep us connected, provide updates, celebrate successes and share our stories, and to support the mission of the Irish Fair by promoting and cultivating Irish culture.



St Patrick's Day Edition: A Whole Host of Celebrations



Make merry with *All Things Irish* **SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH**
AND SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH

The Irish Music and Dance Association proudly hosts its 27th annual **St Patrick's Day Irish Celebration** and 6th annual **Day of Irish Dance** featuring regional and local Irish entertainment, Irish dance, Celtic vendors, Irish Cuisine, pipe bands and Children's crafts and entertainment.



The IMDA St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration will run 10-5 on **Saturday the 15th** and the Day of Irish Dance will take place from 11am to 5 pm, **Sunday, March 16th**, both at the Landmark Center, 75 West Fifth Street, downtown St. Paul.

Attractions include:

- New this year is our 'Mary Kivel Kenney Children's Stage' featuring the best in children's entertainment including music, sing-alongs, a presentation of the "Irish Heritage Trunk" and what it means to be Irish; as well as the Center for Irish Music's 'Instrument Petting Zoo' where children can have their first 'hands-on' experience with Irish Music.
- A special family concert series of Traditional Celtic Music and Song in the Weyerhaeuser Auditorium on Sunday, March 16th featuring Ross Sutter, Laura MacKenzie & Tom Schaefer of Northern Gael. With great vocals, dazzling fiddle, flute, concertina and pipes, Northern Gael presents traditional songs and dance tunes of the Irish and Scottish countrysides. Come sing and dance along!
- The Irish Marketplace offers authentic Irish merchants, artisans and informational resources. Regional vendors will be serving time-honored Irish fare such as corned beef and cabbage, soda bread, scones, Irish beer and much more.
- Traditional Irish dancers from area dance schools and adult groups will delight and entertain with high-spirited exhibition style Irish dance.
- Local and regional entertainment, pipe bands, storytelling and children's activities will take place throughout the day on



three stages.

- Take a break from the crowds and enjoy traditional Irish music in our Irish Tea Room.
- Take home a keepsake of the day on St. Patrick's Day in our Children's Crafts area. Children of all ages will enjoy creating our Leprechaun Backpack Buddies, Irish Flag pins, Lucky Treasure Bags and much more. Craft participation is free of charge.

The Day of Dance and the St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration are produced by the Irish Music and Dance Association and sponsored by the following: Irish Indeed, Terry Flynn Tours, Dubliner Pub & Kivel Electric. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids 5-12 and may be purchased at the door on either day. Group discounts can be arranged by calling 612-990-3122 or e-mail at Info@IrishMusicAndDanceAssociation.org.

Stop by the *Gaeltacht Minnesota* table at the **Landmark Center on March 15** and say "Hi!" (or "*Dia dhaoibh!*") to the gang as you celebrate St. Pat's. Our volunteers there can tell you all about our upcoming Irish language workshop, our classes, why we love learning this intriguing language---and whether you might not have a little fun with it, too!

Minnesotans for a United Ireland 34th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Ceili

Monday, March 17, 2008 from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m., in the gym at Randolph Heights Elementary School, 348 Hamline Ave. S., St Paul. Live music by The Blackbirds. Easy dance lessons will be offered at 6:30, with dancing to follow at 7:00. The dances will be taught and called by Mike Whalen. Admission is \$8; seniors and children under 9 get in free. There is also a \$1 discount with a non-perishable food shelf donation. This is an alcohol-free and smoke-free event for people of all ages. Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day and support Irish unity. For more information see irishdancetc@yahoo.com

LOOKING FOR NIGHTTIME CELEBRATING ?

Carmel Quinn at Old Log Theater St. Pat's Day matinee at 2:30 p.m. and an evening performance at 8 p.m. The popular and talented



Jimmy Martin will accompany Quinn.

Tickets are \$20 for the matinee performance and \$25 for the evening show. Reservations for each concert and dining can be made by calling the Old Log Theater at 952- 474-5951.

Laura MacKenzie (left) in concert with Katie McMahan Friday, March 14, 2008 Chautauqua Fine Arts Center, 7:30 PM Mahtomedi, MN 651-429-3741

Laura MacKenzie in concert with Dáithí Sproule Saturday, March 15, 2008 **The Riverview Cafe & Wine Bar 3753 42nd Ave S. Minneapolis** 8:00 PM , \$15 day of show, \$13 advance. Seating is limited! Advance sales at the Riverview cafe or online at tickets@theriverview.net

JOIN THE PARADE ... OR Two!!

*This Year the St Paul and Minneapolis Parades will be on different days, so you can merrily march **Twice***

42nd Annual St. Paul St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday, **March 15th**, 2008 starting at noon

The Parade will start at 4th and Sibley Streets and move west on 4th to Rice Park.

Go to <http://www.stpatsassoc.org/> for further details.

The Minneapolis St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on

Monday, March 17th, on the Nicollet Mall beginning 6:30 p.m. The parade route will start at Nicollet and 13th Street until it reaches 5th Street.

The Minneapolis St. Patrick's Day Association

<http://www.mplsstpats.org/parade.htm> welcomes your family to join us this year in celebrating St. Patrick's Day 2008.

Look for the Irish Fair of Minnesota Banner and come March with us!

TOP OFF YOUR ST PADDY'S DAY: VISIT A FINE IRISH PUB

Some pubs have day as well as night activities over the weekend. See their websites or call for more information

Dubliner Pub 2162 University Ave W, St. Paul;
651.646.5551

Jake O'Connor's Public House 200 W St Excelsior
www.jakeoconnors.com

Kieran's Irish Pub <http://www.kierans.com/> 330 2nd
Ave. S, Minneapolis

Keegan's Pub
<http://www.keeganspub.com/calendar.html> 16
University Ave NE, Minneapolis

Kip's Irish Pub and Restaurant 9970 Wayzata Blvd, St. Louis Park <http://www.kipspub.com/St-Patricks-Weekend-Menu.htm>

The Liffey <http://www.theliffey.com/> 175 West 7th Street St Paul

The Local Irish Pub <http://www.the-local.com/home.html> 10th St. and Nicollet Mall Minneapolis

O'Donovan's Irish Pub 700 1st Ave. N. , Minneapolis www.odonovans.com

Merlin's Rest 3601 E. Lake St., Minneapolis <http://merlinsrest.com/events/>



The Giggin' Siles (shown here with Máirtín de Cogain of the Fuchsia Band at the 2007 Irish Fair) are among many fine musicians performing for St Paddy's around town

AN GHAELGE

Happy St Patrick's Day to you all!
Beannachtaí Fhéile Pádraig oraibh

Courtesy of Gaeltacht Minnesota <http://www.gaelminn.org/index.htm>

A GLANCE FORWARD TO THE IRISH FAIR OF MINNESOTA 2008

HEADLINERS

Flogging Molly



Drawing on the hardships and joys of their own lives and a musical history Ranging from old world Celtic to modern day punk rock, the seven members of Flogging Molly bring insightful lyrics, memorable melodies and blow-your-mind live performances with a charm and an ease that makes them one of the most accessible bands performing today; a crowd favorite every time they perform at the Irish Fair. [More...](#)

The Tannahill Weavers

The Tannahill Weavers' embrace both the mystical quality of the Highlander's Celtic music, and the rollicking, sometimes even brawling qualities of the Lowlander's Anglo-Scots tunes. Their arrangements blend the beauty of the traditional melodies with the power of modern rhythms, and the penetrating sound of the bagpipes has a thread of ancient memory running through it all. [More...](#)



The Elders

Take a group of Kansas City musicians with a passion for Celtic music, an Irishman with a love of all things American, and you get a cross-pollination of elements that is high octane and progressive, yet rooted in tradition. Some call it arsekickin' music from the heartland. Robert Oermann of MUSIC ROW Magazine calls The Elders "a band to shout from the rooftops about." [More...](#)



Look for upcoming editions of 'The Freebird' where we will announce more headliners and go in-depth on each