



The Freebird

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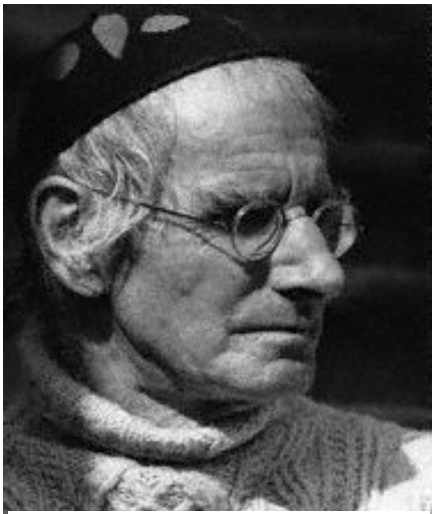
The Freebird is the newsletter of the Irish Fair of Minnesota. Its purpose is to keep us connected, provide updates, celebrate successes and share our stories, and to support the mission of the Irish Fair by promoting and cultivating Irish culture.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT:

IRISH FAIR LAUNCHES SUMMER SCHOOL!!!

It is with great excitement that we announce the **first IRISH FAIR OF MINNESOTA SUMMER SCHOOL**, which will take place on the St. Paul campus of the University of St. Thomas on Thursday, August 11th 2005. The main focus and mission of the Summer School is to deepen and enrich our audience's appreciation for Irish culture and heritage through immersion in lectures, workshops, documentaries and discussions.

Our featured speaker in this, our inaugural year, is **Shivaun O'Casey**, the daughter of world famous Irish playwright Sean O'Casey who was the author of such classics as "Juno and the Paycock" and "The Plough and the Stars".



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Shivaun will engage our audience in a discussion of her father's life and works after the viewing of a new 88 minute documentary

Playright Sean O'Casey film about his life "Under a Colored Cap".

Tommy Makem, Irish music legend will lead a workshop and **Gearoid O Hallamhurain**, Jefferson Smurfit professor of Irish Music and Irish Studies at the University of Missouri - St.Louis and five time Irish

music World Champion will lead a 90 minute talk *and performance* on the diffusion of Irish music across North America.

The fees are: \$40 for the full day plus lunch and dinner; \$20 if you want to attend all day and evening without the meals; and, \$10 if you want to attend the O'Casey documentary and discussion in the evening program .

Here is a tentative schedule:

10-11:00 am Kate and Jode Dowling School of Irish Music: a showcase of their students and the vision for this new school of music.

11-12:30 Gearoid O Hallmhurain "History of Irish Music in the U.S."

12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30-3:00 Tommy Makem-lecture and demonstration

3:00 - 4:00 John Gleeson "100 Years of the Abbey"

4:00-5:00 Michael Patrick Gillespie "The Life of James Joyce"

5:00-6:00 Joe Dowling "Reflections on directing Sean O'Casey"

6:00-7:00 Dinner

7:00- 8:30 Showing of "Under a Colored Cap - a documentary life and times of Sean O'Casey.

8:30-9:30 Shivaun O'Casey discusses her father's life, the documentary, and takes questions from the audience.

Look for more information in coming months on the Irish Fair website <http://www.irishfair.com/>

IF I RAN THE FAIR...

Got an idea about what could be better about the Fair? A way to make it more genuine, enjoyable, welcoming, varied, memorable, handsome, thrifty, upright or ...? We welcome your thoughts, so please send them to info@IrishFair.com



IRISH FAIR 2005 MUSIC HEADLINERS

In case you haven't heard, the Irish Fair has a wonderful line up of musicians this year.

Flogging Molly Friday August 12th-- Irish folk meets punk rock; musical diversity;

Danú Saturday and Sunday-- an Irish traditional music group based in Co. Waterford, Ireland

The incomparable **Tommy Makem**, superlative singer, storyteller, actor and bard –*Sunday only*.

Young Dubliners Fri and Sat August 12th and 13th – known for their intensity and absorbing musical variety.

LOCAL IRISH MUSICIANS GALORE AT FAIR 2005

The Irish Fair will also showcase top local musicians including:

- ✦ Gaelic Tribe
- ✦ Gearoid O'Hallamhurain & Sean Conway
- ✦ Laura and the Lads
- ✦ The Eddies
- ✦ Irish Brigade
- ✦ Willowgreen
- ✦ Paddy Wagon
- ✦ St. Dominic's Trio
- ✦ The Doon Céilí Band
- ✦ The Wild Colonial Bhoys
- ✦ Tom Dahill
- ✦ Amy Kortuem
- ✦ Tim Malloys

LOCAL MUSICIANS, WORLD CLASS MUSIC:

THE DOON CEILI BAND



Photo credit: Anna Lethert

Ask Dan Rein, host of KFAI's traditional music show 'Century Song' who are the best Irish musicians in this country and you won't have long to wait to hear

the name Paddy O'Brien. "Great musician, genuinely traditional" enthuses Rein. "We are lucky to have him here in the Twin Cities. His stature is international." And lucky, too, is the Irish Fair to have Paddy and the rest of the Doon Ceili Band play for us this year.

"The band isn't just about me" says Paddy, who plays the button accordion in the group. "There were a number of us, seasoned musicians, who were hungry for learning new tunes in their traditional settings and those from previously remote parts of Ireland. We got together informally and found we shared an interest and commitment to spending the time to get deeper into this kind of music. We wanted a rich, powerful energy and feel, so we have in addition to the accordion, 3 fiddlers and 3 flutists, plus a piano."

Irish music aficionados will recognize the names of band members Mag McDermott, Jode Dowling, Django Amerson, Laura MacKenzie, Kate Dowling, and Brian Miller and Sean Egan.

In addition to performing at the Minnesota and Milwaukee Fairs, the band performed at the Cedar Cultural Center this month and looks forward to the release of their first from the prestigious Shanachie label. For more information, see the band's website: <http://www.doonceili.com/home.html> and look to The Freebird in the coming months for info about the CD party.

Schedule of The Doon Céilí Band at the 2005 Irish Fair on Harriet Island:

- Saturday August 13th 2:00pm
- Sunday August 14th 11:00 am

IRISH FAIR BREWING FAIR PARTNERS

The Irish Fair happily announces a continuation of its fruitful partnership with Summit Brewery for the next 3 years. We are delighted that Oatmeal Stout and Summit's other fine brews will continue be a part of the Irish Fair.

Steve Cerkvenik, executive director of the Fair says "The partnership with Summit Brewery has been a great for both parties. Summit's products have added quality to the festival and their financial support has been instrumental in the growth of the Fair, for which we are grateful. In return, I think the festival has provided an effective means for Summit to reach a new audience and gain a broader community presence. "

With the addition of Finnegan's Irish Amber to the Fair offerings, we add not only another Irish style beer, but one

with a great cause behind it. Finnegan's founder Jacquie Berglund takes company profits and donates them to programs for at-risk youth and the working poor in Minnesota through a non-profit arm, the Spud Society. "Improving the lives of others is the reason that I founded this organization" says Berglund. Since 2000, the Spud Society has donated more than \$30,000 to community projects and created awareness about the working poor through its Web site and other venues.

INTERNATIONAL JOYCE EXHIBIT AT IRISH FAIR 2005

The Irish Fair Cultural Area is honored to announce that it will be home to the worldwide tour, International Joyce, The James Joyce Exhibit. The exhibit has been prepared by The Cultural Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs, together with Irish Embassies around the world and in association with universities and centers of cultures, has organized International Joyce on the life and works of James Joyce. Initially, Joyce's novels and stories were met with resistance and outright censorship. Today, the Irish deeply respect Joyce as a writer and understand his works as a genuine representation of Dublin life, warts and all.

The traveling International Joyce exhibit features 22 panels that recount a comprehensive overview of the author's life and work in words and photos. The Twin Cities are only one of four places in the United States to have the honor to host this International exhibit.

AN GHAELGE

Courtesy of Gaeltacht Minnesota

"Uaisle éisteach le healaín", say the Irish, "the nobility listening to the arts". In this expression, "arts" can be any advanced learning or skill, whether science or art, but that word *ealaín* is frequently used to refer to the poets and minstrels among us.

The proverb suggests that you can tell who is truly noble by their attention to, and patronage of, learning and the arts.

To learn more about the Irish language, contact Gaeltacht Minnesota at <http://www.gaelminn.org/>



The Program is still seeking host families for Northern Irish Kids for Summer of 2005. Visit their website at <http://www.cpni.org/> for more information.

COURTESY OF THE IRISH FAIR CHILDREN'S AREA

NATIVE IRISH DOG TRIVIA QUIZ-ANSWERS



Last month we posed some tough questions about the group of dogs depicted above. Here are the answers. The Spaniel with the red circle is a rare native Irish breed that was and is used as a water retriever in the wetlands of Ireland---THE IRISH WATER SPANIEL. The Spaniel with the blue circle is its smaller American cousin that originated in the Upper Midwest and is the state dog of Wisconsin---THE AMERICAN WATER SPANIEL.

Coming Next Month:

-Editor Immerses in Irish

-Food Court at Fair Goes Back to Its Roots

-A Review of Irish Cookbooks by FatHead Brennan

And, of course, lot's more news about the Fair!

Until next month,
Best Regards from the
**Minnesota
Irish Fair**