

# The Freebird

VOLUME II

DECEMBER 2006

*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.*



## Celtic Tenors Concert a Success

Over 500 people attended the Celtic Tenors show. The lads were very entertaining, and left the crowds wanting more—there were long lines were long for CD sales and autographs. One patron said the Celtic Tenors were

"much better than Danny O'Donnell". The Center for Irish Music student ensemble performed a 45 minute set to open for the Celtic Tenors and amazed the audience. One of the ushers heard a patron stated that she would have paid just to see the student performance.



*Musicians from the Center for Irish Music pose with the Celtic Tenors*

Maria Flynn-Conway, Irish Fair Board member and organizer of the event had this to say: "*Just to see young people so obviously enjoying what they do and the talent and professionalism they all showed was incredible. They are great ambassadors for the future of Irish music.*"

We expect both groups will be performing at the 2007 Irish Fair of Minnesota.

## FEAST OF ST BRIGID EVENT

The Irish Fair Summer School is co-sponsoring with Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality a Feast of St. Brigid at Pilgrim Lutheran

**Old Prayer to Brigid of Kildare**  
*Brigid, ever excellent woman,  
golden sparkling flame,  
lead us to the eternal Kingdom,  
the dazzling resplendent sun.*

Church at 1935 St. Clair and Prior Ave in St. Paul on Thursday, February 1st 2007. The event will feature a lecture on "The Spiritual Quest in Irish Literature" by Patrick O'Donnell, Coordinator

of the Irish Fair Summer School and lecturer at Normandale College. The lecture will be followed by a contemplative service of Celtic music and prayers to reflect on Brigid's own spiritual quest and that of contemporary people who find meaning in the ancient Celtic Tradition. The cost is \$20 (which includes a reception).  
Time: 6:30 - 9:00 P.M.



*Holy Well dedicated to Brigid, County Kildare, Ireland*

AN GHAELGE

**Nollaig Shona Duit! Merry Christmas!**  
Courtesy of Gaeltacht Minnesota <http://www.gaelminn.org/index.htm>

## **NEED A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? DIG DEEPER INTO THE IRISH HERITAGE!!!**

The Twin Cities are burgeoning with opportunities to delve into Irish Culture through a variety of ways. Whether it's music, history, language or dance, here are some resources for learning more about Irish traditions, historic and contemporary in 2007.

### **The Center for Irish Music-Dedicated to Handing Down the Tradition**

#### **Spring 2007 Course Offerings**

*Classes are taught using the traditional method of learning by ear. Sheet music may occasionally be provided on an individual basis as an aid to learning. The Center's teachers have a high level of expertise on their instruments as well as considerable teaching and performing experience. Classes start the week of January 22 and run through June 9, 2007. Group classes meet 15 times during the semester. Private lessons meet as arranged with the instructor. Private lessons may be registered for at any time.*

**Private instruction available on:** Tin Whistle, Fiddle, Irish Flute (wooden or silver), Piano Accompaniment, Music Theory, Bodhran (drum), Guitar, English Concertina, Irish and English Song

Courses available to students of ALL AGES and ALL LEVELS! Students new to the flute are encouraged to take a semester of tin whistle.

#### **Group lessons: begin the week of February 5, 2007.**

Irish Flute: wooden or silver Time: Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30pm

Beginning Bodhran II: Mondays, 6:30-7:30pm

Beginning Tin Whistle II Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm

Advanced Beginner Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm

Introduction to Irish Fiddle Time: Please call for details

Adult Ensemble (21 years and up, all instruments) Time: Thursdays, 8-9pm

See: <http://www.centerforirishmusic.org/offerings.shtml> for more information

### **Offerings from Gaeltacht Minnesota through St. Paul Community Education**

#### **Intro to Gaelic**

Course # 6150EA, will be taught winter term (by Mary Roguski, a dynamic and vivid graduate student in Linguistics), registration opens January 8, go to <http://www.commed.spps.org/>

Four weeks, starting Jan 29 and ending on Feb 26 (one night off for Presidents' Day in there):

Course Title: Introduction to Irish Gaelic

Time and place: Mondays, 7-9 p.m., at Central: four sessions

You don't have to be Irish to find the Irish language, or Gaelige, fascinating and fun to learn. This course will teach basic everyday conversation and useful phrases in one of the oldest continuously spoken languages in Europe, along with insights into how the language works. Students who complete this course will have the option of continuing with Monday night Irish lessons for free, in the regular program taught by Gaeltacht Minnesota for more than twenty years. Learn more about Gaeltacht Minnesota and the Irish language at [www.gaelminn.org](http://www.gaelminn.org).

#### **The History of Ireland COMING IN APRIL through Community Ed. Mark your calendars !!!**

Details: April Six sessions, 7-8 p.m. on Mondays at Central High in St. Paul for six Monday. Taught by the personable and learned Nick Wolfe, a Ph. D. candidate in Irish Studies.

Dive into the fascinating history and culture of Ireland, whether your interest is travel, family heritage, or simple curiosity. Learn about the major events, personalities, and cultural features that have forged the Ireland of today, including the emergence of Irish nationhood, the Great Famine, emigration and Irish-Americans, the Irish language, and contemporary Irish culture. This is a great class for anyone hoping to visit Ireland, or who would like to learn more about this distinctive country!

### **Irish Dance-Social or Step Dancing in the Twin Cities**

For information on where to go for Irish Dance opportunities, see the wonderful resource page of the Irish Music and Dance association: <http://www.irishmusicanddanceassociation.org/resources.html>

*Until The New Year,  
Best Regards from the*

irish fair of  
minnesota