The mission of the Irish Music and Dance Association is to support and promote Irish music, dance, and other cultural traditions to insure their continuation.

Mike Lynch Receives Irish Fair’s Curtin-Conway Award

The Curtin-Conway Award honors Leah Curtin and Roger Conway, two of the original organizers of the festival. The honor is presented annually to someone who has made significant contributions to the Irish cultural community in the Twin Cities and/or Minnesota. The award includes a $1,000 donation by the Irish Fair to the Irish cultural charity of the recipient’s choice and the name of the honoree is placed on a plaque that is on public display at The Celtic Junction. The award was presented on Saturday at Irish Fair. Mike commented to the crowd “when else to you get an award for having fun?”

Mike Lynch has been an important part of the Irish Community for many years, serving on both the Irish Fair of Minnesota and Center for Irish Music Board of Directors.

Mike grew up in a family that loved music, where it was common to have the air filled with the sound of fiddle and song at family gatherings. As an adult, Mike gained an appreciation for traditional Irish music, learning to play the bodhrán and taking part in sessions at Kieran’s pub. At the pub, he took part in many discussions with like minded musicians on their dream of a school in the Twin Cities where this tradition could not only be passed down, but flourish.

When the opportunity to make this dream a reality, Mike jumped at the chance to be part of it, quickly joining the Center for Irish Music board, becoming the board president in 2008, serving in this role for over 7 years. Mike’s leadership, vision, work ethic and no-nonsense attitude during a critical time in the organization’s history was instrumental in creating the Center for Irish Music as we know it today. Mike has taken responsibility for organizing the beverage service for events at the Celtic Junction for many years, recruiting volunteers and managing the inventory, thus providing additional revenue for the Center for Irish Music – and insuring that guests are made welcome.

Mike was also a long-serving member of the Irish Fair of Minnesota Board, including many years as the Fair’s beverage manager. He is one of those people who shies away from the spotlight, preferring to be in the background getting things done. While you may not know the name, it is very likely you have had him hand you a beer at Irish Fair or most any event at the Celtic Junction.

Norah Rendell, CIM Executive Director says, “I have always liked working with Mike for a few reasons. One, his support for the CIM and the Celtic Junction is unwavering and two, he doesn’t mince his words. He is always there if you need him and you only have to ask once. He has contributed an incredible amount to the Irish music community in the Twin Cities and I am thrilled that he is being recognized.”
One year for my birthday, my fiddle buddy Ann Mossey Sandberg gave me a copy of Paul O’Shaughnessy and Harry Bradley’s 2005 CD, Born for Sport. Ann lives outside Chicago now and I rarely see her. But every now and then I give this CD another listen, reminisce about all those sessions with Ann, and find myself amazed all over again by the music on this recording. The title track is this month’s tune.

In his notes, Harry Bradley states that he found this jig in the Petrie collection. George Petrie (1790-1866) was an early collector of the indigenous music of Ireland. As Mick Moloney relates in his Irish Music in America: Continuity and Change, Petrie’s job with the Ordnance Survey (the mapping agency still in existence today) took him all over Ireland and brought him in contact with lots of musicians. Wherever he went, he jotted down tunes that caught his fancy. Moloney states, “... he adopted the method that was to become the accepted procedure in later folksong collecting, locating known singers in particular areas and notating tunes directly from his sources, often in social gatherings.” A portion of the tunes Petrie notated were eventually compiled and published by the Society for the Preservation and Publication of the Melodies of Ireland, which Petrie helped establish in 1851.

After Petrie’s death, Charlies Villiers Stanford edited Petrie’s work and published it as The Complete Collection of Irish Music as Noted by George Petrie (1902-1905). (By the way, you can download a scanned version from the Petrucci Music Library at imslp.org.) Stanford, although born in Dublin, was a composer, conductor, and a faculty member at the Royal College of Music in London. As such, he was oriented toward European art music, rather than Irish traditional music. In his edition, Stanford omitted the song texts Petrie had collected, as well as Petrie’s commentary. I wondered if Stanford altered the tunes as well – perhaps changed the key in some instances, or tried to “clean them up.” However, a facsimile of one of Petrie’s manuscripts reveals that Petrie himself notated some tunes in keys we would consider unusual, such as A-flat. Perhaps that was because he preferred getting tunes from singers. In any case, as Mick Moloney has pointed out, some of the earliest collectors of Irish music “went on to freely amend and edit the material they collected using a variety of editorial aesthetic perspectives.” Still, Petrie collected some 1,148 melodies, and his contribution to the practice of collecting of folk music was considerable. He certainly helped to pave the way for later collectors like Francis O’Neill.

I decided to check Harry Bradley’s source for this tune. I Was Born for Sport is #826 in Stanford’s edition of Petrie. (Another edition of Petrie, edited by David Cooper of the University of Leeds, came out in 2002, but I have yet to see a copy.) Apparently Petrie collected this tune from one P. Coneely in January 1845. After some research I concluded this would have been Patrick (Paddy) Conneely (ca. 1800-1851), the celebrated blind piper from Galway. From the perspective of a present-day traditional player, the tempo marking of allegretto, the 3/8 meter, and a sprinkling of F-naturals are rather odd. But Harry Bradley looked beyond all that and discovered the bones of a great tune, and he’s managed to re-interpret it and bring it to life. I think this speaks to the depth of Harry’s insight into the music, as well as the value of these old tune collections, despite their imperfections.

Usual disclaimers: The notation here is not meant to be a substitute for listening. It is simply an aid to learning the tune.

I Was Born For Sport

Source: Paul O’Shaughnessy and Harry Bradley, Born for Sport (2005), track 1, tune 2
There’s a fair chance that you, like so many others, spent a good portion of August in front of your television. The draw? The Olympics, or na Cluichí Oilimpeacha (“Olympic Games”).

Cluiche means “game,” as in a cluiche iomána (“hurling match”) or a cluiche cartáí (“game of cards”). But in the (Western) dialect I’m used to, the Irish word is cluífe. Variations like that are one of the challenges of learning Irish, but they are also part of the fun.

Ireland sent a "team" (foireann) to the Games, and you might be surprised to learn that the Irish fielded 77 competitors in fourteen sports! Of course, they were all in pursuit of a bonn (“medal”), preferably the bonn óir, the "gold medal." We would all agree, of course, that neither a bonn airgid ("silver medal") nor a bonn cré-umha ("bronze medal") are to be sneezed at.

As of this writing, with a couple of days left in the games, the Irish have won two silver medals. Annalise Murphy took second in her seoltóireacht ("sailing") competition. And a couple of brothers as Corcaigh (“from Cork”), the O’Donovans, not only took silver in the “double scull” (bád beirte) event, they followed that up with a hilarious TV interview that went viral. The lads propelled their boat with what we call “oars” in English, but what we call maidí rámha, “rowing sticks,” in Irish.

Traditionally, the Irish have been strong in dornálaíocht, or “boxing.” (Four of their six medals in the London Olympics were won in dornálaíocht.) The first syllable of that word, dorn, means “fist,” obviously at the heart of this sport. But several of the Irish boxers were eliminated in bouts that had Irish fans criticizing the judges, most notably in the split decision handed down against past gold medalist Katie Taylor.

For sure, Irish competitors were not to be found only in the boxing ring or on the water. They participated in badmantan ("badminton"), rothalócht ("cycling"), tumadóireacht ("diving"), eacháíocht ("equestrian"), haca ("field hockey"), galf ("golf"), snámh ("swimming"), peantatlan ("pentathlon"), and trí-atlan ("triathlon"). They also entered a variety of cluichí raoin is fáiche ("track and field events"), ag rith ("running") and doing the léim chuaille ("pole vault").

They even had a couple of competitors who could be seen ag dul tóin thar ceann, "going bottom past head." That is, they were "tumbling" ("gymnastics," or gleacaíocht).

A person who can do all these amazing things is a lúthchleasaí. Cleas can refer to a "trick" you play on someone, but it also refers to a "feat," such as an act of heroism, or an amazing physical "trick." Lúth is a word for vigor and agility, referring to movement of the limbs, generally. So, someone who can do powerful, agile feats of movement is a lúthcleasaí, an "athlete."

Comhghairdeas leis an bhfoireann uilig, congratulations to the entire team for their hard work and for giving their best effort at the Games.

Thanks so much to all our volunteers at the Irish Fair, who engaged hundreds and hundreds of visitors to our booth. Special thanks are due to Maureen, who organized our participation and devoted so much of her time to this event. And a nod to Wes for delivering his talk on proverbs in Irish and English.

If you’d like to try the language out, or join our group, visit our homepage at www.gaelminn.org for information about our four-week "Introduction to Irish Gaelic" class offered through St. Paul Community Education. The class runs Monday evenings starting September 26. On-line registration opens the day after Labor Day, and you’ll find a link on our home page. Completing that class will allow you to join our ongoing Monday classes.

Is maith an t-iománaí an fear ar an gclaiá "He’s a great hurler, the man on the wall" (said of a spectator who has lots of comments, like a "Monday morning quarterback" or a "backseat driver")

— Will

www.IMDA-MN.org
Scottish Cèilidh

Friday, September 23, 2016 at 7:30 pm
The Celtic Junction
836 Prior Ave North, St. Paul
$7 at the door • Cash bar

7:30 - 8:30 pm
Open cèilidh - Come give us a song, a story, play a tune (sign up at the door)

8:45 - 10:00 pm
Enjoy Scottish cèilidh dancing with music by Neil Gunn & The Gunn Slingers!

For more information, contact Laura at laura@lauramackenzie.com or 651-398-5055

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

www.IMDA-MN.org
Thursday Night

SHINDIG

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC
EVERY THURSDAY AT 7PM
A SESSION OF AUTHENTIC IRISH ARTISTS REVIVING THE ART OF TRAD
ENJOY A GENUINE IRISH EXPERIENCE OF FOOD, DRINK & MUSIC FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR FRIENDLY LOCAL! THE PERFECT START TO THE WEEKEND

#THURSDAYISTHENEWFRIDAY

CLADDAGH IRISH PUB - MAPLE GROVE
7890 MAIN STREET NORTH
MAPLE GROVE, MN 55369 | 763-773-7400

www.IMDA-MN.org
BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD SHOE

On Saturday, September 17th, two Twin Cities Irish cultural powerhouses will be teaming up to put on an incredible night of Irish entertainment to mark the halfway point to St. Patrick’s Day. Between a Rock and Hard Shoe is a compilation between the band Wild Colonial Bhoys and dance group Rince na Chroi and will happen at Concordia University’s EM Pearson Theatre.

RNC dancers joined WCB during a performance at the Irish Fair of MN in 2015 in what was one of the highlights of the weekend for both groups and for the audience. That was followed by RNC inviting WCB to perform as part of the dance group’s annual From the Stage to Your Heart show in February. “The Wild Colonial Bhoys were a wonderful addition to our annual show. The dancers had a blast working with them, and I got so much feedback from audience members about what a great energy they added to the show,” commented RNC’s Spangler. Again, there was a real connection between the dancers and the band and between the performers and the audience. So Katie Stephens Spangler, director of RNC and Adam Coolong, of WCB, decided to try and put together a show that would be equal parts of each.

That is the idea that is reflected in the name of the show. It is a hat tip to what each group is best identified with (WCB – Rock and RNC – Hard Shoe). “We love doing these shows with Rince na Chroi because the crowds love the dancers! You can actually feel the excitement ratchet up a notch, which only helps us bring the energy. They do a great job,” said WCB’s Coolong. The show is expected to be a full night of quality Irish entertainment for all ages. Additionally, a reception before the show will give audience members a chance to mix and mingle with some of the night’s performers.

The presenting sponsor for the show is Bennett’s Chop and Railhouse and that will serve as the location of the post-show party for anyone who isn’t ready to go home after the show is over. The show is also sponsored by Cara Irish Pubs, Homestead Remodeling and Construction, Emerald Real Estate, Eileen’s Colossal Cookies and the Irish Fair of Minnesota.

Tickets are available now online at www.ticketworks.com.

Contacts:
Katie Stephens Spangler
612-590-9478
katie@rincenachroi.com  www.rincenachroi.com

Adam Coolong
612-802-4886
adam@wildcolonialbhoys.com  www.wildcolonialbhoys.com
IMDA Honors

John McCormick

Irish Music and Dance Association is delighted to recognize the lifelong devotion and commitment that this wonderful musician and teacher has made to Irish music and to the Twin Cities community.

Save the Date!
Saturday evening,
November 19
at the Celtic Junction.
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<td>25 Noon: Traditional Session Keegan’s Pub, Mpls</td>
<td>26 7pm 4th Monday Shanty/Pub Sing Merlins Rest, Mpls</td>
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I generally review newer releases, but occasionally a backlist book draws my attention. Now that the nights are coming sooner and there's a nip in the air, *Mary Reilly* seems the perfect read for a chilly night. A retelling of the classic horror story of Robert Louis Stevenson's book *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, the story is told from the viewpoint of an intelligent and literate Irish servant, Mary Reilly. Mary keeps a diary of the strange goings-on in the proper middle-class Victorian home she serves, where the staff becomes increasingly wary and frightened of the strange visitor to the kindly doctor they serve. Mary's own name for Dr. Jekyll is Master, and she is increasingly drawn into his secret life, although she has misgivings about her furtive errands on his behalf into unsavory parts of London. The backstairs view of devoted servants and their masters, and their roles in Victorian life allows a fresh take on an old classic. *Mary Reilly* is both a remarkable double portrait of a brilliant man and his astute servant, and an authentically detailed historical novel of Victorian London and the undercurrents of psychological entanglements. Read it for a shivery good time.

*Sherry Ladig, Saint Paul trad-based musician, is a former reviewer for the Hungry Mind Bookstore’s newsletter, Fodder. Sherry welcomes suggestions for books of Irish or Irish-American interest for her to review---or, write one yourself! Sherry may be reached at ladig-dunquin@msn.com. Happy autumnal reading!*
Irish Music & Dance Association

Come, Showcase Your Talents at

When: Saturday, September 24, 2016
Where: The St. Paul RiverCentre
175 Kellogg Boulevard, Downtown St. Paul

What: In addition to Irish Dance Competitions, We Host Irish Music and Arts Competitions

- Music - Instrumental and Vocal
- Irish Themed Visual Arts - Photography, Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Crop Art... You can even surprise us!
- Traditional Irish Needlework - Weaving, Knitting, Sewing, Embroidery, Lace...
- Irish Soda Bread - Traditional Brown, Traditional White and Non-Traditional

Open to All Ages - Dancers and Non-Dancers

Cost: Music & Vocal - $8.00 per Competition*
Visual Arts, Needlework & Soda Bread - $6.00 per Competition*

*PLUS $20.00 Event Registration Fee

How: Find more competition details on our Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Minnesota-Feis/855749106460845

To Register, Visit our Official Website: http://www.theminnesotafeis.org/syllabus-registration.html

Questions? Need Help With Registration?
Contact Sally Evans - stpaulsally@gmail.com
www.IMDA-MN.org
Irish Music &
Dance Association

Northwoods Songs: Irish Songs from Lumberjacks and Great Lakes Sailors
By Brian Miller

Northwoods Songs features a new song each month pulled from my research into old songs collected in the pine woods region that stretches from New Brunswick west through northern Minnesota. In the 1800s, a vibrant culture of singing and song-making developed in lumber camp bunkhouses and on Great Lakes ships. The repertoire and singing style were greatly influenced by Irish folk repertoire and Irish singing styles. Many singers in the region had Irish background themselves.

Each installment of Northwoods Songs is also published online at www.evergreentrad.com along with a video of me singing the song of the month. My hope is that others will learn some of these songs and make them their own as I have. -Brian Miller

LOST ON THE LADY ELGIN

Freely

Up from the poor man’s cottage, forth from the mansion door,
Sweeping across the water and echoing along the shore,
Caught by the morning breezes, borne on the evening gale,
Came at the dawn of morning a sad and solemn wail.

REFRAIN
More Slowly

Lost on the Lady Elgin, sleeping to wake no more,
Num‘bring in death five hundred — that failed to reach the shore.

Up from the poor man’s cottage, forth from the mansion door,
Sweeping across the water and echoing along the shore,
Caught by the morning breezes, borne on the evening gale,
Came at the dawn of morning a sad and solemn wail.
Refrain—

Lost on the Lady Elgin, sleeping to wake no more,
Numbering in death five hundred that failed to reach the shore.

Sad was the wail of children, weeping for parents gone,
Children that slept at evening, orphans woke at morn;
Sisters for brothers weeping, husbands for missing wives,
These were the ties that were severed by those five hundred lives.

Staunch was the noble steamer, precious the freight she bore,
Gaily they loosed their cables a few short hours before,
Proudly she swept our harbor, joyfully rang the bell,
Little they thought ere morning it would peal so sad a knell.

We return this month to the song “Lost on the Lady Elgin” from the repertoire of Minnesota singer Michael Dean. The song depicts the outpouring of grief that followed the tragic sinking of the side-wheel passenger steamer Lady Elgin in Lake Michigan 156 years ago in September 1860. The ship’s loss struck a particularly painful blow to the Irish community of Milwaukee’s Third Ward as many of the doomed passengers hailed from that area. The Lost Forty was in Milwaukee ourselves last month for their annual Irish Fest and we videotaped our version of the song in the historic Third Ward on the banks of Lake Michigan (check it out at www.evergreentrad.com).

Michael Dean’s older brother James came to Milwaukee around 1865 and lived in the Seventh Ward—just north of the Third. James Dean served a long career as conductor for the Milwaukee Railroad. It is possible that Michael learned the song during a trip to visit his brother though the song also travelled all around the US and Canada and was popular throughout the Great Lakes region especially.

Since I began singing The Lady Elgin I have met people who have stories about family members singing the song and, in the case of one audience member I met at the Minnesota Irish Fair last year, an ancestor who was lost in the wreck itself.
Smidirini*  
(*Irish for ‘Bits and Pieces’)  
By Copper Shannon

♦ Welcome to the new Merlin’s Rest Folk Club! This is an outgrowth of the regular Merlins Rest Pub Sings. According to Chuck Lentz (who will be singing on Sept. 8), “This is a classic folk club program with a very comfortable vibe. The music is friendly, informal, and close-up.” For those not familiar with the folk club tradition, it includes songs from a few “floor singers” and a planned presentation from one or two featured singers. The September event features Chuck and Sherry Minnick. Updates on future events are posted on Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/groups/154141534618910/ (and on the IMDA calendar!)

♦ Welcome back to regular traditional music at the Claddagh Irish Pub in Maple Grove! According to the folks at Claddagh: “Come join us at the pub for Traditional Irish music every Thursday at 7pm! A session of authentic Irish artists from the Twin Cities area, reviving the art of Trad! Enjoy a genuine Irish experience and an evening of food, drink & music from the comfort of your friendly local! The perfect start to your weekend! #thursdayisthenewfriday.” IMDA Educational Grant recipients Knotted Clover and IMDA Honoree Paddy O’Brien have already been featured. Keep on eye on the Claddagh Facebook page for your favorites – or just stop by and be surprised.

♦ Best wishes to The Dubliner’s hosts Tom Scanlon and Geri Connolly Scanlon. The Dubliner Café is open and looking great! Have a bite in the Cafe from 7 am to 2 pm, and food is available in the Pub from 11 am to 10 pm. The Irish Cream French Toast is amazing!

The Center for Irish Music
Come check us out at
The Celtic Junction
836 Prior Avenue, St Paul MN

Please check the website for information on our full range of instruction in traditional Irish music, language , culture and fun.

For class schedule and other information call or email
651-815-0083 admin@centerforirishmusic.org

Or visit our website
www.centerforirishmusic.org

Dedicated to Handing Down the Tradition
Irish Céilí Dance:

Irish Dance Classes:
Céilí Dancing - Wednesday Nights

Dubliner Irish Pub - 2162 University Avenue in Saint Paul. Learn Irish dancing in a genuine Irish pub with a wooden floor that has known a whole lot of dancing feet. Steps and dances are taught by Paul McCluskey and Kirsten Koehler. Basic beginning steps are taught beginning at 7:00, with advanced lessons and dancing continuing until 9:30 PM. Year-round; no children, and must be of legal drinking age. Free.

Set Dancing - Tuesday Nights

Dubliner Irish Pub - 2162 University Avenue in Saint Paul. Set Dancing at 7:30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, music by the Twin Cities Ceili Band. The cost is $5 for the band, beginners welcome, for more information call Geri at the Dubliner (651)646-5551.

Check [www.lomamor.org](http://www.lomamor.org) for all up-to-date Irish folk dancing information.

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**Update on IMDA Membership**

The Irish Music and Dance Association would like to remind members of a change in policy regarding membership. Because of rising costs in printing and postage, the Irish Music and Dance Association asks that members who want to receive their newsletter by U S mail support the IMDA by contributing at least $35 a year. All members have the option of receiving their newsletter by e-mail for faster delivery and color photos! We welcome your financial support of the IMDA at any level and that support helps us continue our work to promote Irish music and dance in the Twin Cities and beyond. You may also become a newsletter-only member without making a financial contribution. Whichever membership option you choose, we appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at a concert or dance event soon!

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**Name:**
**Today’s Date:**

**Address:**
**Where did you hear about us?**

**Membership Type (circle one)**

Supporting
- Support Level _______
- Corporate
- Newsletter

**Interests (circle all that apply)**

- Music
- Dance
- Theatre
- Gaelic
- Volunteer

**E-mail Address:**
**Phone Number:**

Your monthly newsletter is delivered electronically via e-mail. Please advise us at [info@IrishMusicandDanceAssociation.org](mailto:info@IrishMusicandDanceAssociation.org) if your e-mail address changes.

Supporting members who contribute at least $35 annually may receive their newsletter by U S Mail.

___ Request US Mail

Tear out the above form and send it with a check made out to “IMDA” to:

The IMDA Membership Coordinator c/o Jan Casey
400 Macalester St.
St. Paul, MN 55105

Revised 11/2013