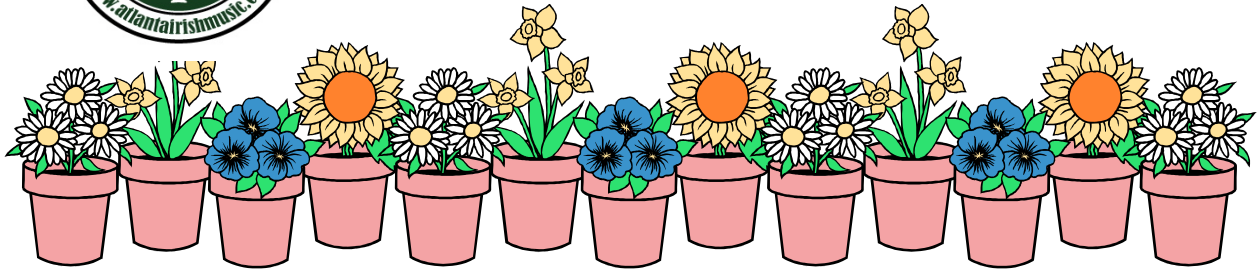




## Irish Arts Foundation of Atlanta April 2008 Newsletter



*The IAF is a North Metro Atlanta organization that promotes traditional Irish music in our North Metro Atlanta neighborhoods.*

### **South East Tionol – Music Workshops & Concert – April 18–20**

Now that St. Patrick's Day is over and you've got dreams of chocolate bunnies in your head, its time to think about the next big Irish music event of the year!

Please join us for the South East Tionol, **April 18th - 20th in Roswell, GA.** We've got a great line up of instructors with Tommy Martin, Kieran O'Hare, Liz Knowles, and John Skelton.

The fun will start Friday night with a session at the Harp Pub, then workshops and a concert on Saturday, followed by more sessions back at the Harp.

Sunday we close with another round of workshops. Registration is now open for the 2008 South East Tionol, presented by the South East Uilleann Piper's Club April 18-20 at the Roswell Doubletree Hotel and nearby venues. Go to <http://www.southeastpipersclub.org> to register online or for directions and hotel info. The Tionol will begin with a welcoming session at the Harp Pub on Friday evening, April 18. Workshops in Uilleann Pipes, Fiddle, Whistle and Flute will take place at the Doubletree Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10-1, and there is a concert scheduled for Saturday night at the Red Door Playhouse beginning at 8 p.m.

This year's faculty includes Tommy Martin and Kieran O'Hare (pipes), Liz Knowles (fiddle) and John Skelton (flute & whistle).

On Sunday, our piping instructors will lead a couple of specialty workshops.

Tommy Martin will lead a workshop on Slow Airs. The objective is to teach you how to teach yourself to learn slow airs from recordings of other musicians and singers. Recordings of 5 songs and 5 pipers playing them will be presented (e.g. Bonny Bunch of Roses, Donal Og, Aisling Geal, A Stor Mo Chroi and The Parting Glass) With the exception of one, these songs are in English so it will be easier to follow the syllabic structure and emotive phrasing of the song. After examining these songs, other airs that don't have any words will be examined to see what can be done to interpret them as well as we can. Tommy will also spend time on the physical elements of playing airs on the pipes such as tone coloring, vibrato (if and when), octave control, drone control, and

regulator use.

Kieran O'Hare will lead a workshop on Listening and Learning: Techniques of the Master Pipers. Listen to recordings of some of the masters of piping including Tommy Reck, Willie Clancy, and Seamus Ennis as Kieran identifies and interprets their techniques. How and when should you incorporate these techniques into your own piping will be discussed. Kieran has a tremendous collection of classic recordings which highlight and contrast aspects of various piping styles. The class will also explore how to effectively listen to piping on recorded sources in order that students might get the maximum benefit from the vast audio resources available to pipers.



Tommy Martin took his first Uilleann Pipes lesson from Dublin piper, Mick O'Brien, a cousin, in 1984 at the age of 12. By 1988, with the great help of Mick's tuition and guidance he won first place at the Annual Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann in the 15 -18 age group Uilleann Pipes competition, and again in 1991 in the senior competition. Tommy is also an experienced uilleann pipes teacher. He has tutored students all over Ireland, England, New Zealand and now the US. Tommy was teacher of the advanced uilleann pipes class in Na Piobairi Uilleann, Dublin up until he moved to St Louis in 2003. His first solo CD, "Uilleann Piper", was released in 2000 and Tommy can be also heard on 12 other albums as a guest musician. Tommy's second album, "Shady Woods", was released in Dec 2005. That month (and again last December) he toured as a guest with traditional band Teada as they celebrated their "Irish Christmas in America" tour. Other guests were Grainne Hambly on harp and singer Cathie Ryan. Tommy now lives in St. Louis Missouri where, while not traveling, he now works for St. Louis Irish Arts teaching Irish traditional music on fiddle, flute, and Uilleann Pipes. He also makes tin whistles.



Kieran O'Hare is a native of Kansas. He was born into a musical Irish-American family and began to play the pipes, concert flute, and the tin whistle while in his early teens. He moved to Dublin, Ireland, in 1991, where he received a degree in Modern History from Trinity College, Dublin. While living in Ireland, Kieran was a teacher of the pipes at Na Piobairi Uilleann, The Pipers' Club, and also at the annual Willie Clancy School of Irish Music. He has taught at Swannanoa's Celtic Week for four years. In 1994, Kieran received the honor of being the first American-born Irish musician to be invited to perform in the annual "Ace and Deuce of Piping" concert, held in Ireland's National Concert Hall. Kieran has also worked extensively in designing music for the stage, and was the featured piper for Seamus Egan's score for the Irish dance show, Dancing on Dangerous Ground, which premiered in London's West End.



John Skelton is considered one of the finest flute players currently performing, and is probably best known to American audiences from his work with The House Band, with whom he has recorded six albums on the Green Linnet label. He has also released a solo album, One At a Time. John has performed at most of the major folk festivals in North America and Europe including Vancouver, Edmonton, Edinburgh, Sidmouth and Philadelphia. He is an experienced teacher, and has taught at the Augusta Heritage Center, summer schools in the United States, Europe and Africa, and seven

previous years at the Swannanoa Gathering. In addition to his background in Irish music, John is also well-schooled in the music of Brittany. He visits there regularly, and is a highly-regarded player of the Breton bombarde, a double-reed folk shawm. NPR's The Thistle and Shamrock described him as "the finest bombarde player outside of Brittany." He also plays the 'Piston' (Low Bombarde) and the 'Veuze' (the bagpipe of eastern Brittany). John acts as the 'Host' of Swannanoa's Celtic Week.

Liz Knowles is one of the few classical violinists to become adept at playing in an authentic Irish fiddling style. A highly accomplished musician whose background incorporates wildly diverse elements including classical, jazz and rock, Liz completed a music degree at SUNY Stony Brook, then moved to New York City where she performed everywhere from underground clubs to Lincoln Center. It was in New York that Liz fell under the spell of Irish music, and when the opportunity to play with Ensemble Galilei came along, she saw their approach as the perfect marriage of Early music, traditional Irish and Scottish and original tunes. Since then her career as a fiddler has included a stint with button accordion player John Whelan and two albums, *Flirting with the Edge* and *Celtic Crossroads* for Narada Records, a solo spot on the soundtrack of Neil Jordan's film, *Michael Collins*, a two-year run as the soloist with the international touring company of the Irish dance extravaganza *Riverdance*, an appearance as a member of the highly acclaimed "String Sisters" at the Celtic Connections Festival in Glasgow, Scotland in 2000 and 2001, recording as a guest soloist with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra (*Celtic Spectacular*, Tel Arc Records), and a year-long membership in the popular Irish-American women's ensemble, *Cherish the Ladies*. Liz has been an instructor at Swannanoa for a number of years.



## Of Note:

### From The Atlanta Irish Music School:



### The Georgia Celtic Camp '08

We'd like to invite you and your child to consider joining us this summer for a week of Celtic music, dance and fun. The Georgia Celtic Camp is day camp for students ages 4-15 years old and which focuses on the study of Celtic music, dance, sport, and cultural experiences. Sponsored by The Atlanta Irish Music School and The Atlanta Junior Ceili Band, the premiere Irish music school and performance group in Metro Atlanta, you don't have to be Irish or Scottish to join us for a week of music and dance fun!

Celtic Camp promotes and fosters a caring environment where students work in small group classes to study all aspects of Celtic culture. Students 7-15 yrs will have the opportunity to choose a focus class for the week: Fiddle, Flute, Concertina, Song and Irish Dance. All students will take Whistle,

Gaelic football and introduction to Ceili Dance. A special class entitled, Wee Ones, is offered for children 4-6 years old and will focus on Celtic Arts and Crafts, Storytelling, Dance, Song, Celtic Drumming and other fun activities.

I've listed some commonly asked questions below, but if you don't find an answer, don't hesitate to contact me personally. I love teaching Irish music and Celtic Camp is a unique opportunity for children in the North Georgia area to participate in a fun and life long pursuit of music and dance.

*Irish Music, Dance, Art, Sports and History!*



## **Alanta Irish Music School**

### ***NEW! ADULT CLASSES***

The Atlanta Irish Music School, home of the Atlanta Junior Ceili Band is enrolling new students for all classes January 12<sup>th</sup>. New this semester is 3 classes for adults. All classes meet at St. Andrew's Catholic in Roswell twice a month. For more information please visit: [www.atlantajuniorceiliband.com](http://www.atlantajuniorceiliband.com).

**Beginner Adult Whistle 10-11am:** This class will introduce or progress skills on the Tin Whistle. This accessible instrument opens a gateway into the other instruments of Ireland. Come learn this fun, social music with us! A tin whistle in the key of D is required. Please contact Gary if you need information on how to obtain a whistle. Teacher: Gary White

**Adult Irish Fiddle 9-10am:** This class will introduce classical violinist and non-Irish players to the technique, ornamentation bowing, repertoire and history of traditional Irish fiddle. This is a relaxed class to make Irish fiddle easy and accessible to all. Music will be taught in the traditional method-- by ear with sheet music give out after tunes are learned. Join us to learn the skills and techniques behind Irish fiddlers! Teacher: Katherine Irwin Thomas

**Celtic Song Class 9-10am:** Come learn songs a myriad of songs from your pub tune favorites to traditional songs in Irish Gaelic. This class is open to all ages! This will be a fun class class, where students learn songs, practice their singing skills and compile a song notebook to increase their song repertoire. Please bring an empty three ring note book and recording device. Teacher: Susan Moran

## **Join the Roswell Session Group on Yahoo!**

The Roswell Session now has a Yahoo! Groups page:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/roswellsession>

You can sign up to receive e-mail notices, participate in on-line group discussions, etc.

## **Alpharetta Session -- now on Saturdays**

An Irish Music Session for intermediate to advanced players is now being held on alternate (2nd and 4th) Saturdays at The Loafing Leprechaun at Windward Parkway (exit 11 off GA400) in Alpharetta from 6:30-9 p.m. Come out and make this newest addition to the North Fulton Irish music community a huge success -- and a new tradition. The Loafing Leprechaun is a smoke-free pub with a great menu, and kindly offers a drink tab and snacks to musicians. Fiddles, flutes, mandolins, whistles, tenor banjos, accordions, concertinas, uilleann pipes and bodhrans -- along with friends and family -- welcome!

The Alpharetta Irish Session is traditional Irish session open to all players, but is specifically geared toward intermediate and advanced musicians. The session is held the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 6:30-9 pm at The [Loafing Leprechaun](#) at Windward Parkway (exit 11 off GA400) in Alpharetta. This is a smoke-free pub with a great menu which offers a drink tab and snacks to musicians. Fiddles, flutes, mandolins, whistles, tenor banjos, accordions, concertinas, uilleann pipes and bodhrans welcome! We play traditional Irish tunes at a moderate to fast tempo.

If you are a student musician and have not attended an advanced session before, please read up on on them [here](#). This is a really nice article. Friends and families welcome!

**Loafing Leprechaun**  
**3070 Windward Plaza**  
**Alpharetta, GA 30005**  
**770-817-8600**

For more information, including directions, visit our website at [www.atlantairishmusic.com](http://www.atlantairishmusic.com) and click on "Alpharetta Session moves to Saturdays".



## Spring Workshops with Frank and Mary Hamilton



Learning to play a variety of music in the folk tradition with appropriate accompaniments for songs in a social environment.

**Sunday: 2:30PM to 4:30PM March 2nd through May 4th** in Decatur, conveniently located near downtown Decatur. (call /email for details/directions see below:)

**Ten two hour sessions:** one hour for instruction and the "Second-Half" for playing and singing the material learned.

This will be in an [acoustic music, multi-level setting](#) with a variety of instruments with emphasis on ensemble playing for the beginner, intermediate and more advanced student. This [method of teaching, made famous by Frank Hamilton](#), teaching founder of the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago, celebrating the 50th year as the most successful, longest operating non-profit music school in the country, which has served many who have gone on to celebrate our wonderful folk tradition. Join us in the excitement. This is a rare opportunity to learn with The Master Teacher and extraordinarily talented Frank Hamilton.

See video of Frank in Chicago on CBS: <http://cbs2chicago.com/video/?cid=11>  
Scroll to Dec. 09,2007 edition of 'Eye on Chicago: Old Town School of Folk Music'

The fee in advance is \$250.00. No refunds for missed classes; but, make-up material and assistance will be available during the "Second-Half".

**Contact: Frank and Mary Hamilton** [songlines@comcast.net](mailto:songlines@comcast.net) or: 404.748.9247 for information and location address.

## IAF 2008 Calendar

### April

April 18-20: The [South East Uilleann Piper's Club](#) Tionol and Concert. Registration is now open. The Tionol will be at the Doubletree Hotel in Roswell, GA and the Concert at the Red Door Playhouse in Roswell. Please visit [www.southeastpipersclub.org](http://www.southeastpipersclub.org) for more info.

Sunday 6th & 20th: The [Roswell Music Session](#) at The Harp Pub 5-7 pm (1st and 3rd Sunday of the month)

Sunday 13th: IAF meeting at the Harp Irish Pub in Alpharetta at 7 pm

Saturday 12th & 26th: The [Alpharetta Music Session](#) at The Loafing Leprechaun Pub, Alpharetta 6:30-9 pm (2nd and 4th Saturday of the month)

Friday 18th: The [South East Uilleann Piper's Club](#) Tionol welcoming Session at the Harp Pub.

Saturday 19th: The [South East Uilleann Piper's Club](#) Tionol concert at Red Door Playhouse 8-10 p.m.

## May

Celtic Festival TBA Atlanta

Ceili Dance TBA

Sunday 4th: IAF meeting at the Harp Irish Pub at 7 pm

Sunday 4th & 18th: The Roswell Music Session at The Harp Pub 5-7 pm (1st and 3rd Sunday of the month)

Saturday 10th & 24th: The Alpharetta Music Session at The Loafing Leprechaun Pub, Alpharetta 6:30-9 pm (2nd and 4th Saturday of the month)

**Remember IAF membership is only \$40 for a family and you'll get great discounts on events throughout the year!**

