



Irish Arts Foundation of Atlanta

May 2008 Newsletter



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

Dear IAF Members and Friends of Irish Music,

I want to thank you for supporting another great year of Irish Arts Foundation music activities in North Metro Atlanta. During the 2007-2008 school year, the IAF brought you the sold out Fall Concert featuring local bands and spectacular Irish step dancers, the Oisín Mac Diarmada Fiddle Concert and Workshops, the Atlanta Irish Music Competition and Concert featuring: Flute and fiddle duo- Kate and Jode Dowling and Eliot Grosso- piper. Further, IAF supported the Southeast Piper's Club Tíonal which featured another round of workshops and a fabulous concert from Tommy Martin (pipes), Kieran O'Hare (pipes), Liz Knowles (fiddle) and John Skelton (flute). In addition, we packed out The Harp Irish Pub for two sold out Ceili dances featuring Atlanta's own *fabulous*- Father O'Reilly Ceili Band.

I'd especially like to thank Mary Carey and Rob Roll for donating their professional skills as well as their time and also to Ken Mitteldorf, Tricia and Gary White, Lynette Maton, Julie Shirey and Jeff Finkelstein for all of their hard work and dedication on attending late meetings. Also, a warm thank you to Tim and Mary Hogan and John Robertson for their assistance at events, as well as to all IAF members that donated their assistance at the Atlanta Irish Music Competition this past February. Additional thanks to the Fr. O'Reilly Ceili Band, Susan Moran, dedicated session players and concert goers. Bringing great music and events to North Metro isn't just about board officers - an outstanding Irish music community is about everyone that participates!

Finally, I would like you to know that my husband and I are expecting our first child in August. While I am on maternity leave, Ken Mitteldorf, the IAF vice chair, will be taking hold of the reins. Please email Ken with any questions, concerns and ideas for the 2008- 2009 musical year. The IAF board always needs more officers and volunteers and I personally invite you to attend our meetings which are always posted on the IAF website: www.atlantairishmusic.com. It's you that makes us great-- so come out and join in the planning!

It's always been my goal that Irish music be a part of the North Metro community and that dream has become a reality. It's been a pleasure serving as your chairperson for the past three years and I look forward to more great Irish music concerts, workshops, and events to come.

Sincere Regards,

Katherine Irwin Thomas

Of Note:



From The Atlanta Irish Music School:

Congratulations to the following Atlanta Junior Ceili Band students who placed at The Mid Atlantic Fleadh, New York:

Annika VonGrey 1st Place Fiddle, 1st Place Fiddle Slow Airs, 3rd Place Duets.

Claire Shirey 2nd Place Concertina, 3rd Place Duets.

Both students have qualified for the [All- Ireland Competition in Tullamore, Ireland.](#)

We might be small in number in Atlanta, but we've got some awesome talent and some hard workers in AJCB!



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.

Contact: Katherine Irwin Thomas

atlantairishmusicschool@hotmail.com

p: 678-372-9494

Irish Music, Dance, Art, Sports and History!



Bill Whelan Luncheon

This is to draw your attention to a rare opportunity to hear in person one of the premier musicians of Ireland and the world, **Bill Whelan**, the Grammy Award-winning composer of Riverdance. Bill is the guest of honor at a luncheon sponsored by the Atlanta Chapter of the **Irish Chamber of Commerce – USA** that will be held at the **World Trade Center**, 303 Peachtree Street, NE, from **12:15 – 1:30 on Tuesday, May 13th**. He has agreed to answer questions about Riverdance, contemporary Irish culture in light of the Celtic Tiger, the experience of producing recordings for U2, Van Morrison and a host of other artists as well as his recent commission to write a piece of music theater for the Metropolitan Opera.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$25 for ICCUSA members and \$30 for all others and may be purchased at the door, starting at 11:30. Tickets may also be reserved in advance by contacting Denise Nielson at denisenielson@paulhastings.com or 404 – 815 – 6835.

In case you haven't heard, the **farewell tour of Riverdance** will be playing at the Fox Theatre from

May 13th – May 16th at 8 PM
May 17th at 2 PM and 8 PM
May 18th at 1 PM and 6:30 PM

Tickets may be purchased at the Fox Theater Box Office, at Ticketmaster outlets, or online at www.ticketmaster.com. You may also call 404 – 817 – 8700 to request tickets. All tickets at the two top price levels will receive \$5.00 off and a \$5.00 donation will be made to the W. B. Yeats Foundation. The password for making a donation is DANCE.

Paddy Keenan Concert!!!

Irish piper extraordinaire Paddy Keenan will appear along with critically acclaimed guitarist/ singer John Walsh at The Old Tucker Fountain, 2329 Main St. Tucker, GA on Wednesday, May 14th at 7:30pm.

Tickets are \$10 at the door. Space is limited - arrive early to secure a seat & dine on some of the best barbeque west of Ireland.

Or, RSVP to reserve seats by contacting:

tuckerfountain@bellsouth.net

Or call 770-493-8880

For more info on Paddy & info about Ireland's "Traveling People" go to his website:

<http://www.paddykeenan.com>

For info on John Walsh, go to

<http://web.mac.com/texwalsh/iWeb/johnwalshguitar.com/welcome.html>

Hope to see you there!

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 -- Cancelled

The Alpharetta music sessions have been cancelled. Please consider attending the Roswell session for a slow session format or the Fado sessions in Buckhead for an intermediate to advanced session.

IAF 2008 Calendar

May

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

Monday, May 5, 12, 19 & 26th **Buckhead Fado Session 8pm** - Please join players for an advanced Irish session every Monday night 8pm-midnight at the new Fado Pub in Buckhead.

June

No IAF meeting in June

Sunday 1st & 15th: **The Roswell Music Session** at The Harp Pub 5-7 pm (1st and 3rd Sunday of the month)

Monday, June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30th: **Buckhead Fado Session 8pm** - Please join players for an advanced Irish session every Monday night 8pm-midnight at the new Fado Pub in Buckhead.

July

No IAF meeting in July

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

Monday, July 7, 14, 21, & 28th : **Buckhead Fado Session 8pm** - Please join players for an advanced Irish session every Monday night 8pm-midnight at the new Fado Pub in Buckhead.

August

Sunday 3rd & 17th: **The Roswell Music Session** at The Harp Pub 5-7 pm (1st and 3rd Sunday of the month)

Monday, August 4, 11, 18 & 25th : **Buckhead Fado Session 8pm** - Please join players for an advanced Irish session every Monday night 8pm-midnight at the new Fado Pub in Buckhead.

Sunday 31st: IAF meeting at the Harp 7 pm
