
MOHAWK VALLEY IRISH CULTURAL EVENTS NEWSLETTER

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Glengarry Bhoys Join 2008 Festival Lineup

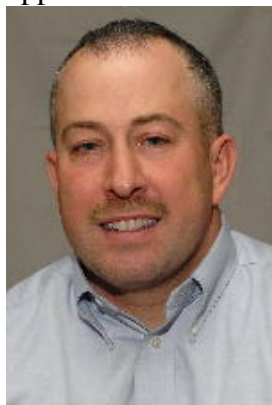
To paraphrase Thin Lizzy, "the Bhoys are back in town." The Glengarry Bhoys, who recently announced that they would no longer be performing due to health reasons, will be coming out of their short-lived retirement for a limited number of shows this year, and one of those special shows will be at the 2008 Great American Irish Festival. In October of last year, the Glengarry Bhoys, one of the most popular bands on the Irish festival circuit, announced that due to health issues concerning co-founder and leader, Graham Wright, the group had decided to disband, canceling all dates, including the Great American Irish Festival. Then, in early February, GAIF director Matthew Sullivan received a message that changed everything.

"I got a call from the agent for the Glengarry Bhoys, telling me that Graham's condition had improved to the point where they were planning on doing a limited number of performances this year, and that the Great American Irish Festival was number one on their list," said Sullivan. "The Glengarry Bhoys have been part of every Great American Irish Festival from its inception, and if they tell me they want in, they're in."

The Glengarry Bhoys have their roots in Glengarry, Ontario and their music draws on the unique blend of the French and Scottish musical heritage indigenous to the area. Their blend of traditional music, fused with the multicultural sounds of modern and contemporary Celtic music, has brought them international acclaim. The addition of the Glengarry Bhoys to a lineup that already includes such world-class acts as Cherish The Ladies, Eileen Ivers, The Prodigals, Enter the Haggis, The Elders, Hair of the Dog, the Barra McNeils, Rathkeltair and Greenwich Meantime cements the Great American Irish Festival's position as one of the preeminent Irish events in the nation.

GAIF Director Honored by Irish Echo

Great American Irish Festival Director Matthew Sullivan has been chosen from a list of hundreds of applicants to be honored as one of the "40 Under 40" top Irish-Americans by the largest Irish/American



newspaper in the country, the Irish Echo. As a recipient of the Irish Echo's 40 Under 40, Matt will appear with all the honorees at a reception presented by the Consul General of Ireland on Wednesday, February 27th from 5 to 7 pm at the Manhattan Club in New York City. Under his leadership, the Great American Irish Festival has, in just five years, become one of the Top 10 Festivals in the country, according to the U.S. Irish Festival Promoters Group. The 2007 GAIF was attended by 40,000 people and had 600 volunteers, and both numbers are expected to increase for this year's festival, scheduled for July 25-27 at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds in Frankfort. "Under Matt's leadership and vision we have become not only the fastest growing Irish event in the country, but have established a grass roots Irish culture, arts, and music community in Central New York," said GAIF Assistant Director Kevin Dowling. "We, too,

acknowledge and thank him for his tireless efforts and look forward to building on the past five years." The Echo award is just the latest in a line of honors for the GAIF founder. Sullivan was the recipient of the Utica Observer Dispatch's Accent on Excellence Award in 2007 and the Great American Irish Festival received the Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce Best Promotional Event of Year Award in 2006.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Continues to Grow

On Saturday, March 15th, downtown Utica will be the site of one of the area's most fun-filled family traditions: the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Presented for the first time by the Great American Irish Festival, the parade starts at 10:00 AM at Oneida Square and continues down Genesee St. to Columbia St.; with the Reviewing Stand once again located at the Stanley Theater. The parade, which last year was the third largest of its kind of the state, will be led by this year's Grand Marshal, **James R. Kellmurray**.



Parade Committee chairman Charles Thomas – a former Grand Marshal himself – is pleased with the progress being made thus far, but still is looking for volunteers and participants for this year's Parade. Volunteers are needed to serve as parade marshals and also to sell parade Merchandise along the parade route. For organizations, businesses or individuals interested in being part of the parade, categories include float, marching unit, vehicle, band and restaurant/tavern. For information, or to download a volunteer or participant application, visit www.gaif.us/parade. Sponsors, he reminds us, are also needed at all levels. If you'd like to know more, there will be an organizational meeting at 6:30 pm on Wednesday March 12th, at the Utica Maennerchor, Flanagan Road, Marcy; or you can contact Charley Thomas at (315) 796-9916.

By the way, if you should happen to seek out Charley on parade day, don't be surprised to see a totally bald guy turn around when you call his name. He is one of hundreds of people locally – men, women and children – who will be shaving their heads on St. Baldrick's Day, the "...world's largest event for combating childhood cancer." Want to know more? You'll learn all about this inspiring movement, and how you can become involved, later in this newsletter.



Parade Mascot Answers to No-One

The Utica St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is asking for your help in naming the St. Patrick's Day Parade mascot. Simply submit your choice for a name by going to the parade website at <http://www.gaif.us/parade/> and clicking on the "Name the Mascot Contest" link. The person whose name is chosen will win four weekend passes to the 2008 Great American Irish Festival, a bunch of GAIF merchandise and an honored spot in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Deadline for submissions is March 8, 2008.

Grand Marshal's Reception to be held at the Stanley

And in our final word on the Utica St. Patrick's Day Parade, the annual Grand Marshal's Reception – that beautiful ceremony which marks the traditional "passing of the shillelagh" from the previous parade Grand Marshal to this year's -- will be held on March 10, 2008, in the lobby of the newly renovated Stanley Theater. Last year's Grand Marshal, Bill Barry, will be on hand to do the honors, when – flanked by an assemblage of past Grand Marshals – he hands off the shillelagh to this year's Grand Marshal, Mr. Jim Kellmurray. The reception, which runs from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, costs \$5 and requires a ticket, which can be gotten from any of the parade organizers. Providing entertainment throughout the evening will be the Blarney Rebel Band.

Some Irish Myths Debunked

We all know our facts about Ireland, right? St. Patrick driving out all the snakes. Four leaf clovers. Corned beef. And all the great music: When Irish Eyes, I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen, Danny Boy.

Well, sorry to break the news, but this stuff is about as authentically Irish as Tom Cruise's accent in "Far and Away" ("DIS IS MOI LAHND!") Let's take a look.

The old joke goes "St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland but what he didn't tell you was he was the only one who saw any snakes." Well there's truth in that joke: there is no evidence whatsoever that there were ever snakes in post-glacial Ireland. Still, we Irish are never ones to let the truth get in the way of a good story and ordinarily we wouldn't quibble, but when it results from a bad translation, we can make an exception. While most historians claim that the snake myth is a metaphor for ridding Ireland of the serpent symbolism of the Druids practicing their religion at that time, I much prefer the explanation of Mike McCormack, national historian of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, who suggests the legend stems from the Viking misinterpretation of Saint Patrick's name. Paud in the old Norse language meant a toad, and when the Vikings heard of a saint called Paud-rig, who had lived in Ireland before their coming, they concluded it meant toad-expeller. Let's stick with the old story; somehow I can't see parades being held throughout the world to honor Saint Toad Expeller.

While on the subject of Ireland's patron saint, pretty much every Irish advertisement you see will have all the typical Irish symbols, rainbows, pot o'gold, leprechauns and four-leaf clovers. The problem is, legend has it that St. Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Christian concept of the Trinity to the pagans. Think about it: Trinity? Four-leaf clover? Do the math. Yes, the shamrock is actually a three-leaf clover. Four-leaf clovers may be especially lucky, but they're not a symbol of Ireland.

And, oh, those beautiful traditional Irish songs. Beautiful? Sure. Traditional Irish? Let's examine:

"I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen" was written by Thomas P. Westendorf, a German-American school teacher in Plainfield, Indiana, for his wife. Neither of them was born in or had ever been to Ireland. Incidentally, a little advice for future songwriters: if you tell your wife you wrote a song for her, it's probably a better idea to use her name instead of that of another woman. Thomas Westendorf's wife's name was actually Jenny.

For many people, Irish music means "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," but the song is actually as American as apple pie (which is arguably Dutch or German, but I digress.). It was written by American lyricists George Graff, Jr, Chauncey Olcott, who was born in Buffalo, and composer Ernest Ball, who was born in Cleveland, so perhaps they should have named it "When Lake Erie Eyes Are Smiling." OK, perhaps not. Olcott, incidentally, also wrote another song considered a traditional Irish classic, "My Wild Irish Rose," and was the first to have a huge hit with another tune of questionable Celtic origin, "An Irish Lullaby (Toora Looa Looa)"

Even that most quintessential of all Irish songs, "Danny Boy," although set to the Irish tune "Londonderry Air," contains lyrics originally written for a different tune by Frederick Weatherly who never actually visited Ireland and who was (gasp) English and (double gasp) a lawyer.

It all reminds me of many years ago when I first saw the Clancy Brothers. They were joined on stage by their young nephew Robbie O'Connell, who had recently arrived from Ireland. Robbie had the audience in stitches as he sang a song about when he first came over and tried to play real Irish music for American audiences who had their own ideas about what real Irish music consisted of:

*You're not Irish, you can't be Irish, you don't know "Danny Boy"
Or "Toora Looa Looa" or even "Irish Eyes"
You've got a hell of a nerve to say you came from Ireland
So cut out all the nonsense and sing "McNamara's Band"*

OK, I can hear you now, “Stop taking away all our fun! Just have a nice corned beef sandwich and relax.” Sorry, but that’s another one. Corned Beef has about as much to do with Ireland as it has to do with corn, which is to say, nothing. In the late 1800’s, Irish immigrants living in New York City’s Lower East Side were looking for an inexpensive substitute for their own boiling bacon they had in Ireland and learned about this cheaper alternative from their Jewish neighbors, who cured the beef much the same way the Irish had cured their pork. The Irish added cabbage and root vegetables while cooking the Corned Beef and made it their own. A little limerick (don’t even get me started on that) from a gentleman named Frances Shilliday tells the story:

*“I just want to put something straight
About what should be on your plate,
If it's corned beef you're makin'
You're sadly mistaken
That isn't what Irishmen ate.”*

One final myth to debunk: it’s not “Irish” to get drunk, belligerent and obnoxious on St. Patrick’s Day. The Irish celebrated their patron saint with a quiet religious holiday for centuries, perhaps more than 1,000 years, until we here in the States turned St. Patrick’s Day into a day of drunken debauchery. Let’s celebrate it the traditional Irish way this year. Celebrate your Irish heritage, drink responsibly, no trouble, no fights. And no green beer; green beer is a sin and an insult to beer.

Irish Breakfast, Hooley to Benefit “Project Children”

On March 2, 2008, the John C. Devereux chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will be hosting a combination Traditional Irish Breakfast/Hooley to benefit “Project Children,” at the Maennerchor, on Flanagan Rd. in Marcy. The day starts at 9:00 with Charley Thomas’ famous Traditional Irish Breakfast, consisting of two eggs, Irish bacon, Irish Sausage, Black and White Pudding, two kinds of Irish Soda bread, a Broiled Tomato, toast, and coffee or tea, all for the low price of \$7.00. If you or any family members aren’t feeling particularly continental, “American” breakfasts will also be available for the same price. The breakfast proper ends at noon, at which time the party goes upstairs, where the **Blarney Rebel Band** will be entertaining at an afternoon Hooley (noon to 4 PM). Also performing at the Hooley will be the Dugan Branch of **Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann**. There will be a bar, and a \$5 cover charge (“recommended donation”), although if you’ve already paid for the breakfast, there is no additional charge to attend the Hooley. So to summarize for those of you who are saving their “math cells” for their taxes, here it is: You can come for just the morning (\$7), or you can come for just the Hooley (\$5), or you can come for both (\$7). [Note for those of you who are doing their taxes: $5 + 7 = 7$ ONLY in this context]. Project Children is an American-Northern Ireland partnership dedicated to showing Protestant and Catholic kids that they have nothing to fear from each other and much to gain.

America's Greatest Heart Run and Walk – You Can Make a Difference

Saturday, March 8th, marks the 34th year of America’s Greatest Heart Run and Walk, and 38 years of the Heart Radiothon. The Heart Run and attendant activities help fund life-saving research in the fight against heart disease and stroke, having raised millions of dollars in the Utica area alone... and this year you can help the Heart Association reach its \$1.1 million goal, while celebrating your Irish heritage at the same time.

Last year, Amber Finnegan put together “Team Irish,” comprised of members of the Irish community from Utica and beyond, raising over \$5000 for the cause. This year, in addition to “Team Irish,” the Great American Irish Festival has formed a new team, “Team GAIF,” with Susan Smith as team captain. Whether you decide to run with or support Team Irish or Team GAIF, know that the Heart Association is the real winner. Why not sign up today? (<http://heartwalk.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=238784>)

Bald is Beautiful

In the Events Calendar that appears at the end of this newsletter, you'll see on Sunday, March 9th, a rather cryptic reference to an event at Kitty Hoyne's called "St. Baldrick's Day Fundraiser." No, it is not another St. Patty's Day party... it's much more noble than that. What it is is one of hundreds of fundraisers organized by the St. Baldrick's Foundation, whose mission is "...to raise awareness and funds to Conquer Kids' Cancer by shaving heads on St. Baldrick's Day [usually the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day]." What started nine years ago as a friendly challenge between three Long Island men has grown into the world's largest event for combating childhood cancer. Since that first "dare," St. Baldrick's Day fundraisers around the world have raised over \$20 million for the CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation and the CureSearch Children's Oncology Group. And this year, two of our own local celebrities are undergoing the barber's blade: the always entertaining **Donal O'Shaughnessy**... and the always charitable **Charley Thomas**. If you've ever been on the receiving end of one of Charley's barbs... now's the time to make him face the barber. If you've ever been forced to listen to one of his terrible puns, now you get to watch him try to shave himself. And if you simply want to do something nice for kids you'll never meet, well, Charley is sacrificing his handsome locks to give you that chance. To get involved in Kitty Hoyne's fundraiser or for more information on this worthy cause, check out www.stbaldricks.org. (Charley's link is at http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/shavee_info.html?ParticipantKey=2008|29691, and Donal's is http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/shavee_info.html?ParticipantKey=2008|22274). If you can't attend (or don't want to get shaved), donations are welcomed.



"North Country Goes Green" Irish Festival

From March 14-16, Watertown plays host to the 23rd annual "North Country Goes Green Irish Festival," at the State Office Building. The festival, promising three days of constant musical entertainment, supports **Project Children**, raising money to bring children from Northern Ireland to Northern New York for four weeks in the summer. This year's festival features a lineup that includes the return of the very popular Searson, Barley Juice, Ceili Rain, Cliudan, Seanache, The Terry Mostyn Band, Kyndryd and more. Admission to the festival is \$5/person, with children 12 and under admitted free if accompanied by a parent. For additional information, visit <http://www.northcountrygoesgreen.com>.

From the Irish Kitchen (*recipes suitable for clipping*)

This month's recipe – "Frozen Black Irish"

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 part Coffee Liqueur
- 1 part Irish Cream
- 1 part Vodka
- 1 to 2 Scoops Chocolate Ice Cream

PREPARATION:

Mix ingredients in a blender and then add ice. Blend until smooth.
Yields a mocha milk shake that sneaks up on you. Very rich.

If you try this recipe, feel free to share your experience with all of us; and of course, if you have a recipe you'd like to share, please contact Beth Loftis at bloftis@verizon.net.

Book Review:
“Kilbrack”
Submitted by Mark Sisti

O’Leary Montagu, the protagonist of Jamie O’Neill’s “Kilbrack,” was born at the age of twenty-five. That phrase alone will give you some idea of what you’re in for when you pick up this hilarious yet poignant black comedy, written in 1990 but just recently released in the United States following the critical success of O’Neill’s 2002 novel, *At Swim, Two Boys*.

We meet the sometimes infuriating but always fascinating O’Leary as he’s traveling by train to the village of Kilbrack. Eventually – in this novel, nothing is given up easily; everything comes eventually – we learn that O’Leary lost his memory after a near-fatal car accident, which left him with facial scars, as well as other scars we only come to understand later. References to an unseen but indispensable character named Mary, the nurse who took him in and gave him his name after his accident, offer further hints to O’Leary’s past. He has an extensive list of quirks and strange compulsions. He is continuously making “diary memos” in his head (sometimes in pulp fiction detective style language); he constantly clutches in his pocket his version of a security blanket, a mysterious “lemon jiffy”; and he must wait five full minutes before entering a public toilet to be certain no one is inside. But none of these can compare with his obsession with a book titled “*Ill Fares the Land*”, an apparently self-published memoir of its author’s idyllic childhood in Kilbrack. The novel so captivates him that he sets out for Kilbrack to meet the author and write her biography. *Ill Fares the Land* – which O’Leary has read 1,023 times – had led him to expect a ghost town; instead, he finds a reasonably bustling hamlet still occupied by the book’s characters.

We quickly discover that the denizens of Kilbrack are as idiosyncratic as O’Leary Montagu, and they each have their own bizarre obsessions. A pharmacist who was unable to fulfill his mother’s wish that he become a doctor calculates everything on the basis of Saint’s feast days; middle-aged unmarried Bridie O’Toole has a phobia about buttons; widowed Charity Cuthbert may or may not have killed her vicar husband, and is considering selling her land to a monsignor who hopes to corner the hamburger market; her beautiful, headstrong daughter Livia is threatening to become a nun to make her mother pay for forcing her to convert to Catholicism; and elderly recluse Valentine Brack, who lives alone with his dog Nancy, compulsively scribbles volume after volume of tales of his unsatisfactory life and adheres to his belief that “history ends with me.”

But O’Leary’s arrival in Kilbrack sets in motion irrevocable changes for everyone in the town, changes and growth that can’t occur until they all can break free of the control these quirks have over them. In one scene, O’Leary loses his “lemon jiffy” and it rolls under a door. He sticks his hand through and grabs the object, but can’t fit his hand and the jiffy both through the gap: “Only by letting it go could he himself be free.” When he faces his ultimate life-changing confrontation, “he had neither jiffy nor book to comfort him.” The talismans and mantras around which he has built his life turn out to be walls that have allowed him to maintain his protective delusions, but he can’t discover who he really is until he manages to shed those delusions. Similarly, it’s only when the other characters also let go of the compulsive behaviors behind which they have hidden that they too can be free to live their lives.

“Kilbrack” is an outrageous yet heartwarming book, skillfully blending slapstick with absurdist drama. It is a testimony to O’Neill’s skill that the story manages to develop and gain in emotional depth and complexity without ever slacking the frantic comic pace. O’Leary Montagu is one of the most memorable characters you will meet, vulnerable, neurotic, bumbling, and endearing, and his story is both a moving search for one’s history and home and an examination of illusion and self-delusion in a world where nothing is as it seems. You may, in fact, be tempted to go back over earlier passages after you finish, since events that unfold in the telling of the story shine a different light on earlier references which may not have made sense, or whose significance could not have been grasped at the time. Go ahead, reread. You could do a lot worse.

We've got Mail! We received a really cool letter the other day. Apparently, there is a free vacation in a Florida oceanside suite waiting just for us... and all we have to do is call!! Oh yeah, we also received the following letter:

Hi Mark,

I just wanted to thank you and your colleagues for putting together the newsletter. It's a great resource for finding all the Irish events in the Rome/Utica/Syracuse/Albany areas, and I enjoy the recipes, "ramblings," and other related information too.

I especially wanted to let you know how much I enjoy your book reviews.

I'm a librarian of Irish heritage, so this is just my kind of thing!

I've gotten some great ideas for future reading (most of which I haven't had time to read yet, but someday...)

I wanted to recommend My Lady Judge: A Mystery of Medieval Ireland by Cora Harrison. It's a historical mystery set in 1509, and I learned a lot about the Irish justice system of the time from this book (very different from the English).

Also, I work at Jervis Public Library in Rome, and we're having a book discussion of Ireland by Frank Delaney on Mon. 3/24 at 6:30 PM. I haven't read it yet, but I've heard a lot of good things about it (I just read your review of the follow-up, Tipperary). The discussion's open to the public; we have light refreshments (tea/coffee and probably scones for this one), and they usually last about an hour. I don't know if this is the kind of thing you would usually include in your newsletter, but feel free to include it if you'd like!

Thanks!

*Mary Beth Portley, Librarian
Jervis Public Library
613 N. Washington St.
Rome NY 13440*

“...Include it if we'd like”?? Of course we will! We're in a great mood; we've just won a free vacation!

RANDOM RAMBLINGS

✠ **Book Discussion** Mary Beth Portley, Librarian at the Jervis Public Library in Rome, writes that they're having a book discussion of "Ireland" by Frank Delaney on Monday, March 24th at 6:30 PM. The discussion – which usually lasts about an hour -- is open to the public; and light refreshments will be served (tea/coffee and probably scones for this one). This gives you a good three weeks to read the book and be able to contribute mightily to the discussion... or you could "cheat" and check out what Mark wrote about the book, in a Book Review published in the June 2006 issue of MVICE.

✠ **St. Patrick's Day Kickoff Concert** Unity Hall in Barneveld will be the site of a St. Patrick's Day Kickoff Concert on March 8th, with local favorites **The Blarney Rebel Band**, and performances and demonstrations by the **Butler-Sheehan Academy of Irish Dance**. Tickets for the 7 PM concert are \$12 general admission, and \$10 in advance or for members. Unity Hall is located at 101 Vanderkemp Ave in Barneveld. For more information, check out www.unityhall.com.

✚ **Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub Parade Party** Besides his general Irish Happy Hour, head hog Pat McCann really does it up at the Pickled Pig Pub on Parade Day. This year, Parade Day starts with Pat waking up as always, thinking about the Blarney Rebel Band... and the pub's entry in the Tavern Float Competition. He won't tell anyone what the theme of the float is, but he tells us that in addition to the Blarney Rebel Band, the float will feature "The Worlds Largest Leprechaun." I don't know what that means, but I'm already frightened. After the parade, at 1:30 or so, world famous Irish balladeer Vince Colgan will charm you until about 5:00 At about 5:30, Pat will bring in "...the beautiful music and terrible jokes of [the by-then-bald] Donal O'Shaughnessy." All this – and his famous corned beef and green beer – make for a fun day at the pub. And as Pat describes it, by spending lots of money, you're doing something nice for the Piggy Pat's Operation Fund (that is, funds will go to the many community organizations needed to help the continued operation of Piggy Pat's; for example, utilities companies, banking institutions, tax collectors, etc.). Won't you do your part?

✚ **O'Shaughnessy's Shenanigans** Donal O'Shaughnessy reprises his annual Celtic revue, "O'Shaughnessy's Shenanigans," as part of Beck's Grove's Chatham Theater series. From March 5th through the 17th, Donal will be regaling attendees at Beck's Grove Dinner Theater (4286 Oswego Road, Blossvale, NY) with two acts of Irish folks and follies and "...more songs and jokes than you can swing a shillelagh at." The show begins at 2 PM each day.

✚ **Irish Dinner** St. Joseph's Choir will present an Irish dinner at 5, 6 and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at the St. Joseph's Parish Center, 5748 Stokes-Lee Center Road. The dinner will feature Irish stew or corned beef. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children age 10 and older. Baby-sitting will be available. Advanced sale tickets only. For reservations, call 337-6678.

✚ **Music of the Season** There is so much going on this month, in order to keep the newsletter to a manageable heft, we're going to list some of the many events going on in the general area. Note: Not all of these will be listed in the Celtic Club Calendar at the end of the newsletter... so be sure to give this section a pretty good looking over:

➤ **The Clancy Tradition** On Sunday, March 16th, The Clancy Tradition comes to the Towne Crier Café, in Pawling NY. The present day Clancy Tradition consists of Eugene Clancy on guitar and vocals, his daughter Rosemary on fiddle and mandolin, son John Clancy on bass, Patrick on vocals and piano, Pat's daughter Liadain singing vocals and Mike Melanophy on button accordion. The ensembles' sound is rooted in the traditional Irish style, although the groups' repertoire is peppered with French waltzes, American folk songs and Scottish influences. Tickets for the 4 PM show are \$25 in advance, and \$30 at the door. Children under 12 are \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door.

➤ **Lúnasa** On Sunday, March 9th, Lúnasa will be performing at the Night Eagle Café in Binghamton. Named for an ancient Celtic harvest festival in honor of the Irish god Lugh, patron of the arts, Lúnasa is indeed a gathering of some of the top musical talents in Ireland. Folk Roots magazine has rightly termed them an "Irish music dream team." Tickets for the 8 PM show are \$30, although they can be had for \$5 less if bought [on line](#). The Night Eagle Café is located at 200 State Street Binghamton, NY.

➤ **Leahy** I'll say it again: Leahy. On Friday, March 14, at 8:00 PM, the Canadian powerhouse family of eight musical brothers and sisters will be bringing their show to Proctor's Theater in Schenectady, NY. The band is a whirlwind triple-threat of fiddle-driven music, dance, and vocals augmented by keyboards and percussion. Their music combines the influence of their Irish and Scottish roots with their inherent desire to widely travel the musical map. Tickets for this rare area performance range from \$20 to \$32.

- **Phil Coulter** The legendary Phil Coulter and his Irish Pops Orchestra return to the Capital Region on their “Timeless Tranquility Tour, on Thursday March 6th at the Egg (Empire State Plaza). Tickets for this 7:30 PM concert are \$25, and are only available through the Irish American Heritage Museum: 518-432-6598.
- **Patrick Ball** Harpist Patrick Ball comes to the area for two shows in March as well. Patrick Ball is one of the premier Celtic harp players in the world and a captivating spoken word artist. In playing the ancient, legendary brass-strung harp of Ireland with its crystalline, bell-like voice, and in performing marvelous tales of wit and enchantment, he not only brings new life to two cherished traditions, but blends them in concert to create “a richly theatrical and hauntingly beautiful performance.” On March 21st, Patrick brings his “Celtic Harp & Story” show to the Old Songs Concert Series in Voorheesville, NY. Tickets for the 8 PM show \$17, with children 12 and under getting in for \$5. Then, on Friday, March 22nd, he visits the Night Eagle Café in Binghamton for an 8:00 pm performance. Tickets for that show are also \$17, with 12 and under paying \$5.
- **Triple Threat at Revolution Hall** Revolution Hall Performing Arts Center in Troy, NY, welcomes in three major acts during the month of March. On the 15th, Kevin McKrell brings in his band, The **Hard Road Céilidh Band**, for a 7 PM show. Tickets are \$12-15. Then on St. Patrick’s Day proper, “America’s number one Irish folk band” – **Hair of the Dog** – comes in for a 7 PM show; tickets for that show are \$13 to \$15. Finally, on March 29th, those fabulous rockers from north of the border – **Enter the Haggis** – roar in to make sure the month goes out like a lion. Showtime is 8 PM, and tickets range from \$16-\$18. [Revolution Hall](#) is located 425 River Street Troy, NY; Phone: 518-274-0553.
- **Saw Doctors** Coleman's Irish Pub presents **The Saw Doctors** on Wednesday, March 12th at 7:30 PM, at the Civic Center, Syracuse New York. Tickets, which are \$20 and \$30, are available at the Civic Center by calling the box office at 435-8000 or through Ticketmaster. Coleman’s is also offering a special \$100 VIP Package, which gets you: First or Second Row Tickets, Dinner at Coleman's, Transportation to and from the Civic Center, and Admission to private cocktail lounge before the concert. A portion of proceeds will go to benefit St. Patrick Hunger Project. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring a dry or canned food product with them on March 12th.
- **Wolfe Tones at The Parting Glass** The Wolfe Tones with Derek Warfield head a very busy month at the parting Glass in Saratoga Springs, New York, when they come in for a special 9 PM show on Saturday, March 1st. Tickets for that show are \$20, and reservations are required. Also performing at the Parting Glass during the month will be Hair of the Dog, Kevin McKrell and The Hard Road Ceilidh Band, Big Medicine, Emish and Jeff Strange. For a complete schedule, prices and details, check out <http://www.partingglasspub.com/irishmusic.htm>.
- **Michael Flatley’s Lord of the Dance** On Thursday March 13, 2008 at 7:30 PM, the Landmark Theater will explode with the visual and musical extravaganza that is **Michael Flatley’s Lord of the Dance**, in its 11th consecutive year. Tickets for the show are \$49.50, \$39.50 and \$24.50. For more information, check out www.lordofthedance.com or www.michaelflatley.com.
- **The Irish Tenors and the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra** Also paying a visit to the Landmark this month will be Anthony Kearns, Finbar Wright and Karl Scully – better known as **The Irish Tenors** – on Monday, March 17, at 8:00 PM. Celebrate with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra as the Irish Tenors take you on a “...breathtaking journey of the imagination across the ocean and, indeed, across time to the Emerald Isle for a St. Patrick’s Day you’ll long remember.” Tickets, which range from \$30 to \$75, are available by calling the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra Box Office at 424-8200.

Celtic Club Calendar Finally, here's the Irish Musical and Cultural calendar for March.

Mar 1	The McKrells	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Mar 1	Wolfe Tones	Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	9 PM	\$20
Mar 2	Project Children fundraiser: Irish Breakfast and Hooley	Maennerchor	Marcy	8-12; 1-4 PM	\$7 breakfast, \$5 Hooley; \$7 both
Mar 2	Parade Fundraiser w/Hard Road Ceilidh Band	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	2 PM	Free
Mar 2	Syracuse Irish Session	Nibsy's Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Mar 6	Phil Coulter	The Egg	Albany	7:30 PM	\$25
Mar 7	Blarney Rebel Band	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Mar 7-8	Neil Emberg	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Mar 8	St. Patrick's Kickoff Concert	Unity Hall	Barneveld	7 PM	\$12; \$10 adv.
Mar 8	Traditional Irish Session	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
Mar 9	St. Baldrick's Day	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	Noonish	Free/donations
Mar 9	Lúnasa	Night Eagle Café	Binghamton	8 PM	\$30 (\$25 on line)
Mar 10	Utica Grand Marshal Reception	Stanley Theater	Utica	5-8 PM	\$5 (w/ invitation)
Mar 12	Saw Doctors	Mulroy Civic Center	Syracuse	7:30 PM	\$20, \$30 (or pkg)
Mar 13	Lord of the Dance	Landmark Theater	Syracuse	7:30 PM	\$24.50-\$49.50
Mar 14	Leahy	Proctor's Theater	Schenectady	8 PM	\$20 - \$32
Mar 14	Donal O'Shaughnessy	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Mar 14	Pat Kane	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Mar 14-16	North Country Goes Green	Dulles State Office Building	Watertown	9 PM	\$5
Mar 15	Utica's St. Patrick's Day Parade	Downtown	Utica	10:00 AM	Free
Mar 15	Piggy Pat's Post-Parade Party	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	1:30 PM	Free
Mar 15	Cassidy-McCale	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	noon	Free
Mar 15	Cliudan	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	6:30 PM	Free
Mar 16	The Clancy Tradition	Town Crier Cafe	Pawling	4 PM	\$30 (\$25 in adv)
Mar 16	Syracuse Irish Session	Johnston's Bally Bay Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Mar 17	The Irish Tenors	Landmark Theater	Syracuse	8 PM	\$30-\$75
Mar 17	Cassidy-McCale	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	noon	Free
Mar 17	Cliudan	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	7:00 PM	Free
Mar 21	Rattlin' Bog	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Mar 21	Patrick Ball, Celtic Harp/ Story	Old Songs	Voorheesville	8 PM	\$17 (\$5 for <12)
Mar 22	Patrick Ball, Celtic Harp/ Story	Night Eagle Café	Binghamton	8 PM	\$17 (\$5 for <12)
Mar 21	Cliudan	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Mar 22	Traditional Irish Session	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
Mar 22	Old Friends	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Mar 28	Blarney Rebel Band	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Mar 28-29	Neil Emberg	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Mar 29	Enter the Haggis	Revolution Hall	Troy	8 PM	\$16-18

That wraps it up for this month. If you have anything you want to add to this newsletter, feel free to contact us at sistia@adelphia.net, bloftis@verizon.net or marksisti@adelphia.net. For now, I've got to call about my free Florida vacation, because operators are standing by!!