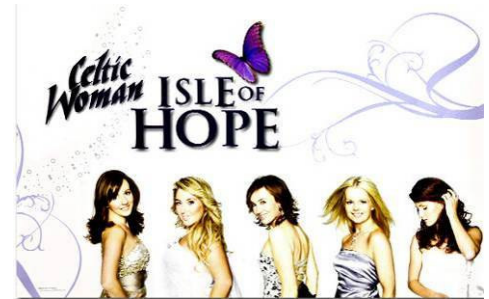

MOHAWK VALLEY IRISH CULTURAL EVENTS NEWSLETTER

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Celtic Woman Comes to the Landmark Theater

The international Irish music phenomenon, Celtic Woman, returns to Central New York this month, when the 2nd leg of their "Isle of Hope" tour brings them to Syracuse's Landmark Theater on October 27th. The current tour, which will be making stops in over 35 cities on its way to a November 22 finale in Long Beach, California, features vocalists Chloë Agnew, Lynn Hilary, Lisa Kelly, Alex Sharpe and fiddler Máiréad Nesbitt in a show that has been described as "Riverdance for the voice."



Celtic Woman, the brainchild of promoter Sharon Browne and David Downes, a onetime musical director of Riverdance, is an all-female vocal ensemble whose sound has been compared to such artists as Clannad, Enya and Loreena McKennitt, performing various traditional and contemporary Celtic-based songs. They have received rave reviews throughout the world for their live stage shows, and their PBS special has also been a runaway hit, airing an incredible 3,400 times since its debut; a record only surpassed by "Dirty Dancing" (okay, I made that up). And this past August, they were voted "Best Celtic Group" at the 2009 Ireland Music Awards.

Tickets for the 7:30 PM show run from \$42 to \$62, and are available at Ticketmaster outlets or from the Landmark box office, (315) 475-7980. The Landmark Theater is located at 362 S. Salina St.

Celtic Thunder's "Take Me Home" Tour Roars Into Albany

What do you get when you put out an open call for male Irish singers from every end of Ireland, irrespective of age or experience? What you get is Celtic Thunder, and you get them at the Palace Theater in Albany, on October 11th. The ensemble -- created by musical director Phil Coulter and producer Sharon Browne (man, she has a lot of brainchildren) -- presents the music of Ireland, Scotland and America, with a full orchestra and theatrical sets rivalling many Broadway shows. Traditional and original songs are performed by five vocalists - Keith Harkin, Ryan Kelly, Paul Byrom, George Donaldson and Damian McGinty - from Ireland and Scotland, ranging in age from 16 to 40. Celtic Thunder is known for its eclectic style with songs ranging from a soloist to ensemble focus. The group, hailed by the New York Times as "a Fab Five peddling Celtic stylings," is known for the use of dramatic effect via lighting and choreography as well as a specifically constructed stage that resembles an ancient stone pathway, similar to Celtic lore. Accompanying the group during their 33-city tour will be The Celtic Concert Orchestra, a full band, bagpipes and monks (that one I didn't make up). Tickets for the 7 PM show range from \$49.50-\$59.50 and can be purchased through [Ticketmaster](#) or at the Palace Theater box office, (518) 465-3334. The theater is located at 19 Clinton Ave. in Albany.



...And Then There's... Ceann

If it's big, polished, choreographed, lavish productions you want, Celtic Woman and Celtic Thunder are certainly going to be the events that appeal to you this month. Some people's tastes, however, are a little less... highbrow. I, for one, like... funny. Irreverent. Silly, even. And, dare I say, I like my adult beverages. So if I could ever find a band who doesn't take themselves seriously, who can write lyrics like "I got a major miner shiner/From the father of a minor" and "You're pretty on the inside/Too bad I'm an outside kind of pretty guy," a band with albums titled "Rave, Rant, Lose Pants" and "Us Drunk Live," a band who calls themselves "the champions of Yankee-Irish Drinking Music"...well, I'm sorry; I've just gotta see that band. And see them I will, on October 21st, when Ceann rolls into the MVCC Theater for a FREE, first-come, first-served concert. That's good news in a bad economy!

Ceann (pronounced "key-ann") formed as an Irish rock band in Pittsburgh in 2006, and has since made a name for themselves as one of the most fun, entertaining, and musically adventurous bands playing music today. With their roots in Irish music, they mix in modern musical styles and a cutting edge sense of humor that has won them fans across the globe. They've been called everything from "A funnier version of Flogging Molly," to "Adam Sandler meets the Pogues," to "They Might Be Giants drunk on Guinness." Why not plan to be on hand at this free concert? Who knows when you'll get another chance? They may not be back in this area until, oh, the last weekend in July or so.

Utica AOH to Hold Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Hooley

On October 3rd, the Ancient Order of Hibernians John C. Devereux Division will host a Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Hooley at the Utica Maennerchor on Flanagan Road in Marcy. (Hey, at least the street's Irish!). A Hooley, for those of you who don't know, well, it's kind of a cross between a ceilidh and a seisiún where you can down poteen or perhaps a wee drop of the crater and enjoy craic. Does that clarify it for you? OK, it's a party. Whenever people gather in someone's home for good food, good *craic* (chat), and good music, you have a hooley; in short, a great time.



With that in mind, the Utica AOH has invited one of upstate New York's most popular Irish acts to get the party started, when Pat Kane and West o'Clare come in for one of their rare Utica area appearances. West o'Clare, known for their fine vocals and harmonies, never fails to get an audience up and dancing and singing along with their rousing renditions of traditional Irish tunes. Their instrumentation is varied, featuring fiddle, flute, whistles, accordions, concertinas, guitars, bodhrans and bones. And if you were one of the thousands who attended the Irish Mass at the Great American Irish Festival, you already know about Pat's beautiful voice. The Hooley, which will run from 5-10 PM, will also feature local Irish Balladeer Vince Colgan, the Blarney Rebel Band, performances from the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann Craobh Dugan branch, food, beverages and a raffle for \$1000 or airfare for two to Ireland. \$5 tickets can be purchased from any AOH member, or at the door. All proceeds go to benefit the Utica AOH, for the charities it supports. For more information, contact Kevin Kearney at 853-2435.

"Adrenaline Peddlers" Scythian Holds CD Release Party at Kitty Hoynes

Rousing and raucous, Scythian (sith-ee-yin) plays "...kicked-up Celtic and world music with hints of Gypsy and Klezmer, all infused with a touch of punk-rock sensibility." Take a pair of classically trained dueling fiddlers, toss in a rhythm guitar and the occasional funky accordion, then power it with the driving rhythm of a jazz percussionist, and you've got the ingredients for a show you won't soon forget. On Thursday, October 1st, Scythian returns to Kitty Hoynes in Syracuse for a release party for their latest CD, "Scythian Live," starting at 8 PM. There is a \$5 cover charge. Kitty Hoynes is located at 301 West Fayette Street in Syracuse.

Concert Review:
LEAHY Thrills MWP Crowd

Picture the most impressive instrumental musical ensemble you've ever seen, every musician on the stage able to play several instruments and all of them proficient on each one. Now picture the most powerful vocal group you've heard, starting with one or two incredible standout vocalists, then adding several exquisite voices indistinguishably blending into one overwhelming force. Next, consider the most compelling dance troupe you've witnessed, each dancer more exhilarating than the last, building in a crescendo to an irresistible climax. Now, on top of all that, add a virtuoso soloist, perhaps the best in the world at his instrument, so good that other world-class performers hold him in reverence.

Got all that? OK, now imagine all that in one group. Congratulations. You've just experienced Canadian Celtic superstars Leahy.

Leahy, a family of musical siblings (there are 11 of them, but the number varies from show to show) brought their magic to the Munson Williams Proctor Institute's Concert in the Court series on September 26, and left the capacity audience on their feet yelling for more.

Pointing out highlights of a Leahy show would be senseless, since every piece they perform would be the showstopper for any other band, but among the standouts would have to be the epic "Call to Dance," which started slowly and quietly before eventually exploding into a full-blown dance tune; the exuberant "Cape Breton Medley," which never fails to leave jaws agape at the fiddle pyrotechnics of lead fiddler Donnell; and an unrecorded tune, "Calling All People to Life," very simply and poignantly performed by pianist Erin and vocalist Denise which earned the band one of their many standing ovations. Incidentally, for those who haven't seen Leahy with Denise (she was not a touring member for quite a while) do yourself a favor and rectify that; her voice is an absolute force of nature, with control of intonation and dynamics that makes everything she sings a revelation. In addition, years from now audience members may be telling people of the first time they saw her 15-year-old daughter Emily, one the next Leahy generation, perform. Her version of "Over the Rainbow" was nothing short of spellbinding, and the future appears to be limitless for this remarkable young talent. Leahy, as they generally do, closed out the first set with Orange Blossom Special, a traditional tune well know to American audiences, but never heard like this, starting at a brisk pace and gathering speed like a runaway freight train until a blistering finish brings tumultuous applause.

One of the only problems with watching a Leahy performance is that, because fiddle master Donnell and multi-instrumentalist Erin are such commanding talents, it's easy to overlook the other siblings, but they all stand out, including guitarist Maria, who step-dances with a natural joy that engages everyone; fiddlers Douglas and Angus, who would be stars in any other context than this band; and Frank, who keeps the rhythm driving throughout with his subtle and tasteful drumming.

After two rousing sets Leahy left the stage only to return minutes later to perform an encore that saw everyone taking impressive turns at the fiddle (until Erin put them all to shame by taking her turn at center stage with her fiddle turned upside down and playing from over the top) with the entire band joining at the front of the stage for a spectacular step-dance finish.

And for those who missed the show – Gee, if only there was a chance to catch them locally sometime next summer. Maybe near the end of July.



The Legend of Stingy Jack

As you know from the October '05 issue of this newsletter – I'll wait while you get out your copy from your bound archives – Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in), when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. But did you know that when you carve your jack-o-lantern, you are perpetuating another old Celtic tradition? In Ireland of old, on the evening of October 31, travelers carried lanterns consisting of big turnips with faces carved in them, the lights believed to keep the evil spirits away. These carved turnips were called "jack-o-lanterns." When the Irish emigrated to America, they found the large pumpkins much easier to carve, and the jack-o-lantern as we know it was born.



The Jack O'Lantern legend goes back hundreds of years in Irish History. As the story goes, Stingy Jack was a miserable, cantankerous old drunk who liked to play tricks on everyone, even the Devil himself. One day, he tricked the Devil into climbing up an apple tree. Once the Devil climbed up the tree, Stingy Jack hurriedly placed crosses around the trunk of the tree, preventing the Devil from getting down. Stingy Jack would not remove the crosses until the Devil promised not to take his soul when he died.

Many years later, when, to everyone's pleasure, Jack finally died, he was told by Saint Peter at the gates of Heaven that he had led a miserable and worthless life on earth and would not be allowed entrance. But when he went down to Hell, the Devil kept his promise and would not allow him to enter Hell. Now Jack was sorely frightened and, with nowhere to go but to wander about for all eternity in the darkness between Heaven and Hell, pleaded with the Devil to at least provide him with a light to help find his way. The Devil tossed him a glowing ember from the very flames of Hell, which Jack placed in a hollowed out turnip. From that day onward, Stingy Jack roamed the earth without a resting place, with his turnip lantern lighting the way. Those who saw him on his endless wandering began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack O'Lantern."

This article was originally written by Mark Sisti in the October 2006 issue of this newsletter. Since then, he has put the legend to music, in a song he titled "Stingy Jack," which can be found on the Blarney Rebel Band's latest CD, "Buy My Soul."

Session Therapy: Good for the Soul

Over the past few months, we've written about that unique and beautiful brand of performance art known as the Traditional Irish Music Session, and hopefully you've had the opportunity to catch one or more of the growing number of local sessions. And the list grows by the month! Witness if you will this email we recently received from musician Mike Carroll:

"At long last, I got my act together and got a firm commitment for a new Irish traditional music session at the Albany Street Cafe in Herkimer. The session will be the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30, beginning October 20. Please mark your calendars! Tell your friends! Bring your tunes, bring your stories, bring your songs. All are welcome. The Albany Street Cafe is a nice restaurant and bar, located at 122 West Albany Street in Herkimer. If you plan on coming early for dinner a reservation is a good idea, but if they're not busy it's not necessary. The food is good, and there's Guinness on tap. I hope to see you there!"

As this brings the number of individual sessions to nine (actually, around 15 nights a month!), we thought it would be a good idea to summarize the general schedule for each venue, with a contact point for each:

Syracuse Irish Sessions:			
Wayside Irish Pub	101 West Main Street, Elbridge, NY	First Sunday, 4-7 PM	Michelle Osborne, crysaniamail@gmail.com
Kitty Hoynes (closed session)	301 West Fayette Street, Syracuse	Second Saturday, 2-5 PM	Michelle Osborne, crysaniamail@gmail.com
Johnston's Ballybay	550 Richmond Avenue, Syracuse	Third Sunday, 4-7 PM	Michelle Osborne, crysaniamail@gmail.com
Kitty Hoynes (closed session)	301 West Fayette Street, Syracuse	Fourth Saturday, 2- 5 PM	Michelle Osborne, crysaniamail@gmail.com
Marcellus Legion Hall	13 East Main Street, Marcellus	Every Thursday, 4-7 PM EXCEPT 3rd week of the month is on Wednesday	Jacqui McCarthy, (315) 256 1577 or JacqMcCart@aol.com
Nail Creek Sessions (Comhaltas Craobh Dugan)	Nail Creek Pub, Varick St., Utica	First Tuesday, 7:30 PM	Mike & Chris Hoke, 827-4291 or hokefam@peoplepc.com
Albany Street Sessions (Comhaltas Craobh Dugan)	Albany Street Café, 122 West Albany Street, Herkimer	Third Tuesday, 7:30 PM	Mike Carroll, (315) 360-7247 or mikecarrolllls@yahoo.com
Susquehanna Café Sessions	The Susquehanna Café, 2582 State Highway 7 Bainbridge NY	Every Monday, 5:30-8:30 PM	Steven Eisenberg, (607) 967-4100 or paper929@tds.net
Amsterdam "Mostly Irish" Monthly Jam	Irish American Club, 10 Yeoman St., Amsterdam NY	First Friday, 7:30 PM	Paul Gavry, 518-842-7461 or mgavry@nycap.rr.com

Another recent feature that's been gaining some traction is the monthly submission of the words and music for some of the more popular session songs from Craobh Dugan's Mike Hoke. This month's song is actually a collection of three jigs. Says Mike: "These three jigs are a big favorite of Craobh Dugan with nice key changes between tunes.

I Buried My Wife and Danced on Top of Her

Musical notation for the first jig, 'I Buried My Wife and Danced on Top of Her'. It consists of two staves of music in 6/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is on the top staff and the accompaniment is on the bottom staff. Chords are indicated above the notes.

Coppers and Brass

Musical notation for the second jig, 'Coppers and Brass'. It consists of two staves of music in 6/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is on the top staff and the accompaniment is on the bottom staff. Chords are indicated above the notes.

Wandering Minstrel, The

Musical notation for the third jig, 'Wandering Minstrel, The'. It consists of three staves of music in 6/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is on the top staff, and the accompaniment is split between the middle and bottom staves. Chords are indicated above the notes.

You will likely hear these played at almost any session, whether in Utica, NY or Boston, MA or Doolin, Co. Clare. I Buried My Wife is associated with West Clare piper Garrett Barry (1847-1899); it's a great tune with an interesting title. Coppers and Brass is also known as the Humours of Ennistymon and appeared in print as early as 1736. The Wandering Minstrel is a great old jig with an alternate title of "Guinness is Good For You" – appropriate for Guinness' 250th birthday. As always, the chords are merely suggestions; each session may have its own particular progression."

Book Review:
“McCarthy’s Bar”
By Mark Sisti

OK, so you’re planning a trip to Ireland. In preparation you could sit with pen and paper in hand, jotting down notes as you pore through the most recent Irish travelogue of your choice, Fodor’s or Frommors or what have you. Or, better yet, you can pick up Pete McCarthy’s lyrical and uproarious account of his journey through Ireland, “McCarthy’s Bar,” and really learn what to expect (and avoid.) After all, how can you not love a book that manages to work in the phrase “projectile bovine vomiting” and not have it seem out of place?



The ostensible driving force behind the book is that McCarthy, who was born in England of an Irish mother and English father and who spent childhood summers in Cork, yearns to discover whether he can “belong” to a country that he has never lived in through some sort of “genetic memory” from his ancestors. In order to give structure to his journey, he follows his own Eighth Rule of Travel – “Never Pass A Bar That has Your Name On It” – and plans his sojourn around every bar containing the name McCarthy. Of course, none of this is the real reason behind the book, but is merely the excuse for presenting his witty and affectionate look at the country and the people he meets.

We follow his travels through Cork, Kerry and up the west coast to his eventual destination, the dreaded three-day fast and barefoot pilgrimage to St. Patrick’s Purgatory in Lough Derg. The events and incidents that he depicts in the book are very funny in and of themselves, whether he’s writing about his stay at a hippy commune, his run-ins with colorful locals, his pub adventures (trust me, he does stay true to his eighth rule of travel), his ride on the ferry from Wales to Cork, or the return of his rental car. But what makes this book stand out as one of the funniest I’ve ever read are his apparent throwaway lines, which hold these episodes together like mortar holds together bricks. All of this is bound together by his recurring references to things and events that tie the readers into the trip: lunatics on Irish radio talk shows (listened to in his trusty, if rusty, ancient vehicle known as The Tank), Singapore noodles, or buffoonish tourists (and he is an equal-opportunity satirist; he skewers German, American, English and Australian tourists with equal precision.)

While many travelers plan their trips with an eye to coming across the rich and famous, McCarthy studiously tries to avoid such encounters. He doesn’t always succeed, as he relates his random meetings with Frank McCourt and Jimi Hendrix’s bass player Noel Redding (and his mother), but the stars of the book are the common Irish people – both native and implants – he meets along the way. They are rich and vibrant without ever becoming caricatures and, for those who have met and spoken with the people of Ireland, his portraits are uncannily accurate. Their quirks, their natural embracing of strangers, their colorful language, all will resonate with those who have experienced it. While McCarthy has little use for much of the modernization of Ireland with its increasingly corporate influence and its transformation into a theme park for upscale tourists, neither does he romanticize the “Quiet Man” vision of Ireland whose passing is lamented by many Americans. What McCarthy enjoys is the real Ireland, and when he visits pubs (other than those named McCarthy) he makes a point of seeking out those frequented by the locals, which still have conversation and camaraderie as the primary reasons for their existence and where a good Irish music session can still be found. With his droll, understated wit, he manages to simultaneously convey exasperation and affection for the people he meets along his travels, whether drinking companions with whom he hooks up, bystanders he foolishly asks for directions, or proprietors of the various Bed And Breakfasts in which he stays, all of whom have their own hilarious set of idiosyncrasies.

If you’ve never visited Ireland before, “McCarthy’s Bar” will make you want to go; if you have, it will make you want to go back. Could you ask any more of a book that purports to be a travel guide? Your only regret will be that Pete McCarthy, who passed away in 2004, can’t go with you.

(Special thanks to Carol Dunn, who recommended this book.)

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Craobh Dugan Wants You!

I know how it is. I was like you not so long ago. The whole Celtic scene was foreign to me, and the only useful Gaelic phrase I knew was “Tá Órla ag ithe na gallúnaí” (“Órla is eating the soap.”). But then I discovered that there was an organization right in our midst whose primary goal is to promote Irish culture and to bring it to the masses. That group is Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, and given the increased interest in Central New York for all things Irish, Chris Hoke, Chairperson of the Craobh Dugan branch of CCE, has sent the following to summarize the group, and to offer you – and me – a chance to join their ranks. Here is Chrissie’s article:

“Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann (“coal-tuss kyoal-tori air-in”) is Gaelic for The Society of Irish Musicians. It is an international group based in Dublin, Ireland which was founded in 1951 with the purpose of preserving, promoting and perpetuating traditional Irish culture--music, song, dance and language. From that small group in Dublin, the Comhaltas movement now has over 400 branches worldwide, with over 40 in North America.

The local branch of Comhaltas -- Craobh Dugan (“The Dugan Branch,” named after our branch founders, Pat and Frank Dugan) -- has been active in the Mohawk Valley since approximately 1980. We currently have an active musicians group, a ceili dance group and a couple members who are fluent Gaelic speakers and who regularly teach Gaelic classes. The musicians meet usually on Thursday evenings to practice and share tunes. There is also a slow session on Mondays. The first Tuesday of each month we host an open session at the Nail Creek Pub on Varick St. The dance group meets weekly on Friday evenings to practice and learn dances. They meet at the Seton Center at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Genesee St in Utica. The groups regularly perform at area festivals, churches, nursing homes, arts centers, libraries, etc.

Our membership year runs from October 1st through September 30th, so if you are interested in joining, we would love to have you!! Dues are \$20 for an individual; \$30 per couple; \$35 for a family. Once you are a member, you will receive the quarterly TREOIR magazine, published by Comhaltas, as well as a really cool membership card!

As per our by-laws we must host an annual general meeting (AGM) each year in October. Ours will be Friday October 16th at the Seton Center. We will have a pot luck supper from 6-7 PM, followed by the meeting from 7-7:30. We will finish with a session/ceili from 7:30-9:30.

Let me know if you are interested in joining... just send me your basic info -- name(s), address, phone number and email address -- plus a check for the dues, payable to “Craobh Dugan.” If you plan to attend the AGM, you can pay your dues that evening.

If you have any more questions you can contact me via [email](mailto:) or phone (827-4291). You can check the Comhaltas website as well for more general info www.comhaltas.com. Go raibh mile maith agaibh!”

(sorry I can’t translate that... although I can tell you it definitely doesn’t mean “Orla is eating the soap”).

Comhaltas events of interest this month include:

Sat. Oct. 3rd AOH Hooley at the Maennerchor in Marcy. Musicians/Dancers perform at 7:45pm
Tues. Oct. 6th Open Session at Nail Creek Pub 7:30pm
Thurs. Oct. 15th Western Town Hall 7:00pm Musicians and Dancers
Fri. Oct. 16th Annual General Meeting/Pot Luck Supper/Ceili Seton Center 6:00pm
Tues. Oct. 20 Open Session Albany Street Cafe, Herkimer 7:30pm

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

This month's topic... "McCann's Original Steel-Cut Irish Oatmeal" (*this month's article/recipe was submitted by regular contributor John "Foxy" Fox. If anyone gets nailed for plagiarism, it's him!*)

The story of McCann's dates back to 1800 when John McCann built a mill at Beamond, four miles from Drogheda on the east coast of Ireland. The mill was powered by water diverted from the Nanny River, from which Mr. McCann's rod and line hooked some excellent trout. John McCann's Irish Oatmeal secured many prizes for its excellent quality over the years. A double success in the London Exhibition and the Dublin Exhibition in 1851 was followed by first at the Philadelphia Exhibition in 1876 and an award for "Uniformity of Granulation" 1893 at the Chicago Exhibition. In 1898, the company moved to new premises on Merchant's Quay in the town of Drogheda itself. Two years later the directors recorded with pride that their mills were equipped with all the best modern machinery procurable and were working night and day. In the early part of the century, exports of McCann's Irish Oatmeal increased dramatically enabling the inhabitants of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Detroit, San Francisco, Montreal and Vancouver to enjoy the distinctive, nutty flavour of steel cut oats. In 1964, Odlums acquired the business of John McCann's and transferred production to their own oatmeal mill in Sallins, Co. Kildare which had itself been in operation since 1910. This mill was extensively remodelled and upgraded in 1995 putting it on a par with the most modern mills in Europe. Awarded the Hygiene Mark from Excellence Ireland in 1999, Sallins is also accredited to ISO 9002, an internationally recognised quality system and to ISO 14001, an environmental management system. Oatmeal is more than simply a breakfast cereal. Increasingly, it's becoming popular as a versatile recipe ingredient -- perfect for baking and cooking. McCann's has developed these recipes to bring savoury meals and delicious treats to your table all year round.



McCann's Oatmeal Pancakes (Approx 12 Pancakes – 4 Servings)

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 cups of McCann's Quick Cooking Oatmeal
- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 1 cup low fat milk
- 1 teaspoon honey or sugar
- 1/4 cup all purpose white flour
- 1/4 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts

In a large bowl, combine oats, plain yogurt, low fat milk and honey. Stir in flours, baking soda and salt. Add beaten eggs and mix well. Add chopped walnuts. Batter will be thick. Heat a large non-stick skillet or griddle over a medium heat. Spoon about 1/4 cup batter onto hot griddle for each pancake. Cook until bottoms are browned and bubbles on top start to pop, about 3 minutes. Flip and cook until other sides are browned and bubbles on top start to pop, about 3 minutes. Flip and cook until other sides are browned, about 2 minutes (uh, I think that adds up to three sides, Foxy!). Repeat with remaining batter. Add additional milk if batter becomes too thick. Serve hot with maple syrup and/or fresh fruit. For additional McCann's recipes, go to <http://www.mccanns.ie/pages/recipes.html>.

(Next month, Beth Loftis returns with "Where has all the flour gone?" and some delicious recipes for breads and scones!)

Celtic Club Calendar Finally, here's the Irish Musical and Cultural calendar for October:

Oct 1	Scythian CD Release Party	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	8 PM	\$5
Oct 1	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Oct 2	The Blarney Rebel Band	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Oct 2-3	Hair of the Dog	The Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	8 PM	\$13, res'v reqd
Oct 3	Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Hooley	Maennerchor Club	Marcy	5-10 PM	\$5
Oct 3	Pat Kane	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	8 PM	Free
Oct 4	Syracuse Irish Session	Wayside Irish Pub	Elbridge NY	4-7 PM	Free
Oct 5	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Oct 6	"Nail Creek Sessions"	Nail Creek Pub	Utica	7:30-10 PM	Free
Oct 8	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Oct 9	Donal O'Shaughnessy	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Oct 9	Cherish the Ladies	Towne Crier Cafe	Pawling, NY	9 PM	\$35; \$40 at door
Oct 10	Trad Irish Music Session	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
Oct 10	Great Big Sea	Tarrytown Music Hall	Tarrytown, NY	8 PM	\$32 - \$55
Oct 11	The Blarney Rebel Band	Coleman's Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Oct 11	Celtic Thunder	Palace Theater	Albany	7 PM	\$49.50-\$59.50
Oct 12	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Oct 14	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Oct 15	Craobh Dugan	Western Town Hall	Westernville	7 PM	Free
Oct 16	The Blarney Rebel Band	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Oct 16	Craobh Dugan Annual Mtg	Seton Center	Utica	6 PM	Free
Oct 18	Donal O'Shaughnessy	Shenanigans	Syracuse	5-9 PM	Free
Oct 18	Freeborn Men	Coleman's Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Oct 18	Syracuse Irish Session	Johnston's Bally Bay Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Oct 19	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Oct 20	Albany Street Sessions	Albany Street Café	Herkimer	7:30 PM	Free
Oct 21	Ceann	MVCC Theater	Utica	7 PM	Free
Oct 22	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Oct 24	The Blarney Rebel Band	The Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	9 PM	\$5
Oct 24	Trad Irish Music Session	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
Oct 25	Flyin' Column	Coleman's Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Oct 26	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Oct 27	Celtic Woman	Landmark Theater	Syracuse	7:30 PM	\$42-\$62
Oct 27	Hair of the Dog	Revolution Hall	Troy , NY	7 PM	\$10
Oct 29	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Oct 30	Donal O'Shaughnessy	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Oct 30	Patrick Ball	Old Songs Concert Series	Voorheesville, NY	8 PM	\$20; 12 under \$5
Oct 30-31	Hair of the Dog	The Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	8 PM	\$13, res'v reqd

That wraps it up for this month. If you have anything you want to share with us, feel free to send it to us (sistia@roadrunner.com, bloftis@gmail.com or marksisti@roadrunner.com) and we'd be happy to include it. As always, while we try to get things – prices, places, times, genders, etc., -- as accurate as we can, sometimes we make mistakes. It always makes sense to call ahead to confirm some of these further-out trips.