
MOHAWK VALLEY IRISH CULTURAL EVENTS NEWSLETTER

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March 13th -- It's a Great Day For The Irish

The fanfare and the floats, the pipes and the pageantry; they'll all be on display on March 13th, as the Great American Irish Festival presents the 33rd annual Utica St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade, one of the largest in New York State, starts at 10:00 AM at Oneida Square and continues down Genesee St. to Columbia St. This year's Grand Marshal, **Frank Kealy**, will lead his proud and loving family in the parade, continuing a tradition begun in 1824 by Utica's most famous Irishman, John C. Devereux. Attended by thousands, this event continues to be a family favorite.



Grand Marshal's Reception to be held at the Stanley

Marking the ceremonial "passing of the Shillelagh" from the previous parade Grand Marshal to this year's, the Grand Marshal's Reception will be held on March 9, 2010, in the lobby of the historic Stanley Theater. Last year's Grand Marshal, Jim O'Looney, 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 honoree, Frank Kealy. The reception, which runs from 5-8 PM, costs \$10. Food and refreshments are included, and providing entertainment throughout the evening will be the Blarney Rebel Band.

"Remembering the Irish Famine" Food Drive Aims to Help the Area's Hungry

As a way of giving back to the community, and in remembrance of one of the most horrific and defining periods in Irish history, the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is again conducting a food drive for this year's parade. The theme of the collection is "Remembering the Irish Famine." On March 13th, St. Patrick's Day Parade attendees and marchers are asked to bring non-perishable food items to the parade, which will be collected and turned over to Mother Marianne's West Side Kitchen at the St. Joseph-St. Patrick Parish Center. Named for Blessed Mother Marianne Cope, who grew up in West Utica and went on to devote the last 30 years of her life to the lepers of Hawaii's Molokai, this program also claims a unique tie to the local Irish community: It is located across the street from the future Mohawk Valley Irish Cultural Center; the site of the original St. Patrick's Church, which was built by a burgeoning Irish population who had come to America to escape the Great Hunger in the 1850s.

Chris Hoke, chairperson of the 2010 drive, has high hopes for a successful campaign that will result in much needed meals for several hundred of our "hungry neighbors," and has arranged for several alternative ways in which people can help. Volunteers from the Holland Patent National Honor Society will be lining up on the side streets with wheelbarrows to collect donations before the parade starts. Then, during the parade, vehicles from Adorino Construction will be escorted by HPNHS students and Adorino employees walking along the parade route with wheelbarrows collecting food items. Finally, the Food Drive will also gladly accept any cash donations that are offered in lieu of food, and volunteers will be trailing the parade with green containers for such monetary donations; all of which go to Mother Marianne's Kitchen. If you are interested in volunteering for the Food Drive in any capacity, please contact Chris at (315) 827-4291.

Glengarry Bhoys Rock Post-Parade Party

As a fitting end to a successful parade, and to relax after the months of planning that goes into it, the Utica St. Patrick's Day Parade committee is convening for one final meeting this year at their annual Post-Parade Party, to be held from noon-6 PM on parade day at the 12 North Sports Bar on Mulaney Rd. in Marcy.



Providing the entertainment at this popular – and civil – post-parade event will be Canadian Celtic rockers and GAIF favorites, the Glengarry Bhoys, who will play from 2 to 4 PM. Their blend of traditional music, fused with the multicultural sounds of modern and contemporary Celtic music, has brought them international acclaim. Led by charismatic singer Graham Wright and drummer G. S. (Zig) Leroux, the Bhoys are revered as much for their personality as their musicianship. Tickets for the party are \$5, and are only available at the door. Winners of the parade competition divisions will be announced, as will the lucky winners in the overwhelmingly-popular “St. Patrick's Day Parade Raffle.”

Enter the Haggis Returns to Utica

Ever since Enter the Haggis burst onto the local scene at the Great American Irish Festival, the Mohawk Valley has had a love affair with the talented Toronto band. Well, they must surely love the Mohawk Valley as well, as they come “home” for a special show at the Electric Company on Friday, March 5th. From the minute they take the stage, the non-stop infectious energy of Enter the Haggis makes it impossible for anyone to stay seated. The group's constant touring schedule has made them one of the biggest draws at Celtic and folk festivals throughout the world, and their recordings have been no less successful. At this show, you can certainly expect to hear many of your favorite ETH tunes, as well as a healthy sampling of their seventh studio album, “Gutter Anthems.” Opening for the boys are local favorites the Blarney Rebel Band. General admission tickets are \$10... and be warned, tickets are only available at the door, and the doors open at 8 PM. The Electric Company is located at 700 Varick Street.



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

Saturday March 6th marks the 35th year of America's Greatest Heart Run and Walk, and 39 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 \$1,202,600 goal, while celebrating your Irish heritage at the same time.

If you're already participating, great. If not, and if you love the camaraderie of like-minded people but you haven't found the right group yet, why not consider running with volunteers and committee members from the Great American Irish Festival, “Team GAIF.” Events include the 30K run, 10 mile run, 5 mile run, 3 mile run, 5 mile walk and 3 mile walk. If you do want to join, you can register online at www.uticaheartrunwalk.org; the team code you'll be looking for is “GAIF,” and Susan Smith will be listed as the team captain. If running or walking aren't your thing, she invites you to follow the sounds of Irish music to the Great American Irish Festival trailer on Heartbreak Hill, where you can help hand out goodies and information to promote the festival and the 2010 St. Patrick's Day parade. Whether you decide to run with or support Team GAIF, know that the Heart Association is the real winner. Why not sign up today?

“Black River Valley Concert Series” Brings in Solas, Cara

In its sixth year, the Black River Valley Concert Series brings to the north country an eclectic mix of music in a splendid venue... and sometimes, when called for, a second venue. Its primary home is the Lewis County Historical Society, housed in a former Masonic Temple structure at 7552 South State Street in Lowville. The venue has a two story great room, with comfortable seating for 150, accented by cove molding and indirect, alternating blue and white lights surrounding the room. Its “other” venue, called upon when 150 seats might leave too many people out of luck, is the Beaver River Central School Auditorium in nearby Beaver Falls.

On March 6th, the Historical Society will be the location for the exciting young group, **Cara**, from Germany. You might not expect Germany to be a powerhouse of Celtic music, but Cara can hold their heads up very high to any band from Ireland, or any other Celtic nation. Cara, recently voted Best New Irish Artist of 2009 by the Irish Music Association, combines their mastery of vocals, piano, fiddle, flute, guitar, bodhrán, uilleann pipes, accordion and concertina with a dry-witted and very entertaining stage presence. Tickets for this event are \$18 in advance or \$22 at the door, and can be purchased at Cafe Z on South State Street in historic downtown Lowville, at Dr. Guitar Music at 154 Court Street in Watertown, or by calling the Lewis County Historical Society at 376-8957. Doors for the event will open at 7:40 PM with the concert beginning at 8 PM. Refreshments will be available for purchase; however no food or beverages may be brought into the facility.

Then on March 21st, the Series’ seventh act will be the phenomenal **Solas**. For over a decade, Solas has been hailed as the leading Irish American super group. Through line-up changes and experiments with style and technology, the band has pushed the boundaries of - but never strayed too far from - their Irish roots. Led as always by the multi-talented Seamus Egan (flute, tenor banjo, mandolin, whistle, guitar and bodhran) and Winifred Horan (fiddle), the band also features Mick McAuley (accordion and concertina) and Eamon McElholm (guitar and keyboards) and Mairead Phelan, an exciting young singer from Kilkenny. Tickets for this event are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door (if available), and can be purchased at Dr. Guitar Music in Watertown, or through the Lewis County Historical Society; simply send a check for the number of seats needed to POB 446 Lowville, NY 13367. Seats will be available on both the main floor and in the balcony, by reservation only. Doors will open at 6:40 PM with the concert beginning at 7 PM.

The Black River Valley Concert Series is a fund raising arm of Lewis County Historical Society.

Saint Patrick’s Kickoff Concert of Irish Music & Dance

The Unity Hall Foundation is hosting its fourth annual “Saint Patrick’s Kickoff Concert,” on Saturday March 6, 2010 at 8 PM in the Historic Second Floor Theatre at Unity Hall, 101 Vanderkemp Ave, in Barneveld. This Irish infused evening of music and dance brings together the talents of the **Blarney Rebel Band** and the lovely high-stepping lasses of the **Butler-Sheehan Academy of Irish Dance**, the longest continuously run Irish dance school in North America. Tickets are \$10.00 for Unity Hall Foundation members, and \$12.00 at the door. Refreshments will be served. To reserve tickets, send an email with your name, phone number and number of tickets to tickets@unityhall.com.

This event is sponsored by **Turner Lumber of Barneveld** in association with the **Unity Hall Foundation**, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1995 to maintain Unity Hall as a center for the arts and community activities. An historic home for the arts in Central New York, Unity Hall -- located 10 miles north of Utica and 12 miles east of Rome -- is a beautifully restored community gathering place that hosts concerts, theater, and other events for residents of Barneveld, New York and the surrounding area. For more information, visit the all new website at www.unityhall.com.

Book Review:
“At the Edge of Ireland”
By Mark Sisti

Travel writer David Yeadon is noted for finding and reporting on some of the world’s less-traveled places, a Southern Italian Hill village, Scotland’s Outer Hebrides, and hidden corners of countless other nations. In “At the Edge of Ireland,” Yeadon brings his pen (and his artist’s eye and materials) to seek out one of those few hidden places left in the new, modernized Ireland, the Beara Peninsula, a 30-mile-long finger of land a short geographic distance from the tourist-centric Ring of Kerry and Dingle, but worlds away in every other sense

I admit to having a problem with people searching for “the real Ireland,” as if the Irish should have kept their country unchanged since the time of “The Quiet Man” for the sake of the tourists. I find this attitude to be egregiously condescending, sort of like a European visiting Dallas and being disappointed that there aren’t cowboys on horseback and tumbleweeds blowing through the streets. Ireland is not a theme park; it is a country where 6 million people live their lives, and I’m not sure that all of them equate Ireland joining the 21st century with becoming “spoiled.”

That being said, the area visited by the Yeadons is probably as close as one can get to this vision of an “unspoiled” Ireland. The roads – miserable even by Irish standards – and the non-existent or postage-stamp-sized road signs have kept the tour buses out, and social life in the area still consists of traditional music sessions, hooley and ceili dances, and storytellers in the tradition of the seanache.

To indoctrinate themselves into life at Beara, and in an attempt to establish themselves among the residents as more than simply weekend tourists (or “blow-ins”), Yeadon and his wife, Anne, make a number of extensive trips to the peninsula, ultimately staying for months at a time in a rural cottage and becoming, if not residents, at least a level above tourists. “At the Edge of Ireland” takes some time to find its voice; after an evocative and vibrant description of his time in Dublin (which by rights has no place in this book), the next few chapters continue at a glacial pace until Yeadon reaches his stride and his adventures in the Beara Peninsula begin to flow in a more natural style.

Yeadon manages to convey a sense of the natural beauty of the rugged Beara Peninsula, with its stately mountains and spectacular coastal scenery. His delightful illustrations, scattered throughout the book, lend a perfect and charming aspect to the book, whether depicting the magnificent landscape or the colorful characters he meets. Yeadon, it seems, talks to everyone, and everyone talks to him. Ironically, while Yeadon is searching for “authentic” Irish natives, the vast majority of his encounters are with those born elsewhere. With its peaceful nature and its reputation as a mystical place, the peninsula has become home to artists, writers and seekers of spiritual wisdom, many of whom are not native born. In fact, the most notable attraction in the area may be Dzogchen Beara, a world renowned Buddhist retreat. But the Beara peninsula has managed to remain “authentically Irish,” mostly because the newcomers who now call the peninsula home have a healthy respect for the old ways and wish to preserve them, one might almost say more than the native-born Irish.

Yeadon has an unabashed appreciation for Pete McCarthy’s “McCarthy’s Bar,” reviewed in the October 2009 issue of this newsletter (go ahead and check your hardbound archives; I’ll wait.) He discourses on it at length in his forward and quotes extensively from it throughout the book. Unfortunately for “At the Edge of Ireland,” these invocations of that delightful book make Yeadon’s suffer by comparison. McCarthy’s strength is the weakest aspect of Yeadon’s writing, the dialogue. McCarthy’s characters speak with a natural color that makes them all individualized and interesting. Yeadon’s characters speak with the stilted, unnatural tone of an animatronic tour guide. You are never convinced that these conversations actually took place, or, at least, not with the language Yeadon uses. What saves these artificial conversations from being wholly forgettable and unreadable is that the stories conveyed therein – together with his vivid descriptions of the area’s natural beauty – are interesting enough to withstand the cardboard language. And interesting enough to make you want to visit the Beara Peninsula.

(Special thanks to Sheila Sosnowski, who recommended (and loaned) this book.)

Craobh Dugan “Song of the Month” (sized to conveniently fit onto something the same size)

From our friends from Craobh Dugan, the Central NY branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, comes the next page for your ever-expanding session notebook. What would be more appropriate for March than St. Patrick’s Day, a long dance in 6/8 time and a favorite of Craobh Dugan accordion player Jim O’Looney?

Saint Patrick’s Day

The musical score for "Saint Patrick's Day" is written in G major and 6/8 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. Above the notes, several chords are indicated: G, D, G, C, G. The second staff continues the melody and includes a first ending bracket with chords C and G, and a second ending bracket with chords C and G. The third staff includes chords G, D, C, G, D, Em, G. The fourth staff includes chords D, C, G, D, G, Em. The fifth staff includes chords G, D, G, C, G, C, G.

RANDOM RAMBLINGS

- ✠ **Comhaltas News** With over a dozen possible places the Craobh Dugan members could be in any given month, you’d have to wonder how they could have time to do anything else. Well this past month, they exceeded even their own expectations. First, they debuted their new web site at <http://uticairish.org> (hint: if you want to put together an informative, well-laid out and aesthetically-pleasing site, you couldn’t do much better than Craobh Dugan’s Ed Campbell did on this one!). As you make your way around the site, be sure to check out the “Tunes” link, where musicians or music lovers can access Skip Mansur’s excellent manifesto, “[The Craobh Dugan Seisiuns Tunebook](#).” Outstanding job, Skip!
- ✠ **Talk the Talk** Our spoken-Gaelic expert, Tom Malley, writes: If you attend the Mass for St. Patrick on March 12th (see below), when it comes time to offer a sign of peace, try saying “Síochán.” This is the Irish word for “peace,” and it’s pronounced shee-uh-khawn. The kh represents a sound similar to the ch in the German word “ach.” And if you want to greet someone with “the blessings of St Patrick’s Day to you,” you might try: “Beannachtaí La Féile Pádraig duit” (pronounced “Ban-acht-ee law fay-la Porr-ig dit”), or the short form, “Lá Féile Pádraig duit.” And if you really want to impress, try to slip “An Siúl Mór” (un shool mor) into a conversation. It means “the Parade,” or literally “the big walk.”
- ✠ **North Country Goes Green” Irish Festival** From March 11-14, Watertown plays host to their 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 very popular Dublin City Ramblers, The Glengarry Bhoys, Cliudan, Searson, Tartan, Seanache and The Terry Mostyn Band. Admission to the festival is \$6 per person, with children 12 and under admitted free if accompanied by a parent. For additional information, visit <http://www.ncirishfest.com/>

- ✚ **“A Common Thread” & “Harps Delight”** On Sunday, March 21st, St. John’s Parish Center (3rd Street in Camden) will present “A Common Thread” & “Harps Delight.” The program consists of Traditional Celtic music; some serious, some with skits and comedy. “Common Thread” is harpist Mary Schroyer and violinist Beth Klug. “Harp’s Delight” finds Mary pairing up with young harpist Kelsey Munz, also of Camden. The program runs from 2 to 4 PM, and there is no charge for admission. Refreshments will be provided. If there are any questions, call Ed Finnerty at 245-2440.
- ✚ **“Brave a Shave”** In the Events Calendar that appears at the end of this newsletter, you’ll see on Sunday, March 21st, a rather cryptic reference to an event at Kitty Hoyne’s called “St. Baldrick’s Day Fundraiser.” No, it is not another St. Patrick’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 [the Sunday before St. Patrick’s Day].” What started ten 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 \$50.5 million for the CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation and the CureSearch Children’s Oncology Group. To get involved in Kitty Hoyne’s fundraiser or for more information on this worthy cause, check out www.stbaldricks.org. If you can’t attend (or don’t want to get shaved), donations are welcomed.
- ✚ **“St. Patrick and the Ends of the Earth”** We all know about St. Patrick. He connected the Trinity with shamrocks, drove the snakes out of Ireland, and introduced us to green beer. But who is the real St. Patrick? And how does Ireland’s geography play a part in his life and mission? Jeffrey Wetherill, Director of eLearning Faculty Services and adjunct Professor of History at Utica College answers these and other questions on March 5th, as part of Utica College’s Spring 2010 Cultural Events series. This talk will explore the historical “facts” about St. Patrick, his impact among the Irish, and how the theme “ends of the earth” plays a significant role in his life and mission. This lecture will be held in Willard Conference room, DePerno Hall, beginning at 2:15. Call (315) 792-3059 for more information.
- ✚ **And the Festivities Don’t End on St. Patrick’s Day** On March 20, Camden will present its 9th annual St. Patrick’s Parade. “Last year’s parade was our best one yet,” said parade founder Frank Bergin. “But the committee would like to see even more clans, more fire companies, more marching bands, more local businesses and more organizations giving their all to make this parade bigger than ever.” As always, the festivities will continue after the parade with an awards ceremony and 50/50 raffle at Katie & Karl’s Restaurant on Route 13. Katie & Karl’s will also host their Big Buffet of corned beef and cabbage and other traditional Irish fare. Music will be provided by Camden’s own Sons of the Queen.
- ✚ **Mass honoring Saint Patrick** Lest anyone forget the reason for this special and reverent Irish holiday, the John C. Devereux Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies AOH have arranged for a mass honoring St. Patrick on March 12, 2010, at Saint Joseph-Saint Patrick’s Church, 702 Columbia St. in Utica. There will be Irish music beginning at 6:30, and the mass proper begins at 7 PM.
- ✚ **Irish Flag Raising Ceremony** Utica City Hall will be the site of a now-annual Irish Flag Raising ceremony, when at 12:30 on March 10th, St. Patrick’s Day Parade Grand Marshal Frank Kealy, along with Mayor David Roefaro, will raise the Irish flag to solemnly commemorate the storied past of Utica’s Irish citizenry, and the many contributions they have made to the culture and history of the city. The ceremony, which is open to the public, begins in City Hall with a proclamation from the Mayor’s office.
- ✚ **Irish Programming on WCNY** You’ll find Irish aplenty on WCNY this month, including: Tommy Makem’s Ireland (Mar 13, 9-11 AM & 3-5 PM; Mar 14, 3-5 AM; Mar 17, 9-11 AM & 3-5 PM; The Best of Daniel O’Donnell (Mar 6, 5:30 PM); Out of Ireland (Mar 7, 4 PM); When Irish Eyes Are Smiling: An Irish Parade of Stars (Mar 8, 9 PM), Celtic Thunder (Mar 8, 10 PM); The Celtic Tenors (Mar 14, 2 PM); Visions of Ireland (Mar 14, 7 PM); and travel programs about Ireland all day Mar 13th and 17th.

✿ **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.

- ✿ **Celtic Woman** – March 3-4, the Mainstage at [Proctor's Theater](#) in Schenectady. Celtic Woman, a smash hit around the globe, returns to Proctors with an all new live show! The awe inspiring vocalists Lisa, Chloë, Lynn and Alex along with the mesmerizing Celtic violinist Máiréad continue to capture the hearts of fans across the country on a whirlwind tour of America. Tickets range from \$40.75 to \$70.75, and can be purchased [on-line](#).
- ✿ **Danu** – March 4th, [Clemens Center](#) in Elmira. For over a decade, Danú's virtuosi players on flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, bouzouki and vocals have performed around the globe and recorded seven critically acclaimed albums. Tickets, which range from \$15-25, are available by calling (607) 734-8191 or (800) 724-0159, or via the Clemens Center [ticket site](#).
- ✿ **Enter the Haggis** - March 5th, The Electric Company, Utica. You love 'em, we love 'em, and now we've got 'em. \$10 Tickets are expected to go pretty quickly! If you miss that show, you can always go back in time to see them at the [Parting Glass](#) in Saratoga Springs on March 4th, for an 8 PM show.
- ✿ **Celtic Crossroads** – Celtic Crossroads is critically acclaimed as "...the most exhilarating and authentic show to come from Ireland in decades – not to be missed." And you can... not miss them twice this month! On March 4th, they visit Homer NY's [Center for the Arts](#) for a special 7 PM show. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$25 for seniors (members get a \$5 discount), and students get in for \$10. Then on March 16, you can find them at [The Egg](#) in Albany. Tickets for their 7:30 show are \$25 until March 5th and \$30 thereafter. For more information, call the Box office at (518) 473-1845.
- ✿ **Cara** – If you caught this young group at the inaugural Sterling Celtic Rock Fest last September, you already know the buzz caused by these talented musicians from the Celtic hotbed that is Germany. Besides their [Black River Valley Concert Series](#) appearance on March 6th (see above), you can also catch them on March 5th, at the Old Songs Concert Series in Voorheesville, NY. Tickets for the 8 PM show are \$20 (age 12 and under, \$5). Visit [www.oldsongs.org](#) or call (518) 765-2815 for more info.
- ✿ **Riverdance** – March 5-7 at [Shea's Performing Arts Center](#) in Buffalo. The thunderous celebration of Irish music, song and dance that has tapped its way onto the world stage thrilling millions of people around the globe will play five farewell performances. On March 5th, there will be an 8 PM show, on the 6th there will be performances at 2 and 8 PM, and on Mar 7th, there are shows at 2 and 7 PM. Tickets range from \$34.50 - \$59.50, and can be purchased [on-line](#) or by calling (716) 847-1410. But that's not all! Next month, on April 6th-8th, you can catch Riverdance at the [Stanley Theater](#) in Utica! Tickets for the 7:30 PM shows range from \$36.45 to \$65.55, and they can be purchased [on-line](#) or by calling the Stanley ticket office at (315) 724-4000. Or you could just win 3rd prize in the Utica St. Patrick's Day Parade raffle and go for free.
- ✿ **Donnell Leahy and Natalie MacMaster** – March 7th, [UB Center for the Arts](#) in Buffalo. The undisputed King and Queen of the Cape Breton fiddling style bring their art to a rare (almost) area performance. Tickets are \$33.50; \$23.50 for students. Group discounts are available; call (716) 645-2787 for info.
- ✿ **Glengarry Bhoys** – The Bhoys are back...and forth...and back again this month. You've already read that they're going to be playing at the Utica St. Patrick's Day Post-Parade Party, but did you know you could also catch them in Camillus, Geneva and Watertown too? You did? Okay, you can skip ahead. For the rest of you, they'll be at [McNamara's Pub](#) in Camillus at 7 PM on March 11th, brought to you by the Irish Power Hour and the Syracuse Irish Festival. Tickets are \$20 or \$15 in advance. The next night finds them in Watertown for the [North Country Goes Green Irish Festival](#) (see article above), and then – after the Post-Parade party in Utica, they head out to the [Smith Opera House](#) in Geneva for an 8 PM show. Tickets for that show are \$15.
- ✿ **Band of the Irish Guard/Royal Regiment of Scotland** – March 12th, the Mainstage at [Proctor's Theater](#) in Schenectady. The Band and the Irish Guards were formed in 1900 at the expressed wish of Queen Victoria to commemorate the bravery of the Irish Regiments. 2010 marks the first time they've toured the United States. Tickets are \$40, \$35 or \$30, for this 8 PM show, and you can get them by clicking [here](#).
- ✿ **Altan** - Mar 12, [Troy Savings Bank Music Hall](#) in Troy. No other Irish traditional band has had a wider impact on audiences and music lovers throughout the world than Altan. With their heartwarming, dynamic live performances and award-winning recordings, ranging from the most touching old Irish songs all the way to hard hitting reels and jigs, Altan has moved audiences from Donegal to Tokyo, and only broke one small lamp on the way. Tickets, ranging from \$20 to \$29, are available by calling the Box Office at (518) 273-0038 or by going on line.

- 🍷 **Dublin's Traditional Irish Cabaret** – March 14th, [Palace Theater](#) in Albany. Headed by famed comedian Noel V. Ginnity, Dublin's Traditional Irish Cabaret is a celebration of Irish music, laughter, song and dance. Tickets for this family-friendly 5 PM show are \$25.00 for adults and \$12.50 for children. For more information, call (518) 465-3334 or visit the Palace Theater website.
- 🍷 **Barrage** – March 17th, the [Turning Stone Event Center](#), Verona. What is Barrage? In a word, unbelievable. Exciting. “Too wow for words!” (not my words). And wicked hot (my words). Created in Calgary, Canada, this super-vibrant troupe of all-stars is a must see (check out their videos [here](#) for an idea). Tickets for their 3 PM show are \$25. [Note: since there’s nothing on the Turning Stone’s web site about this show, you’re advised to call the Box Office at (315) 361-7469 for info].
- 🍷 **Ronan Tynan** – March 17th, [UB Center for the Arts](#) in Buffalo. The world-renowned tenor goes back to where his Buffalo Sabres roam, and he’s bringing with him Méav, a founding member of Celtic Woman. Tickets for the 7 PM show are \$127, \$82, \$77 or \$62, and are available by calling (716) 645-ARTS, or clicking [here](#).
- 🍷 **Solas** – We can go years without this supergroup coming to the area, and now we can see them twice in two days. Besides their [Black River Valley Concert Series](#) appearance in Beaver Falls on March 21st (above), you’ll get a chance to see them on the 20th, when they come to Homer’s [Center for the Arts](#) for a special 8 PM show. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors (with discounts for members), and students pay only \$10.

Celtic Club Calendar Finally, here’s the Irish Musical and Cultural calendar for March:

Mar 1	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Mar 2	“Nail Creek Sessions”	Nail Creek Pub	Utica	7:30-10 PM	Free
Mar 3-4	Celtic Women	Proctor’s Theater	Schenectady	8 PM	\$40.75-\$70.75
Mar 4	Danu	Clemens Center	Elmira	7:30 PM	\$15-25
Mar 4	Enter the Haggis	The Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	8 PM	\$15
Mar 4	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Mar 4	Celtic Crossroads	Center for the Arts	Homer, NY	7 PM	\$25-35 non-mbrs
Mar 5	Enter the Haggis w/ Blarney Rebel Band	The Electric Company	Utica	8 PM	\$10
Mar 5	“Mostly Irish” Monthly Jam	Irish American Club	Amsterdam NY	7:30 PM	Free
Mar 5	Pat Kane	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Mar 5	Cara	Old Songs Concert Series	Voorheesville	8 PM	\$20
Mar 5-7	Riverdance	Shea’s Performing Art Ctr	Buffalo	Mar 5 – 8 PM Mar 6 – 2 & 8 Mar 7 – 2 & 7	\$34.50 - \$59.50
Mar 6	St. Patrick’s Kickoff Concert	Unity Hall	Barneveld	8 PM	\$12; \$10 adv.
Mar 6	Cara – Black River Series	Lewis County Historical Soc	Lowville	8 PM	\$18 adv; \$22
Mar 7	Donnell Leahy and Natalie MacMaster	UB Center for the Arts	Buffalo	8 PM	\$23.50-\$33.50
Mar 7	Cassidy-McCale	Coleman’s Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Mar 7	Syracuse Irish Session	Wayside Irish Pub	Elbridge NY	4-7 PM	Free
Mar 8	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Mar 9	Utica Grand Marshal Reception	Stanley Theater	Utica	5-8 PM	\$10
Mar 10	Cliudan	MVCC Theater	Utica	8-10 PM	\$5
Mar 11	Glengarry Bhoys	McNamara's Pub	Camillus	7 PM	\$15 adv; \$20
Mar 11	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Mar 11-14	North Country Goes Green	Dulles State Office Building	Watertown	varies	\$6
Mar 12	Donal O’Shaughnessy	Piggy Pat’s Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Mar 12	Blarney Rebel Band	The Hadley	Utica	6–9 PM	Free
Mar 12	Altan	Troy Savings Bank Music Hall	Troy	8 PM	\$20-29

Mar 12	Band of the Irish Guard	Proctor's Theater	Schenectady	8 PM	\$20-\$40
Mar 12	Searson	The Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	9 PM	\$5
Mar 12	Cliudan	Salty Shamrock	Herkimer	9 PM	Free
Mar 13	St. Patrick's Day Parade	Downtown Utica	Utica	10 AM	Free
Mar 13	Utica's Post-Parade Party	12 North Sports Bar	Marcy	12-6 PM	\$5
Mar 13	Blarney Rebel Band	The Devereux	Utica	1 PM	Free
Mar 13	Vince Colgan	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	4-7 PM	Free
Mar 13	Syracuse St. Patrick's Parade Day w/Gerry Dixon	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	Open at 8 AM, music 1-5 PM	Free
Mar 13	Hair of the Dog (two shows)	The Parting Glass	Saratoga Springs	7 & 9:30 PM	\$15, res'v reqd
Mar 13	Glengarry Bhoys	Smith Opera House	Geneva	8 PM	\$15
Mar 14	Freeborn Men	Coleman's Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Mar 14	Dublin Trad'l Irish Cabaret	Palace Theater	Albany	5 PM	\$12.50-\$25
Mar 15	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Mar 16	Albany Street Sessions	Albany Street Café	Herkimer	7:30 PM	Free
Mar 16	Celtic Crossroads	The Egg	Albany	7:30 PM	\$25 adv; \$30
Mar 17	Cliudan	Celtic Harp	Utica	7 PM	Free
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day w/Gerry Dixon & Cassidy-McCale	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	Opens at 9, music at 1 PM	Free
Mar 17	Ronan Tynan	UB Center for the Arts	Buffalo	7 PM	\$62-127
Mar 17	Barrage	Turning Stone Event Ctr	Verona	3 PM	\$25
Mar 17	Irish Music/Dance	Turning Stone - throughout	Verona	10 AM – 8 PM	Free
Mar 17	Hair of the Dog	Revolution Hall	Troy	7 PM	\$15 adv; \$17
Mar 17	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Mar 19	Blarney Rebel Band	Piggy Pat's Pickled Pig Pub	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Mar 20	Solas	Center for the Arts	Homer, NY	8 PM	\$20-25 non-mbrs
Mar 20	Blarney Rebel Band	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Mar 20	Camden St. Patrick's Parade	Main Street	Camden	2 PM	Free
Mar 20	Black 47	Revolution Hall	Troy	7 PM	\$10 adv; \$15
Mar 21	Solas – Black River Series	Beaver River School Aud	Beaver Falls, NY	7 PM	\$20 adv; \$25
Mar 21	Blarney Rebel Band	Coleman's Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Mar 21	St. Baldrick's Day	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	11 AM	Free
Mar 21	Syracuse Irish Session	Johnston's Bally Bay Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Mar 21	"A Common Thread" & "Harps Delight"	St. John's Parish Center	Camden	2-4 PM	Free
Mar 22	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free
Mar 25	Traditional Irish Session	Marcellus Legion Hall	Marcellus, NY	4-7 PM	Free
Mar 26,27	Neil Emberg	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Mar 27	Trad Irish Music Session	Kitty Hoynes	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
Mar 28	Flyin' Column	Coleman's Irish Pub	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Mar 29	Trad Irish Music Session	The Susquehanna Café	Bainbridge NY	5:30-8:30 PM	Free

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'll be happy to include it. As always, while we try to get things – prices, places, 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. Finally, from all of us, have a safe and fun St. Patrick's Day!