



IRISH SPIRIT

The St. Patrick Society Quad Cities, USA

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Late Summer 2006

A FEW NOTES FOR 2006 ERIN FEIS

The entire Erin Feis Committee is delighted to bring you the spirit of Ireland for a day - another Feis filled with the exceptional Irish music and dancing performances that have become a hallmark of this 22-year event. A few surprises are in store this year: a new stage lay-out (you won't have to leave the plaza or miss any performances), several new musicians making their Feis debut, along with expanded cultural activities inside RIBCO. And did we mention that the kids can rock climb or try their Irish luck at the basketball shoot out? It promises to be fun for everyone in the family so, bring your whole clan... it's a half way to St. Patrick's Day party not to be missed! Special Thanks to Riverboat Development Authority and Scott County Regional Authority for their generous grants to support this year's festival.



Erin Feis is also one of the venues for Riverway 2006, a five-day salute to the 150th Anniversary of the first railroad bridge to cross the Mississippi River in 1856. The celebration, taking place September 14-17, 2006, features steam locomotive trips and a storytelling festival. More information can be found at www.visitquadcities.com.

Gates Open: 10 am - Admission: \$6.00 Wee Folks- Kids under 12 - FREE

EVENT SCHEDULE

DANCE STAGE

11:00 - 12:00	Unity Mass
1:00 - 1:45	Mullane Irish Dance Academy (mullanedancers.com)
1:45 - 2:15	Red Hair & Freckle Contests
3:00 - 4:00	Mullane Irish Dance Academy
4:00	Clan Award Presentation - Fee-Daily Families
4:10	Kids Parade with Dr Kirk Witherspoon

MUSIC STAGE

12:00 - 1:00	Gan Bua (ganbua.com)
2:15 - 3:00	Leahys Luck (leahysluck.com)
4:15 - 5:15	Wylde Nept (wyldenept.com)
5:30 - 6:30	Gan Bua
6:45 - 7:30	Leahys Luck
7:30	Grand Prize Drawing

OTHER ACTIVITIES

12:30 - 4:00pm	Children's Activities - West Plaza - Games, face painting, Clown, Rock Climbing Wall, Basketball Shoot Out Contest, prizes (\$3)
12:30 - 7:00pm	Irish Cultural Exhibits /Irish Soda Bread sale, St. Patrick Society Memorabilia, Shamrock Imports, Little Irish Attic, food catered by Kelly's Irish Pub & Eatery
1:15 - 1:45	Inside RIBCO - Traditional Sean N6s dancing & singing, Irish musical instruments demo
2:00 - 4:00	Quad City Ceili Club Irish social dancing with live traditional music - Audience participation encouraged

WIN A TRIP TO IRELAND!

- \$1.00 a chance - Raffle for \$1,500 towards trip to Ireland or \$1,000 cash & many more prizes awarded throughout the day
- Prizes include jewelry, dinners, hotel stays, Irish merchandise, gift certificates, etc.

Event proceeds support the SPS Grand Parade Weekend, Scholarship Program & local charities

ENTERTAINMENT
2006
Gan Bua



Making their Erin Feis debut and bringing an innovative twist to traditional Irish music, is Chicago-based band, 'Gan Bua' (pronounced Gan BOO-a) which is Gaelic for "without talent". Gan Bua is a progressive Celtic band that plays with unmistakable energy and infectious rhythm. In their short history, they have made a tremendous impact in the Midwest Irish music scene. Coming from different Cities and backgrounds, each one of them brings varied ingredients into the mix to make a powerful musical collage. The passion and exuberance for the music comes through with each note they play. They're known for top-notch musicianship and crisp delivery.

Bill Margeson, a reviewer for the Irish American News, says, "This band is a sure point of reference to the newest and best approaches to the tradition ... This is powerful, simultaneously pure and innovative trad music at its most exciting."

Leahys Luck



Another Erin Feis favorite, Leahys Luck has performed Irish folk music for twelve years. The band originally consisted of Brian and his three daughters, along with Tom and his two children. As the children have grown, other friends have joined the band occasionally, but the nucleus remains the same.

Brian and Tom continue as band leaders with guitars, bass, and distinctive vocals.

Evan Leahy, Tom's son, is a world-class Irish drummer, who has played internationally. While the bodhran is his foundation, he continues to develop his talent with guitar and vocals.

Colin Leahy, Brian's son, is also a percussionist. He brings a bodhran, djembe, bongos and other percussive instruments to add artistic flavor to the band's sound.

Randal Harrison, fiddler, has played with the Savannah Symphony Orchestra, and bluegrass giants-Vassar Clements and John Harford. Awarded this years MAMA's for Best Blues Artist and Best Jazz Album, he teaches violin and improvisation throughout the U.S.

Stas Venglevski, accordion virtuoso, has performed with symphonies throughout the U.S., the Milwaukee Pops Orchestra, and has appeared on "A Prairie Home Companion". A lover of all types of music, Stas adds his own all-world touch to Leahys Luck.

Wylde Nept



Back for their third Erin Feis appearance, Wylde Nept has become another crowd favorite with their striking presence and rousing mix of traditional Scottish and Irish music, sea shanties, sing-along pub songs and original Celtic tunes. As their name and kilted attire suggests, Wylde Nept is plaid to the bone - a cast of seven colorful characters that specialize in bringing a party to the stage with their music and humor. Based in Cedar Rapids, they are one of eastern Iowa's favorite pub bands. You can look forward to singing along with some old favorites and enjoying new sounds from their latest CD, "All's Fair". Visit www.wyldenept.com for details.

Mullane Irish Dance Academy

These gifted young dancers exude a charm and infectious energy that always equals a show-stopping performance to energize the crowd. Under the skillful direction of Chicagoan, Mike Mullane, and several talented local instructors, the program continues to grow and evolve, showcasing a spectacular display of talent. For more, visit: www.mullanedancers.com

Expanded RIBCO ENTERTAINMENT



Sean Nós Dancing & Traditional Irish Singing with Elizabeth McConnell

Traditional Music by Guy Drollinger, Keith Reins, and Jon Cooper

This ensemble of talented performers, appearing together for their first Erin Feis, adds a delightful new cultural dimension to this year's line-up. The audience will have an opportunity to see and experience the unique, old style Irish dancing and singing, and learn more about traditional Irish instruments.

For those who may not be familiar, Sean nós is Irish Gaelic meaning 'old style'. There are two types of sean nós dancing. The first, traditional step dancing, (pre-cursor to modern step dancing), hails from southwest Ireland and maintains the rigid upper body position and straight arms without the high kicks and movement around the floor. The other type hails from County Galway and is a style in which the body is held limper, like a rag doll with the feet moving very quickly, more like a shuffle. There are very few who still dance this style.

There are also two types of Irish singing. If sung in Gaelic, it is termed 'sean nós'. If sung in English, but with the distinctive lilting Irish style, it is called 'traditional Irish singing'.

Liz McConnell, Sean nós dancer and Traditional Irish singer, is a chiropractor at Davenport's Palmer Clinic,

and a gifted performer who has honed her craft, studying ballet and voice in Boston and New York and her Sean n6s dancing and singing skills under several accomplished teachers.

Guy Drollinger, fiddle and mandolin, has played with "Stones in the Field" Celtic Band, and performs in a duo called "Fiddlers Green", as well as with his daughters, both accomplished violinists and fiddlers. Guy has performed at several Folklife Teachers Institutes and in 2002 and 2004, was named as a Master Fiddler for the Iowa Arts Council's Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program.

Keith Reins, guitar, is the son of a former big band saxophonist, who began his musical life at the age of five with piano lessons, and played other instruments, including clarinet and saxophone in concert and jazz band.

In high school, Keith started hugging guitars and quickly became obsessed with traditional music. Over the past 30 years, he has played bluegrass, old time, classic country, country blues, American folk songs and most recently, traditional Irish music. The eclectic, improvisational nature of Irish guitar accompaniment allows Keith to synthesize all of his diverse musical influences.

Jon Cooper, uilleann pipes and pennywhistle, began playing the uilleann (ILL-en) pipes in 1998 under the guidance of master piper and pipe maker, Tim Britton in Fairfield, Iowa. Jon has enjoyed sitting in with friends, Keith Reins and Guy Drollinger, at various events for the past 6 years. His development as a traditional Irish musician owes a lot to the encouragement and support of talented folk in the Eastern Iowa area including Frank Claudy, who anchors the Mac's sessions, and his friends, The Stones in the Field. Today, Jon plays mostly at in Davenport at Mac's Tavern's Traditional Irish Music sessions and the monthly Irish Sessions at River Music Experience.

A note on the Uilleann (ILL-en) Pipes

The Uilleann pipes, also known as the Union pipes, are a type of bagpipe native to Ireland, although they may have not been developed there originally. Most people know only of the Scottish Great Highland Bagpipe, but in fact, bagpipes of various kinds

are played in almost every country in Europe, much of North Africa and Asia, and as far east as India.

A full set consists of a bellows, a bag, a chanter, three drones and three regulators. Visit the Feis and stop by RIBCO to check out these pipes and see how they work to achieve their unmistakable, haunting sound.

Quad City Ceili Club

The Club invites Feis goers to join them for some lively Irish Social dancing inside RIBCO and at any of their regular sessions at the Knights of Columbus in Davenport. The more the merrier! Fall dances are scheduled for Sunday, October 22 at 2:00 (taped music), and Saturday, November 25 at 7:30 (music TBA). For Ceili Club info, log on to: www.qcceiliclub.org.



MORE ERIN FEIS DETAILS

Raffle - The grand prize is \$1,500 toward an Ireland trip or \$1,000 if the winner opts for cash. Tickets have been mailed to all members. Please be sure all tickets are turned in to committee chairs, Jack & Connie Pond. You may return the stubs, along with a check to:

St. Patrick Society
PO Box 4487
Davenport, IA 52808

Raffle prizes and gift baskets will be awarded throughout the day. Winners need not be present to claim their prize. Dinners, gift certificates, and hotel stays are just a few of the great prizes. If you wish to donate a prize, please contact Kevin or Laurie Day at (309) 787-1166.

Red Hair & Freckles Contests

The judged contest is open to children in three age groups: 1-4 years, 5-8 years, and 9-12 years. Registration will begin a half hour before the competition, with judging

taking place at 1:45 pm on the Dance Stage. To enter a child in the contest(s), fill out and clip the form and present it at registration.



UPCOMING IRISH & CELTIC EVENTS

Celtic Highland Games - Saturday, August 26 from 9am- midnight, at Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds. For info visit: www.celtichighlandgames.org.

Peoria Erin Feis - August 25-27. Downtown Peoria at Water Street and Hamilton Blvd. Music, Dancing, culture, sports, and more. Wolfstone headlining this year. For information, log on to www.stpatpeoria.com/feis.

Hooley in Dubuque - Sept. 24, 2006, 11am - 8 pm at Dubuque County Fairgrounds. Festivities begin with Irish Mass, then follow with a road race, and entertainment by Fiona Molloy, Claddagh Irish Dancers, Peter Yeates, and The Kissers. Stones in the Field performs in the Ballroom from 2-5 pm, accompanying Ceili dancing led by Pat and Gerry Bade. \$7 admission, kids 10 and under are free. Call Shamrock Imports for details 563-583-5000.

Duax Family acknowledged

In the last issue of the Irish Spirit, the Duax family was inadvertently omitted from the list of parade winners. They received the Judge's Trophy for Family Walking Unit. The editor regrets the error.

2006 Veteran's Day Parade

Saturday, Nov. 11, 2006
Show your thanks and support for our Veterans by marching with the Society at this year's parade in Downtown Davenport. Co-chairs, Tom Otting and Leo Kilfoy would like to have a good-sized contingent again this year. Contact Leo for details at 391-6549.

ERIN FEIS RED HAIR & FRECKLES CONTESTS REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Age 1-4 yrs. 5-8 yrs. 9-12 yrs.