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# MOHAWK VALLEY IRISH CULTURAL EVENTS NEWSLETTER

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Volume 13, Issue 7

Jul 2016

## High Kings, Elders, Enter the Haggis Return to Headline 2016 Great American Irish Festival

When the 2016 Great American Irish Festival (GAIF) comes to the Herkimer County Fairgrounds in Frankfort on Friday, July 29, Saturday, July 30 and Sunday, July 31, it will boast an array of Irish and Celtic performers ranging from the delicate to the raucous.

Headlining the traditional stage at this year's festival will be an act that has become a cultural phenomenon, Ireland's Folk Band of the year and winners of Irish Music Award's Top Traditional Performance Show, the High Kings. Boasting a musical pedigree that few can match, and fresh off record-breaking PBS showings, four musical powerhouses, Finbarr Clancy of the legendary Clancy family, Brian Dunphy, son of well-known singer, Sean Dunphy, Martin Furey of the famous Furey family of musicians, and renowned vocalist Darren Holden have come together to create the most exciting Irish ballad group to emerge since The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem electrified the worldwide folk revival of the 1960s.

For those whose tastes are a bit more contemporary, back to headline this year's festival will be high-energy festival favorites, The Elders, leading a contemporary stage lineup that also includes area favorites Enter the Haggis. Also returning to GAIF will be 2013 Irish Music Award Best Group winner Runa; the electrified and electrifying Moxie Strings; Canada's Kitchen Party, and Kennedy's Kitchen.

Much of the emphasis this year, however, is on introducing festival audiences to some of the most exciting new acts on the festival circuit. Among the new bands coming in will be this year's "must see" band, Dallahan, one of the fastest rising forces on the international folk and Irish trad circuit; sibling outfits The Fitzgeralds from Canada and The Gothard Sisters from the Pacific northwest; a fiery high-energy band out of Ontario, Poor Angus, and Rochester's Sisters of Murphy.

Adding to the non-stop entertainment will be a variety of other national, local and regional performers, including some of Central New York's most popular Irish performers, Kilrush, Pat Kane, Donal O'Shaughnessy, Gerry Dixon, and Springhouse, among others.

In addition to the non-stop music, merchandise vendors from across the U.S. and Ireland, carefully selected from a list of applicants, will be selling Irish and Celtic merchandise, and a variety of food booths will be providing a taste of the Emerald Isle for festival-goers. Returning again this year will be the 5k run, bagpipe competition and Irish Mass. Campsites are also available.

The Herkimer County Fairgrounds is located just off Route 5s in Frankfort NY, just minutes from the New York State Thruway. For directions, tickets or more information, visit the festival [web site](#).

And now it's time to meet the bands:



## The High Kings

The High Kings are not just a musical act, they are a phenomenon. Boasting a musical pedigree that few can match, four musical powerhouses, Finbarr Clancy of the legendary Clancy family, Brian Dunphy, son of well-known singer, Sean Dunphy, Martin Furey of the famous Furey family of musicians, and renowned vocalist Darren Holden have come together to create the most exciting Irish ballad group to emerge since The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem electrified the worldwide folk revival of the 1960s. Ireland's Folk Band of the year and winners of Irish Music Award's Top Traditional Performance Show, The High Kings grew up in households steeped in the Irish Musical tradition and each member of the band witnessed firsthand the power of well-crafted Irish music on an audience. Since their inception, the High Kings have sold out hundreds of shows, in Ireland and the US, made numerous TV appearances, and their albums have achieved platinum status. The quartet now brings a new show that showcases their incredible versatility and skills as multi-instrumentalists, playing 13 instruments between them, bringing a rousing acoustic flavor to brand new songs as well as some old favorites. The High Kings are continuing to live up to their reputation as a phenomenal live band, serving up laughter, good times and even the odd sing along.



## The Elders



Sure, they claim to be from the Midwest, but we here in Central New York know better: The Elders are now officially upstaters. Since forming in 1998, The Elders have set the music scene on its ear, thanks to a skillful blend of American roots rock and amped-up Celtic folk; a cross-pollination of elements that is high-octane and progressive, yet rooted in tradition. It didn't take long to establish themselves as one of the top American Celtic-rock bands, headlining the biggest Celtic festivals in North America and Europe. Employing a variety of instruments including guitars, drums, banjo, accordion, mandolin, piano and fiddle, the band creates music that transcends

the stereotypical notion of Celtic music. Powerful four part harmonies, blazing instrumentals and songwriting that is unaffected by fads, trends and the giant maw of mind-numbing commercialism – it all adds up to the hottest show in Celtic music today.

## Enter The Haggis



Making a return to GAIF after a three-year absence, Enter The Haggis continues to lead the charge among Celtic Folk Rock bands, delighting fans with their memorable performances, inspired songwriting, musical proficiency and high quality recordings. The Toronto-based band has released nine acclaimed studio albums, the most recent debuting at #9 on the U.S. national Billboard Heatseekers charts. "Cheers and Echoes: A 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Retrospective," was released in 2015, and their upcoming CD, "Broken Arms" will be available in October 2016. Their original songs such as "One Last Drink," "Down With The Ship" and "Gasoline" have become folk rock anthems, appearing in films such as "Goon," "10mph" and "Addicted to Plastic."

## Dallahan

Dallahan is one of the fastest rising forces on the international folk circuit; heavily rooted in traditional Irish music, but with hugely diverse backgrounds and influences. They call on their mixed Irish, Scottish and Hungarian heritage to create a unique and seamless musical montage, drawing in influences from jazz, funk, pop and classical music. Dallahan will push and pull you along on a musical journey, artistically transcending from tender and delicate songs from Transylvania, to relentlessly punchy Irish dance tunes littered with funk grooves and everything in between.



## Runa



Quickly gaining recognition as one of Irish music's new "super-groups," RUNA has been enchanting audiences by pushing the boundaries of Irish folk music since their formation in 2008. Interweaving the haunting melodies and exuberant tunes of Ireland and Scotland with the lush harmonies and intoxicating rhythms of bluegrass, flamenco, blues, jazz, they offer a thrilling and redefining take on traditional music.

## The Fitzgeralds

These siblings from Canada's renowned Ottawa Valley have come a long way from their small town roots. Featuring 3-time Canadian Grandmaster Fiddle Champions and Ontario Open Step Dance Champions, this unique act features high-energy fiddling and mind-blowing step dancing. Joining the siblings on guitar, lead vocals, and onstage antics is Nate Douglas (guitarist for Cape Breton's Natalie MacMaster in 2013). It is the rare combination of exceptional musicianship, incomparable step dancing, audience interaction, evident love of performing, and genuine sibling connection that resonates with audiences of all ages and sets this group apart.

## Kennedy's Kitchen

Kennedy's Kitchen has been making Irish music together since 1998, averaging about 80 shows per year, playing everything from backyard parties and weddings to pubs, concert halls and national festivals. From their home in South Bend Indiana, they have traveled as far as New York City and Naples Florida, recording four CDs along the way. Off stage, they still gather every Thursday evening for dinner, laughter and music rooted in traditional Irish music, jigs, reels, hornpipes, airs, recitations, stories and songs.

## Moxie Strings

The Moxie Strings is the electrifying combination of fiddler Diana Ladio and electric cellist, Alison Lynn. With their feel-good melodies and foot-stomping, rock-influenced rhythms, these young women have put a fresh, enticing spin on Celtic and Americana music. Though rooted in tradition, The Moxie Strings offer listeners the unique opportunity to experience some of the world's best-known instruments and oldest tunes through a young, progressive lens. Diana and Alison often join forces with dynamic drummer and world percussionist, Fritz McGirr, who lends his spirited expertise of traditional music's percussion component, and a creative rhythmic energy to the show. Diana, Alison and Fritz hold Bachelor of Music degrees in music performance and music education, which gives each the technical foundation to explore the limits of his/her instrument, and helped the group build a reputation for musical excellence. Both Diana and Alison use a variety of audio effects pedals. Alison performs on a newly invented electric instrument, and Fritz employs a variety of world percussion instruments in celebration of their generation's redefinition of folk music. The Moxie Strings write the majority of their pieces, and also arrange traditional tunes from many different countries and genres.

## **The Gothard Sisters**

Since forming in the Pacific Northwest 2006, The Gothard Sisters have become internationally recognized as multi-instrumentalist Celtic-influenced folk musicians, songwriters, and performers.

## **Poor Angus**

Featuring masterful highland and uilleann piping and tin whistles, virtuoso fiddling and impressive vocal harmony, this Celtic quintet always gets feet stomping and leaves audiences of all ages roaring for more.

## **Kitchen Party**

Kitchen Party combines a blend of old repertoire and original pieces to create a hand-clapping, toe-tapping Celtic sound. They have steadily gained a solid professional reputation as a band that can transform any night into a party.

## **Kilrush**

With a repertoire focusing primarily on traditional Irish music, Kilrush has expanded and refined their sound over the years to create a sound they've taken to calling "Triple Distilled Celtic Rock."

## **Springhouse**

Springhouse is a trio that plays an eclectic mix of Celtic, Americana and Folk. Springhouse has performed at many local venues for traditional music including the Park Coffeehouse and the Great American Irish Festival.

## **Gerry Dixon**

Hailing from Buffalo by way of County Clare, Gerry sings and plays a myriad of instruments. With his performing skills and engaging personality, Gerry will take you on a memorable trip to the Emerald Isle.

## **Dierdre McCarthy**

Born and raised in Limerick City, Ireland, Deirdre McCarthy has been sharing her love of her homeland through song and storytelling all across New York State since 1995.

## **Alana and Leigh Cline**

Alana and Leigh Cline are a Toronto based Celtic fiddle/guitar instrumental duo who combine Irish, Cape Breton and Scottish styles to create their own sound. They also include occasional Balkan tunes in their sets.

## **Sisters of Murphy**

Rochester's favorite Celtic rock group performs popular covers and memorable originals.

## **Donal O'Shaughnessy**

Donal O'Shaughnessy is a multi-talented performer, playing guitar, fiddle, keyboards, pipe organ, bodhran and mandolin. His quick wit and spontaneity with his audience keeps people in their seats until the very end of the night.

## **Craobh Dugan**

Craobh Dugan has been preserving and promoting the traditional music, song, dance and language of the Irish culture with weekly Céilí, music, and language sessions for over thirty years.

## **West O'Clare**

The Finger Lakes' Pat Kane leads this talented band through a seemingly limitless repertoire of Irish standards, traditional ballads and haunting instrumentals.

## Enter the Haggis Comes Home

So, how far back does your relationship with Toronto roots rockers Enter the Haggis stretch? Was it in the Saranac Brewery parking lot in July 2009 when they played the inaugural Festival Eve show? Was it at their first Great American Irish Festival appearance in 2006? Or can you go even further back, when the editors of this newsletter brought them to the Devereux in April 2005? Whenever it was, that was no doubt the night that you became a Haggishead, and part of the adoptive family whose love for the band has had the boys continuing to come back to Utica year after year.



This month has them returning with a vengeance, playing all your favorite songs peppered with new songs from their “Cheers and Echoes” 20 year retrospective CD, as well as their upcoming “Broken Arms” album, set for release in October 2016. First, they’re sending out advance scout Trevor Lewington, who will be playing a solo gig at Kitty Hoynes in Syracuse on July 8-9. Then, on July 14<sup>th</sup>, the band will share the stage with the Capital District’s favorite band, Hair of the Dog, as part of the Alive at 5 series in Albany. Admission to the concert, held at Tricentennial Park (on Broadway and Columbia Street in downtown Albany) is free. Hair of the Dog kicks things off at 5 PM and Enter the Haggis starts at 6:30. Then on Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, they make their 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive Festival Eve appearance at the Saranac Brewery parking lot (\$5 admission also includes your first beer). And of course, they will be making a long-awaited return to the Great American Festival (July 29-31) as headliners, with long sets on Friday and Saturday.

## St. Patrick’s Irish Festival Celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Year

If you’re looking for some pre-GAIF festival action, why not head out to St. Patrick’s Church (216 N Lowell Ave on historic Tipperary Hill) on Jul 15-16 for their 25<sup>th</sup> annual St Patrick’s Irish Festival. There’s fun for all with great food, entertainment, raffles, games, and prizes. All profits from the festival go toward St. Patrick’s Church.

This year’s live bands include The Prodigals and The Causeway Giants on Friday evening, as well as The Mere Mortals on Saturday night. Also performing will be Quigsey & The Bird, The Kilgore McTrouts, Dr. Tom Dooley Choraliers, The Flyin’ Column and The Syracuse Kiltie Pipe Band. Other entertainment will feature local Irish step dancing, including performances by Roisin Academy, McDonald School, Johnston School, Butler Sheehan Academy, Drumcliffe School, and Francis Academy. The festival will feature a varied selection of apparel/craft vendors, games of chance and plenty of activities for the kids. Admission and parking are free.

## Nation’s Longest-Running Coffeehouse Shifts Events to Temporary Venue

Caffè Lena -- the nation’s oldest continuously operating coffeehouse -- is temporarily hosting gigs in a new location while undergoing renovations.

Performances at Caffè Lena were moved last month from their longtime venue in downtown Saratoga Springs to the Grove; a nearby former retired Catholic priests’ residence that has been redeveloped into apartments. Concerts at the temporary location will be held on most weekends through Aug. 27.

The not-for-profit organization that runs the 56-year-old coffeehouse announced earlier this year that it would undergo more than \$1 million in upgrades to its building and performance space. The coffeehouse has hosted such folk icons as Bob Dylan, Arlo Guthrie and Don McLean. The renovation plans include constructing a four-story building in the parking lot next to the coffeehouse, as well as added seating.

## Join the Volunteer Army!

Great American Irish Festival Volunteer Chairperson Mike Rinaldi (Gaifvolunteers@gmail.com) reminds us that he still needs volunteers for the 2016 festival, and invites you to sign up via the [web page](#) (and that's even if you've volunteered with the festival in the past). Several venues could use your help, and of course, volunteering 8 hours of your time over the course of the weekend makes you eligible to get all the great perks that aren't available to the general public, including free admission all weekend, a festival volunteer t-shirt, and an invitation to the post-festival volunteer party. If you want to schedule your time around your favorite acts, you can check out the schedule, [here](#). But don't tarry... it's closer than you think!

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

This month's recipe – “**Blueberry and Buttermilk Sherbet**”- By [Margaret Johnson](#) *This homemade blueberry sherbet relies on both fresh fruit and buttermilk to create a fabulous frozen concoction. You'll love every spoonful.*

#### INGREDIENTS:

3/4 cup sugar	2 tablespoons lemon juice
3/4 cup water	1 cup cold buttermilk
1 pint (12 ounces) blueberries	2 egg whites



#### METHOD

In a saucepan over medium-high heat, combine sugar and water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and cook until sugar dissolves, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the blueberries and cook for 5 minutes, until blueberries are soft and pulpy. Stir in the lemon juice and chill 1 hour. Stir in the buttermilk and transfer to a freezer container. Cover and freeze for about 1 hour, or until mixture begins to set around the edges. Beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Turn sherbet mixture into a bowl and beat until smooth. Fold in egg whites, return mixture to the container, and freeze until firm, about 6 hours or overnight. Alternately, combine chilled blueberry mixture with buttermilk and freeze in an ice cream maker according to manufacturer's directions. Transfer to a freezer container, fold in the egg whites, and freeze until firm, about 6 hours, or overnight. To serve, soften slightly, then scoop into stemmed parfait glasses. Serve with oatmeal cookies. Makes 8 servings.

*If you try this recipe, feel free to share your experience with all of us. As always, if you have a recipe you'd like to share, please contact Beth Loftis at [bloftis@ymail.com](mailto:bloftis@ymail.com).*

## The Catskill Hills are Alive with Irish Music in July

Every July, the Irish American hamlet of East Durham, New York becomes the Mecca of traditional Irish Music and Dance in North America for the Catskills Irish Arts Week. In its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, the prestigious summer school, which runs from July 10-16 and features over 60 classes in traditional music, song, dance and Celtic crafts, has become the premier event this side of the Atlantic, attracting students from all around the United States and Canada. The largest school of its kind in North America invites the finest teachers from Ireland and the United States, who will be giving workshops and demonstrations in fiddle, concertina, accordion, flute, harp, Irish singing, set dance and step dance, and much, much more. Culminating the week will be a concert by Cherish the Ladies on Friday, and the East Durham Trad Fest, taking place on Saturday from noon to 6:30 PM. The Catskills Irish Arts Week is organized by the Michael J. Quill Irish Cultural & Sports Centre, a not for profit organization dedicated to Keeping the Tradition Alive in East Durham. For more info, visit their [web site](#).

## **“Twisted River” - Book Review by Mark Sisti**

Are you familiar with the relatively recent concept in vacationing called house-swapping? Under this plan, two parties agree to swap their homes for a set period of time, with no exchange of money. In other words, two families would agree to vacation in the other’s home, thereby saving money on accommodations.

Sounds like a sensible idea, and it probably is. Unless, of course, both families have secrets that would be better kept hidden.

That’s the premise underlying Siobhan MacDonald’s debut novel, “Twisted River,” and it’s an intriguing one. Unfortunately, like the house-swap concept itself, the reality doesn’t quite live up to the idea.

The O'Brien family, living in Limerick, Ireland, and the well-to-do Harvey family, from New York City, appear to be fairly normal families. Each has their problems, but they seem to be coping with them as well as could be expected. Kate and Mannix O'Brien are struggling, emotionally and financially, with their autistic son, who is being bullied at school. Kate realizes the best thing for the family would be to get away for a short while, even though she knows they can't afford it.

Meanwhile, in NYC, Hazel and Oscar Harvey are experiencing troubles of their own; Hazel is frustrated dealing with her controlling, demanding husband. And there are always new bruises to try to explain. When she sees the O'Brien's house on a house-swap site, Hazel, who grew up in Limerick, thinks that showing her children where she grew up would be a perfect vacation. Arrangements are made and each family takes up residence in the other's home.

At first, both families appear to be getting the respite they need. But all is not what it seems. Mannix has been keeping secrets from Kate (as has her daughter, Izzy) and these secrets are all leading to tragic consequences. On the other side of the pond, Hazel is experiencing a sense of foreboding which she can't explain; she sees or senses people watching the house (people who Oscar never sees) and finds the Halloween/Samhain atmosphere vaguely disturbing. Add to this a tangential connection to a local crime family and it becomes clear this is not going to be the relaxing getaway both families had hoped for.

This is one of those books where the opening scene makes it almost impossible to put down. When the first paragraph of a book reads, “She never would have fit as neatly into the trunk of his own car. He presses two fingers against her beautiful neck. Just in case. No pulse. The blow was fatal. He looks at her one last time and closes the trunk” – well, I don't care who you are, you need to find out what happened.

Unfortunately, the rest of the novel doesn't quite live up to the Tana French-like promise of the introduction. It's not that the book is bad. As indicated, it's an interesting premise, and the writing is competent, if not brilliant. MacDonald has a good sense of pace and atmosphere, and her exploration of her themes of marriage and loyalty and the consequences of dishonesty is thought-provoking. While the story does lapse into predictability, there are a few twists that lead you in a direction you didn't expect. MacDonald manages to build and maintain the suspense, and her descriptive powers are substantial and well-utilized. And the characters, while somewhat stereotypical, are fairly well drawn. The thematic construction was effective, with its alternating points of view of four characters, although the points of view could have been more distinct.

But somewhere along the line the book veers away from being an intriguing psychological thriller and becomes the literary equivalent of a Lifetime Channel movie. There are the typical gender stereotypes that you find in those made-for-TV shows – the women are all too perfect, embattled but empowered; the men are all despicable cads, either outwardly unlikable or loathsome cheaters underneath their candy-coated exterior.

Even more problematic is the fact that the story, which had the potential to be something fresh and original, ends up being so derivative (I won't say of what) that a plagiarism lawsuit may have been possible. Perhaps as a result of so much “been-there-done-that,” the ending falls flat and unsatisfying.

Keep in mind, however, this is summer, and this would be a good choice for a beach book, holding your interest without demanding too much from you. This river may not be quite as twisted as the author would like us to believe, but neither is it all wet. Keep in mind also that this is Siobhan MacDonald's first novel. There could be the promise of better works to come.

## 8th Annual Ranger Run Set for Saturday July 30th

Dust off your running shoes and join us for the Great American Irish Festival's 5K Ranger Run, at 10 AM on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. This 3.1 mile run starts and finishes at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds. Registration entitles all runners to a commemorative t-shirt and admittance to the festival all day Saturday. Awards will be given to the overall top male and female runners, and to the top male and female in each age category. Two additional prizes will be awarded to the runners wearing their best Irish outfit.

Registering could not be easier; either from the GAIF website or by clicking this [link](#). The cost is \$20 in advance, \$30 the day of the race. Packet pick up will be Friday, July 29th from 6-8 PM at the main gate of the Herkimer County Fairgrounds, or from 8-9:30 the morning of the race. For more info about the race and to register online, please visit [greatamericanirishfest.com](http://greatamericanirishfest.com)

## Why Wait In Line for GAIF Tickets When You Can Go On Line?

I know you: You love Irish music. You love saving money. And you're lazy. It's okay! We all love our live music, but with tickets for a high-quality show or even a Kanye concert costing \$100 and up, who can afford it anymore? Well, if you act now, you can... and you can do it without leaving the comfort of your seat. That's right, buying tickets for the Great American Irish Festival on line couldn't be easier. Visit the GAIF [website](#) and follow the links to Ticketfly, where you can print your tickets out whenever you're ready. In fact, while you can get advance discounted single-day tickets at very reasonable prices (Friday alone is \$12, Saturday tickets are \$15, Sunday tickets are \$12), why not opt for the All-Weekend ticket, available for the jaw-dropping price of \$30! That's right, for a limited time, a mere \$30 gets you over 23 hours of world-class music continuously on four stages by 15 different acts... all for less than the price of one concert by Miley Bieber. But act now, once these are gone... well, they're gone! And don't forget, children under 13 and all active military members with valid ID and immediate family are free.

## The GAAGO Channel Brings Gaelic Games to the Roku Platform

Reader Steve Cox writes "This tidbit will be of interest to Irish nerds (okay, just me) who own Roku streaming devices. You can now add GAAGO, the Gaelic football and hurling channel. It's pretty cool." Well-I-I, being only half-Irish with trace amounts of nerd DNA, I had to look it up... here's what I found:

"Attention fans of hurling and Gaelic football, as of today you can watch the Gaelic Games through the [GAAGO channel](#) on your [Roku streaming player](#) or [Roku TV](#) models in the U.S. The GAAGO channel brings the excitement, drama and skill of Gaelic Games to Roku users who can now enjoy the 2016 GAA Championships and The Sunday Game highlights show on their big screen."

"For those new to the sport, Gaelic Games are mainly inclusive to two sports – hurling and Gaelic football. Hurling is the world's fastest field sport and is an ancient Irish sport, first played over 3,000 years ago. Gaelic football is like a cross between soccer and rugby. Constant movement, fearsome collisions, spectacular high catching and lightning-fast attack make it a game unlike any other. Gaelic Games are gaining popularity in the U.S. as well with now over 150 GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association) clubs nationwide."



## RANDOM RAMBLINGS

☘ **“Nuacht as Craobh Dugan”---news from the Dugan Branch** Chris Hoke writes: “The owners of the Woodlands Hop Farm and Brewery are expanding their musical offerings and will no longer be hosting our monthly Sunday sessions there. But you can always catch a Craobh Dugan session on the first Tuesday at the Nail Creek Pub in Utica or on the 3rd Tuesday at Stockdale’s in Oriskany. Stop in, have a cold drink and listen to some good traditional Irish music!... Save the Date: September 21st. Helena Byrne is an Irish singer/storyteller who will be passing through upstate New York, and we are hoping to host her right here in our area! If it happens, the date will be Wednesday Sept 21st, so please mark that on your calendars and watch for more info in the next couple of months!...Performances this month include: Jul 1 - Ceili Dance Class, 7 PM, Seton Center; Jul 5 - Open Session Nail Creek Pub, 7:30 PM; Jul 8 - Ceili Dance Class, 7 PM, Seton Center; Jul 15 - Ceili Dance Class, 7 PM, Seton Center; Jul 19 - Open Session Stockdale’s, 7:30 PM; Jul 22 - Ceili Dance Class, 7 PM, Seton Center; Jul 29 - 31 Great American Irish Festival.”

☘ **Ten Strings and a Goat Skin** From Prince Edward Island in Canada, Ten Strings And A Goat Skin is a trio playing a mix of Irish, Acadian, French and original creations infused with modern and world rhythms. On Wednesday, July 27, you can catch them at The Egg’s outdoor stage, as part of the Made in the Shade of The Egg Series. Admission is free.

☘ **GAIF Photo Contest** The 2016 Great American Irish Festival will once again be holding its popular Photo Contest. Photos must have an Irish event or location as the subject, and must contain a person as either the subject of the picture or as an element in the photo. The winning photo will be decided by festival attendees, with winners receiving \$100. Photos must be between 8” x 10” and 11” x 14”, must be mounted or matted (no frames and no glass), and will not be returned. Please mail all entries (you may submit up to 3 photos) to: Great American Irish Fest Photo Contest, P.O. Box 36, Utica, NY 13502.

☘ **...And So You Don’t Lose Your Way...** here’s a little business-card size map for your perusal (well, okay, that would be a big business card).



☘ **“But wait,” as they say...** There’s more. You still haven’t heard enough to convince you to attend this year’s festival? How about: **Bagpipe Band Competition** -- Festival attendees will be able to watch some of the best pipe bands in the Northeast. The competition will conclude with a pipe band parade and massed band performance on Saturday... **Cultural Building** - Among the rich cultural traditions displayed from the Emerald Isle, this year the Cultural Building will proudly host: genealogy workshops, photo contest, an acoustic performance stage, cooking demos, Sunday high tea, Irish dancing school performances, and more!... **Tea Room** -- Relax in the calm of a cup of tea and some good company... **Music Workshops** – Fiddle/wind lessons, storytelling and more. Who says learning can’t be fun? ... **Whiskey tasting** - Come try a variety of whiskeys in our Whiskey Tasting area... **Wine Garden** - Choose from an assortment of wines to enjoy with friends... **Plus more!** - Over 30 vendors with a huge variety of Irish and Celtic crafts, clothing, jewelry and other wares, in addition to a wide array of food vendors!

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

Jul 1	Blarney Rebel Band	<a href="#">Piggy Pat’s</a>	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Jul 3	Bill Delaney	<a href="#">Coleman’s Irish Pub</a>	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Jul 3	<a href="#">Syracuse Irish Session</a>	<a href="#">J. Ryan’s Pub</a>	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Jul 5	Nail Creek Sessions	Nail Creek Pub	Utica	7:30 PM	Free
Jul 6	Donal O’Shaughnessy	<a href="#">Killabrew Saloon</a>	New Hartford	7 PM	Free
Jul 8-9	Trevor Lewington (of ETH)	<a href="#">Kitty Hoynes Pub</a>	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Jul 9	Get Up Jack	<a href="#">The Parting Glass</a>	Saratoga Springs	8 PM	\$12
Jul 9	Traditional Irish Session	<a href="#">Kitty Hoynes Pub</a>	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
Jul 10-16	<a href="#">Catskills Irish Arts Week</a>	Michael J. Quill Irish Cultural/ Sports Centre	East Durham	Varies	Check <a href="#">site</a> for Tuition
Jul 14	Enter the Haggis w/ Hair of the Dog	<a href="#">Alive at 5</a>	Albany	5-8 PM	Free
Jul 15	Donal O’Shaughnessy	<a href="#">Piggy Pat’s</a>	Washington Mills	6-9 PM	Free
Jul 15-16	<a href="#">St. Patrick’s Irish Festival</a>	St. Patrick’s Church	Syracuse	Fri, 5-11 PM Sat, Noon-11 PM	Free
Jul 17	Donal O’Shaughnessy	<a href="#">Coleman’s Irish Pub</a>	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Jul 17	Traditional Irish Session	<a href="#">Irish Amer Ass’n</a>	Albany	2:30-6 PM	Free
Jul 17	<a href="#">Syracuse Irish Session</a>	<a href="#">J. Ryan’s Pub</a>	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Jul 18	Blarney Rebel Band	<a href="#">Rome Summer Concert Series</a>	Rome	5:30 PM	Free
Jul 19	Traditional Irish Session	<a href="#">Stockdale’s</a>	Oriskany	7:30 PM	Free
Jul 20	Flyin’ Column	<a href="#">Music in the Park</a>	Camillus	6:30 PM	Free
Jul 22-23	Forthlin Road	<a href="#">The Parting Glass</a>	Saratoga Springs	9 PM	\$5
Jul 23	Traditional Irish Session	<a href="#">Kitty Hoynes Pub</a>	Syracuse	2-5 PM	Free
Jul 24	Kilgore McTrouts	<a href="#">Coleman’s Irish Pub</a>	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free
Jul 28	Enter the Haggis	<a href="#">Saranac Brewery</a>	Utica	5:30 PM	\$5
Jul 29-31	<a href="#">Great American Irish Festival</a>	Herkimer County Fairgrounds	Frankfort NY	Fri - 5-11 Sat - Noon – 11 Sun - Noon - 5	\$12 Fri, \$15 Sat, \$12 Sun; \$30 for Weekend (adv)
Jul 30	Erin Og	<a href="#">The Parting Glass</a>	Saratoga Springs	9 PM	\$5
Jul 30	Donegal Express	<a href="#">Kitty Hoynes Pub</a>	Syracuse	9 PM	Free
Jul 31	Flyin’ Column	<a href="#">Coleman’s Irish Pub</a>	Syracuse	4-7 PM	Free

If you have anything you want to share with us, feel free to send it to us ([sistia@roadrunner.com](mailto:sistia@roadrunner.com), [bloftis@ymail.com](mailto:bloftis@ymail.com) or [marksisti@roadrunner.com](mailto:marksisti@roadrunner.com)), and we’ll be happy to include it. As always, while we strive for not-making-mistakeness, sometimes we make up words. It always makes sense to call ahead to confirm some of these further-out trips. Enjoy a safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July and we’ll see you at the Great American Irish Festival!