



Sean-nós North West

Sixth Annual Festival
February 15-17, 2013
Marylhurst University
Portland, Oregon

www.seannos.org

Welcome to the Sixth Annual Sean-nós NorthWest Festival!

Greetings Everyone,

On behalf of the board of directors of Sean-nós NorthWest, I am pleased to welcome you all to the Sixth Annual Sean-nós NorthWest Festival! Our mission is to teach and promote the performance of Irish sean-nós (“old style”) singing and dancing, and to celebrate aspects of Irish culture, including traditional instrumental music and the use of the Irish language (Gaeilge). To that end, we produce this festival each year to help sustain a vibrant community of sean-nós dancers and musicians across the Pacific Northwest, with strong connections to the musicians, singers, and dancers in Ireland.

This weekend we begin on Friday evening with a choice between an Irish céilí dance at the PPAA Building (instruction begins at 7:15 pm!) or a music session at the Stomptown Collective. On Saturday morning, we begin with a series of workshops that will serve to introduce each of you to the artistry of sean-nós singing, conversations in the Irish language, dancing a jig, and the art of drawing spirals and reflections. Further events in the day include instruction on particular musical instruments, film, and a sean-nós song circle. A concert in Wiegand Hall at Marylhurst closes out the day. We continue on Sunday with more workshops in the morning and afternoon, closing out with master classes on song, language, dance, and fiddle. Our evening session at Biddy McGraw’s, on Sunday night, features not only all the teachers but all of *you* as well! Join us!

As a participant, you are welcome to join any of the workshops; your greatest challenge will be selecting which aspect to explore: the Irish language? Learning to lilt? Dancing a jig? Good luck making your choices, and please enjoy yourselves.

Sincerely,

Seán Williams
Sean-nós NorthWest

Are you new to the whole “Irish thing”?

Welcome! We're especially glad you joined us! Here is some helpful information and a few answers to common questions we are asked.

Sessions, Céilís, and the Concert

If you've never been to an Irish session, you're in for a treat! These are casual get-togethers that are common in Ireland. A session is kind of like a no-host party at the local pub. Musicians will play tunes, dancers might get up and show off their steps, and singers will entertain those in attendance with their melodies. If you're lucky, you might even get to hear a famous poem or funny story. Our festival session will be held at a local pub. There is no cover charge for this get together, but food and drinks are on your own.

Our welcoming céilí is graciously hosted by the Portland Céilí Society. A céilí is similar to a session, but is a little more formal and is focused on social dancing. Don't worry if you don't know the steps – the Caller will teach you the basics at the beginning of the evening and your fellow dancers will help you along. There is a full bar available if you'd like a little refreshment.

Sean-nós NW is proud to offer a concert as part of our festival, featuring each of our instructors demonstrating their craft. You'll be able to hear and see some of the best traditional singing and dancing around! You can get tickets to the concert as part of your workshop package. A limited number will also be available separately for those who can't come to the workshops.

What should I bring and what should I wear?

Our festival is very casual. Jeans are completely appropriate. Since it is February in the Pacific Northwest, we recommend you wear layers to account for our ever-changing weather.

We recommend that you bring a notepad. If you're going to take one or more dance classes, you should bring a water bottle and appropriate shoes (character shoes, ballroom dance shoes, penny loafers, or men's leather dress shoes are good choices if you don't have dedicated dance shoes). **NO METAL TAPS, PLEASE!** Wood taps are fine.

Lunch is on your own. Please feel free to bring a lunch, but be aware we don't have refrigerators or microwaves available.

Please feel free to ask us questions! We're here to share knowledge – don't be afraid to ask!

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2013

Time	PPAA 618 SE Alder Street, Portland	Stomptown Collective 226 SE Madison Street, Portland
7:15 pm - 11:00 pm	Instruction starts at 7:15 pm Céilí starts at 8:00 pm Band: The Jammy Dodgers	
9:00 pm - ?		Session Musicians: Preston Howard, Erik Killops, Conor O'Bryan, Jake Grieco & Félim Egan

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2013

All classes held at Marylhurst University

Time	Singing Room	Language Room	Dance Room	Music Room	Other Room
Registration opens at 8:00 am Please check in to receive your name badge/concert tickets Coffee and tea available in registration area					
9:00 - 10:15	Intro to sean-nós singing, <i>Sean Williams</i>	Intro to Gaeilge, <i>Traolach Ó Riordáin</i>	Old-style Jig, <i>Ben Power</i> <u>Music</u> : Conor O'Bryan	What to listen for in trad music, <i>Kimberly Goetz</i>	Drawing Spirals and Reflections, <i>Jill Sattler</i>
10:30 - 11:45	Intro to "traditional" (English-language) singing, <i>David Ingerson</i>	Intro to Irish-language games, <i>Bob Burke</i>	Intro to sean-nós dance, <i>Maldon Meehan</i> <u>Music</u> : The Jammy Dodgers	Irish music/instrument workshop, <i>Ben Power</i>	Tracing your Irish Roots, <i>Sean Williams</i>
Lunch Break – on your own					
1:30 - 2:45	Sean-nós singing circle – Bring your favorite song to share!	Common Gaeilge Phrases and Idioms, <i>Traolach Ó Riordáin</i>	Sean-nós jigs, <i>Maldon Meehan</i> <u>Music</u> : Preston Howard	Continuing Irish music/instrument workshop, <i>Ben Power</i>	<i>Poitín</i> (an Irish-language film), <i>Kimberly Goetz</i>
Tea and treats – reception area					
3:30 - 4:45	Singing to your child, <i>Sean Williams</i>	Intermediate Gaeilge, <i>Traolach Ó Riordáin</i>	Intermediate Clare Steps, <i>Alicia Guinn</i> <u>Music</u> : Andrea McFarland	Irish fiddle seminar, <i>Kevin Burke</i>	Designing Celtic Crosses, <i>Jill Sattler</i>
Dinner Break – on your own					
7:00 pm	Concert, Weigand Hall				
After Concert	Session Maher's Irish Pub, 352 B Avenue, Lake Oswego				

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2013

All classes held at Marylhurst University

Time	Singing Room	Language Room	Dance Room	Music Room	Other Room
Registration Opens at 10:00 am for Sunday-only attendees Coffee and tea available in registration area					
10:30 - 11:45	Ornamentation in Sean-nós Singing, <i>Sean Williams</i>	Intro to Gaeilge, <i>Traolach Ó Riordáin</i>	Stretching and warm-up basics, <i>Meredith English</i>	Film as modern Irish storytelling, <i>Kimberly Goetz</i>	“Craic” lounge – grab a cuppa and come meet fellow participants
Lunch – on your own					
1:00 - 2:15	Lilting, <i>Sean Williams</i>	Intermediate Gaeilge, <i>Traolach Ó Riordáin</i>	The Dancer as Part of the Session, <i>Ben Power</i> <u>Music:</u> Jake Grieco	Storytelling and recitation, <i>Kimberly Goetz</i>	Irish Fiddle Techniques, <i>Darcy Noonan</i>
2:30 - 3:45	Sean-nós singing circle – Bring your favorite song to share!	Intermediate Irish-language games, <i>Bob Burke</i>	Sean-nós Reel Steps, <i>Maldon Meehan</i> <u>Music:</u> Félim Egan	Fiddle seminar, <i>Kevin Burke</i>	Irish flute and Whistle, <i>Autumn Rhodes</i>
4:00 - 5:15	Sean-nós singing Master Class, <i>Sean Williams</i>	Gaeilge Master Class, <i>Traolach Ó Riordáin</i>	Sean-nós dance Master Class, <i>Ben Power</i> <u>Music:</u> Erik Killops	Fiddle Master Class, <i>Kevin Burke</i>	Irish DADGAD Guitar Accompaniment, <i>Richard Mandel</i>
6:00 pm	Session, Biddu McGraw’s, 6000 Northeast Glisan Street, Portland				
???	After-session Stomptown Collective, 226 SE Madison Street, Portland				

Thank you for joining us!
See you next year in Olympia, Washington!

OPTIONAL LUNCH

Given Marylhurst's location and the lack of close restaurants, Maher's Irish Pub and Restaurant has graciously offered to make special lunch arrangements for attendees who would like to have lunch there. Just let us know what you would like to order and we'll give the folks at Maher's a heads-up so you can get your lunch more quickly! You can order anything off Maher's menu, but they are making the following items available for an extra quick lunch:

Shepherd's Pie

Seasoned beef, carrots, onions, mashed potatoes topped with melted cheddar cheese, sliced tomatoes served with house made coleslaw

The Baddest Ruben on the Lake

Slow cooked seasoned corned beef, smothered with sauerkraut, swiss cheese, thousand island dressing. Served with herb roasted potatoes.

Veggie Curry & Herb Roasted Potatoes

Indian Madras curry with carrots, peppers, onions & corn. Served over herb roasted potatoes or colcannon.

Look for the sign-up sheet and other information at the registration desk!

Directions to Maher's:

From Marylhurst, turn RIGHT on Hwy 43

Follow Hwy 43 for 1.8 miles

Turn LEFT on SW Avenue A

Follow Avenue A for about six blocks

Turn RIGHT on 3rd Street

Follow 3rd Street for one block

Take first LEFT onto Avenue B – Maher's is at 352 Avenue B (left side of the street)

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Welcome to our sixth annual festival celebrating traditional Irish singing, dancing, language, and cultural arts! We're pleased to once again offer classes from outstanding teachers on a variety of subjects. In response to suggestions, we've made some changes to our program this year. We hope you find the workshops interesting and informative.

Singing Workshops

At previous festivals, our instructors have focused on introducing new songs to attendees and helping them build a repertoire of songs. This year, our goal is to focus more on the technique of Irish singing, such as working on ornamentation and lilting. We have also added to dedicated sessions where participants can share their favorite songs.

Intro to Sean-nós Singing

This introductory-level course will provide participants with an overview of sean-nós singing and singing in the Irish language. No singing or Irish-language skills or prior experience is needed, and handouts will be provided.

Intro to "Traditional" Singing

The English-language counterpart to sean-nós singing is frequently referred to as "traditional" singing and is similar in style and structure. This introductory-level course will provide an overview of traditional singing in English. No prior singing experience is required and handouts will be provided.

Sean-nós Singing Circle

New for this year, we've added a traditional singing circle! Participants will have the opportunity to listen to their fellow singers and share their favorite songs. Singing circles will have a moderator, but will not offer formal instruction. All singers are welcome to share, and non-singers are welcome to listen and enjoy.

Singing to Your Child: Lullabies and Children's Songs

Lullabies and children's songs are not only fun to sing, they help reinforce the connection to our Irish heritage. This class is a great way to ease into sean-nós singing! Like other introductory-level courses, no prior experience is required and handouts will be provided.

Ornamentation in Sean-nós Singing

Ornamentation is one of the most distinctive and difficult aspects of sean-nós and traditional singing. This session will provide participants a chance to further hone their skills in this area. This intermediate-level workshop is intended for those with at least some sean-nós or traditional singing experience. Handouts will be provided.

Lilting

Lilting, sometimes called “mouth music,” is a form of singing focusing on rhythm and tune with less importance on the words being sung. This workshop will introduce this singing style to all levels of singers. Handouts will be provided.

Sean-nós Singing Master Class

Have a particular passage in your favorite song that you find challenging? Aren't quite sure how to ornament a particular section? Bring a copy of the song and consult with an expert. This workshop is an opportunity for experienced singers to consult one-on-one with the instructor and get input from their fellow master-level students. Beginning students are welcome to sit in and listen, but participants are expected to have considerable prior experience. There are no handouts for this class, but participants are strongly encouraged to bring copies of their selections.

Language Workshops

This year, we continue our previous focus on helping participants build and refine their Irish-language skills by continuing to offer both traditional Gaeilge classes as well as Irish-language games. New this year is a workshop focused exclusively to common Irish-language phrases and idioms.

Intro to Gaeilge

This course will introduce you to the basics of the Irish language, including basic pronunciation, sentence structure, and some common phrases. Participants are not expected to have any prior language experience. Handouts will be provided.

Intro to Irish-language Games

Learn more about Gaeilge in a fun way by playing Bingo. It is best if you have a bit of Gaeilge experience, such as the intro-level Gaeilge course. This course does not have handouts, but you may win a prize!

Common Gaeilge Phrases and Idioms

This workshop will focus on the proper phrasing and pronunciation of common phrases and idioms in the Irish language based on everyday conversation: how to ask for things, responses on hearing different kinds of news, common phrases relating to people, weather, food and so forth. Participants are not required to have prior Gaeilge experience, but it would be helpful. Handouts will be provided.

Intermediate Gaeilge

Building on the skills gained in the introductory-level course, the intermediate session covers topics such as irregular verbs, aspiration, and eclipses. Participants either should have prior Irish-language experience or should have taken the introductory-level courses earlier in the weekend. Handouts will be provided.

Intermediate Irish Language Games

Building on the skills acquired in the intro level course, this workshop helps participants further refine their Gaeilge skills in a fun environment. Similar to the introductory-level session, there are no handouts but prizes are awarded.

Gaeilge Master Class

This course is intended for speakers who have a basic understanding of conversational Irish. Participants who are very comfortable with the intermediate-level course should find this workshop challenging but understandable. Students who are new to Irish-language studies are welcome to listen in, but will likely not be able to participate.

Dance Workshops

Sean-nós dance may be the most personal of the traditional courses SNNW offers. To emphasize how each dancer's approach and philosophy affects their performance, we are offering workshops from a variety of instructors. Handouts are typically not part of dance workshops.

Old-style Jig: The Priest in His Boots

"The Priest in His Boots" is an old-style jig that is rarely performed outside of Ireland. Luckily for us, Ben Power is one of the few instructors who teaches this intriguing old-style dance. Although this is a set dance (as in set steps to a specific tune), the steps can be used or readily adapted to most any jig and readily brought into sean-nós dancing. This workshop is appropriate for anyone with a background in either sean-nós dance or old-style step dance.

Intro to Sean-nós Dance

Ever wanted to dance a step or two on St. Patrick's Day but didn't know how? Here's your chance to learn! This class will introduce you to the principles of sean-nós dance and the Basic Step danced in Connemara. Participants do not need any prior dance experience.

Sean-nós Jigs

Although less common than reel steps, jigs are becoming popular sean-nós steps. This workshop is appropriate for dancers at all skill levels, but we recommend beginning dancers have taken at least the "Intro to Sean-nós Dance" workshop.

Intermediate Clare Steps

These reel steps are popular in County Clare and can be danced as individual sean-nós steps or can be used as battering steps for set dancing. This workshop is appropriate for dancers at all skill levels, but we recommend that beginning dancers have taken at least the "Intro to Sean-nós Dance" workshop.

Stretching and Warm-up Basics

Proper stretching and warming up can help dancers avoid injury. Start off your dancing day on the right foot with a good warm-up and stretching session. All skill levels (including non-dancers) are welcome to join us.

The Sean-nós Dancer as Part of a Session

While dancing to live music instead of recorded selections is an uncommon treat, it can also be challenging. This session will approach sean-nós dance by encouraging dancers to think about the music as a musician does. As a member of any session that they're dancing in, the dancer needs to think about the music and the way it is currently played to be a holistic part of the session. This is an intermediate-level course.

Sean-nós Reel Steps

Reels are the most common type of sean-nós dance steps. This course will build on earlier classes to expand the participant's repertoire of reel steps. This class is appropriate for both intermediate-level students as well as students who have taken the introductory-level courses earlier in the festival.

Sean-nós Dance Master Class

This workshop is an opportunity for experienced dancers to consult one-on-one with the instructor and get input from their fellow master-level students. Dancers will be required to dance themselves, solo in front of everyone, and then have their dancing discussed and suggestions for improvement made. Beginning students are welcome to sit in and listen, but participants are expected to have considerable prior dance experience; the beginning and intermediate-level courses earlier in the festival may not suffice.

Music Workshops

As requested, we have increased the number of music workshops this year, featuring both fiddle sessions as well as general music workshops. We also have an introductory-level course for non-musicians who want to know more about traditional music.

What to Listen for in Trad Music

Want to know the difference between a reel and a jig? Then this is the class for you! We'll explain the different types of Irish tunes, different styles of playing, and what "ornamentation" is. No prior experience is necessary, and handouts will be provided.

Irish Music/Instrument Workshop

These workshops will demonstrate general approaches to traditional Irish music irrespective of instrument. We will suggest concepts and ways of playing, practicing, and thinking about the music that can accelerate the learning process. Depending on the makeup of the class, these techniques may particularly resonate with adult learners.

Irish Fiddle Seminar

This unique workshop will feature questions and answers and demonstrations of various aspects of Irish fiddle playing. Likely topics will include repertoire, performance, bowings, ornamentations, stylistic variations and more. This is a chance to spend time with Kevin Burke and his music and to discover the answers to any questions you may have (and there's a good chance that questions you haven't thought of yet will be answered also!)

Irish Fiddle Techniques

This workshop will go over some general technique but mostly the fun stuff: ornaments and bowing! Be prepared to learn a couple of tunes by ear. A recording device is highly recommended. This is an intermediate/advanced Irish fiddle workshop.

Irish flute and Whistle

This workshop is appropriate for upper-level beginning through advanced players. The focus will be on a few traditional tunes with emphasis on tone, ornamentation, and phrasing within the context of the tune itself. Bring a flute or a tin whistle in the key of D.

Irish DADGAD Guitar Accompaniment

Interested in backing Irish session tunes in DADGAD tuning? This class is designed for players who have not played in DADGAD before and would like an introduction to accompanying traditional Irish tunes, or those that have played in DADGAD and are looking for more tips and tricks. We'll cover some basics, including I-IV-V chord progressions and shapes, minor keys and chords, bass runs, and right hand strumming patterns for reels and jigs. We'll also learn how to listen carefully to a few examples of traditional Irish tunes, focusing on both the melody and groove, and start to develop a basic toolkit that will allow you to accompany any of the thousands of Irish tunes that may cross your path. Bring a capo, flatpick, and recording device.

Fiddle Master Class

This workshop is an opportunity for fiddle players to talk one-on-one with one of the world's preeminent fiddle players and learn new techniques for challenging tunes. This course is intended for advanced students only.

Culture Workshops

We have significantly expanded our offerings this year in the fields of storytelling and art. We hope you find them interesting!

Drawing Spirals and Reflections

Learn how to weave your way through shapes and intricate Celtic knotwork pieces in this foundational skill building class. Students will learn how to "mirror" shapes and doodles, create a Trinity knot, and combine them into a free form design. No previous artistic experience is required, and drawing materials will be provided.

Tracing Your Irish Roots

Many of us know our ancestors came from Ireland, but exactly when and where they left can be a mystery. This course can help you identify and follow some of the clues about Irish genealogy that can be found in names and places. This isn't intended to be a true "genealogy" class, but rather will give you information that can help you in your genealogic research such as how Irish names are Anglicized. No previous experience or specific family information is needed.

Poitín (an Irish-language Film)

Called "disgraceful and disgusting" after its initial showing in 1979, this film is now considered a classic example of Irish filmmaking and storytelling. The film is entirely in Gaeilge with English subtitles. It does not have a MPAA rating, but does contain some violence and is not appropriate for young children.

Designing Celtic Crosses

Create your own personal knotwork cross using symbols and free form design. With our initial concepts, we will learn how to flip and copy the image in order to create a more elaborate design. Foundational skills for this class are recommended, including the Spirals and Reflections workshop earlier in the day.

Film as Modern Irish Storytelling

Short Irish films have become a new medium for traditional Irish storytelling. They are also a great way to see how Irish storytelling is becoming more multicultural. This session will show a number of modern Irish short films and provide an opportunity for discussion. Selected films include "Teeth," "Why the Irish Dance That Way," "Fluent Dysphasia," "An Cluiche," and "Yu Ming is Ainm Dom."

Storytelling and Recitation

Telling stories and reciting poems is a longstanding art form that has played a significant role in Irish culture. In this introductory course, you'll learn how to be more confident when reciting and how to choose a selection. If you have a poem or story you want help with, make sure you bring a copy! No prior experience is required.

INSTRUCTORS



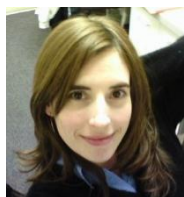
Kevin Burke: Irish Fiddle

Kevin is one of the top living Irish fiddlers. Born in London to parents from County Sligo, Burke took up the fiddle at the age of eight, eventually acquiring a virtuosic technique in the Sligo fiddling style. In 1974, he moved to Ireland where he formed a duo with singer-songwriter Christy Moore, a former member of the Irish band Planxty. In 1976, he became a member of the influential Irish traditional group The Bothy Band. In 1979, Burke moved to the United States and settled in Portland. He formed a duo with guitarist and former Bothy Band member Mícheál Ó Domhnaill. Together, they toured throughout the US and Europe, and recorded two acclaimed albums, “Promenade” and “Portland.” In the early 1980s, Burke joined the Legends of Irish Music tour, where he played with influential Irish musicians Andy Irvine and Jackie Daly. Together they formed the group Patrick Street. In 1992, Burke recorded a solo album with Mark Graham, Paul Kotapish, and Sandy Silva. These three comprise the core of his current band. Throughout the 1990s, Burke toured and recorded with Scottish fiddler Johnny Cunningham and Breton fiddler Christian Lemaitre as the Celtic Fiddle Festival. In 2002, Burke won the National Endowment for the Arts’ National Heritage Fellowship. He currently lives in Portland with his wife and two children.



Bob Burke: Irish Language

Bob learned Irish as a second language as an adult. He has an interest in the ways in which adults learn a second language and is committed to teaching in a friendly, non-threatening atmosphere using the communicative approach to language learning. He has taught at immersion programs in both the US and Canada. Bob has attended various Irish language courses in Ireland and has a certificate, earned in Ireland, in teaching adult learners. He has had articles published in “Comhar” and in the online magazine “Beo.” He has previously taught at Clark College in Vancouver and at Portland Community College. Since 2003, he has taught both Beginning and Intermediate Irish at Marylhurst University.



Meredith English: Stretching & Flexibility

Meredith began her career as a professional ballet dancer, touring and performing throughout the United States and Canada with Fort Worth/Dallas Ballet (Now Texas Ballet Theatre), Colorado Ballet, and David Taylor Dance Theatre. She retired at age 28 and went to graduate school for Physical Therapy at Texas Woman’s University. While practicing physical therapy in DC, Meredith became interested in percussive dancing and banjo and danced briefly with Footworks Percussive Dance Group before moving to Portland. She began studying with Maldon Meehan and continues to dance. Meredith has her own PT practice in Portland

and works with dancers on dance injuries, musicians, private clients, and also contracts to work with other PT companies.



Kimberly Goetz: Storytelling and Poetry

Kimberly has extensive experience in both public speaking and performance. She founded and taught the Thurston County TeenWorks Shakespeare Program and was a guest instructor for the inaugural session of the Capital Theater's "Shakespeare Experience." She was recognized for her public speaking skills at the 1991 National Speech Tournament where she won a Gold Award in Impromptu Speaking. Kimberly is a frequent lecturer on topics related to public policy, business, and the environment and recently published her first book. Her BA is from Pacific Lutheran University and her MPA is from the Evergreen State College.



Alicia Guinn: Sean-nós Dance

Alicia currently teaches sean-nós, set, and céilí dancing in the Seattle area. She is one of only a handful of dancers teaching sean-nós dancing in America. Alicia started dancing as an adult while living in Northern Ireland in 1997. Since then, she has studied set and sean-nós dancing in Galway, Ireland, taught Irish dance workshops for festivals across the United States, and had the honor of dancing on stage with traditional musicians like Johnny B. Connolly, and Liz Carroll and John Doyle. Her sean-nós style incorporates steps learned directly from Galway dancers including Pádraig Ó hOibicín, Róisín Ní Mhainín, Máire Áine Ní Iarnáin, Rónán Regan, and Seosamh Ó Neachtain.



David Ingerson: Traditional Singing

David has been singing traditional Irish songs for over 30 years. He has visited Ireland eleven times attending music and singing festivals, collecting songs and researching their backgrounds, and studying the Irish language. During his visits he has studied traditional singing under dozens of Irish singers, including Paddy Tunney, Roisin White, Seamus MacMathuna, and Lillis O'Laoire. He has performed on the stages of folk clubs throughout the Northwest, including the Northwest Folklife Festival in Seattle, and presented workshops at folk singing camps and festivals.



Richard Mandel: Guitar and Banjo

Richard has become a mainstay in the San Francisco Bay Area Irish music scene, playing guitar with a large number of local musicians at most of the area's traditional music venues. His foray into Irish music began in 1995 with a trip to Ireland that included a stop at the South Sligo Summer School. While he'd been playing guitar since the age of eight, it wasn't until then that he'd gotten bitten by the Irish music bug. Sessions at San Francisco's Plough and Stars pub provided the training ground and necessary immersion. Prior to 1995, Richard played a variety of

styles, including folk, jazz and open-tuning finger-style guitar. For the past five years, Richard has been teaching the Irish guitar class at the week-long Lark in the Morning Music Camp in Mendocino, California. He now plays exclusively in “DADGAD” tuning, which complements his intricate rhythmic and chordal variations. Richard has performed with such masters as, Tommy Peoples, Andrew MacNamara, Gerry O’Connor, and Jerry O’Sullivan. Besides the Topsy House CD, he can be heard on mandolin virtuoso Radim Zenkl’s recent CD, “Restless Joy.”



Maldon Meehan: Sean-nós Dancing

Maldon is a performer, teacher, and scholar of Irish sean-nós and set dance. Maldon holds a BA from The Evergreen State College and a MA in Ethnochoreology from the University of Limerick, Ireland. She is a 2008 Regional Arts and Cultures grant recipient. As a sean-nós dancer, Maldon has appeared on the nationally televised 2005 Oireachtas at the Cork Opera House in Cork City (TG4) as well as on Connemara Community Radio and Raidió na Gaeltachta (RTÉ). In 2005, Maldon and Ronan Regan released an instructional DVD of sean-nós dance. Maldon has studied sean-nós dance with Róisín Ní Mhainín, Pádraig Ó hOibicín, Mick Mulkerrins, Mairéad Casey, Pádraig and Gearóid Ó Dubhain. Maldon currently lives in Portland where she teaches weekly classes, performs, and tours nationally.



Darcy Noonan: Fiddle and Vocals

Darcy began playing violin with Annemarie Sudermann at age seven about the same time she began lessons at the Healy Irish dance school. With help from her mother and her father’s endless supply of Irish music, she was able to continue studying both classical music and Irish dance throughout her childhood. It wasn’t until she attended Bobbi Nikles’ Fiddlekids that Darcy realized she could be the one playing Irish fiddle. She is inspired by the playing of Liz Carroll, Tommy Peoples, John Carty and Frankie Gavin. She spent two years in Ireland, traveling and studying until she found a second home in Galway city. She has taught classes for the Cooley-Keegan branch of CCE, at Lark in the Morning Camp as well as private students.



Ben Power: Sean-nós Dancing, Irish Flute

Ben is a flute and bodhrán player, singer and sean-nós dancer from just outside Liverpool, England. Moving to Dublin in the mid-nineties for the tunes, he studied Irish flute with the well-known flute player, Paul McGrattan, and subsequently moved West to complete an M.A. in Traditional Irish Music at Limerick University’s renowned Irish World Music Centre, where he studied with Professor Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, Niall Keegan, Desi Wilkinson, and Catherine Foley, Professor of Irish Dance. In Limerick he also began to learn sean-nós dance, studying with various dancers from Connemara and the traditional Clare step

dance master, James Keane. From 2002 to 2007, Ben lived in New York playing in the vigorous Irish session scene there and teaching, performing and lecturing around the New York area and nationally. He is a founder member of the innovative Irish dance ensemble Unbeaten Path, frequently performing and teaching sean-nós dance. Ben has performed with Solas, Alisdair Frasier, Dougie MacLean, Mick Moloney at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral. He plays with the Cathie Ryan Band, and has recorded for RTÉ's Christmas broadcasts. He recently spent a year living in Ullapool in the Scottish Highlands, learning new tunes from local musicians such as Carol-Anne Mackay and Rona Sutherland, and has a solo album available, *The Mouse in the Mug*.



Autumn Rhodes: Flute, Concertina and Vocals

Autumn grew up with Irish traditional music and plays tin whistle, Irish flute, concertina, and uilleann pipes. She has played and taught professionally for over ten years, touring the Midwest, East Coast, and Ireland. She has performed and recorded with such groups as Soltré, The Colleens, Kennedy's Kitchen, Míra, Meitheal, and Éireforce and with musicians Julie Henigan and Brian O'hEadhra. Autumn also studied under such Irish music legends as Mary Bergin, Laurence Nugent, John Williams, and John Skelton and has been awarded eight Midwest Fleadh Cheoil titles. She has recently relocated to San Francisco, where she teaches music lessons when she is not on tour with her band, Soltré.



Traolach Ó Riordáin: Irish Language

Traolach is a native of County Cork, and currently works as a lecturer in Modern Irish language and literature and the Director of Irish Studies at the University of Montana. He received his Ph.D. in Modern Irish Literature from the National University of Ireland, and has lived in Missoula since 2001. He was first invited to Missoula to teach Irish by the Montana Gaelic Cultural Society, then taught at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana before returning to Montana to help establish the first program of Irish Studies there. Traolach's Irish Studies program includes an exchange relationship with University College, Cork, and draws students from both within and outside Montana. At the University of Montana he teaches courses in Elementary Irish, Irish Gaelic Literature, and Literature of Pre-Norman Ireland; the university also offers a minor in Irish Studies.



Jill Sattler: Art

Jill Sattler has been constructing and designing Celtic knotwork since 2010. After attending Sean Williams' Irish Studies program at Evergreen State College in 2009-2010, Jill has been working with Cari Buziak of Aon Celtic Art as an apprentice, learning how to weave, create, and design her own ideas. During the Ireland program, she also wrote an Irish children's story about a magical harp that holds music, which she later illustrated and self-published. Her love of Ireland

directs her art form, and has propelled her into graduate school. She is currently studying art and taking her knotwork from a two dimensional aspect to a three dimensional form using rope, string and other string-like materials to form structures, blankets and woven pieces of material. Jill's passion for Celtic knotwork shines through her and shows up in her teaching style.



Seán Williams: Sean-nós Singing

Seán has been studying the Irish language and sean-nós singing since the 1970s. She worked closely with the great sean-nós singer Joe Heaney in the final years of his life, and has recently co-written with Lillis Ó Laoire a critical and award-winning biography of Heaney's life and works ("Bright Star of the West: Joe Heaney, Irish Song-Man" from Oxford University Press). A previous book, "Focus: Traditional Irish Music" (Routledge 2010) is currently in use in a number of universities in Ireland and North America. She is a professor of Irish Studies and ethnomusicology at The Evergreen State College.

Thank You

SNNW would like to thank all of those who gave generously to sponsor the Jammy Dodgers and bring them to this year's festival:

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