THE PHILADELPHIA CEILI GROUP'S

Irish Traditional Music & Dance Festival



52 Years of Nurturing
and
Showcasing
Traditional Irish Music,
Dance and
Culture in Philadelpia
& the Greater
Delaware Valley

Oct. 9 - 11, 2026
The Commodore John Barry
Arts & Cultural Center
Philadelphia



The Strayaways – Kevin Burke, Dylan Foley, Eamon O'Leary in Concert Oct 31, 2026

Tickets: In Advance Online Tickets – PCG Members $25, Non-Members $30
Tickets sold at the door – $35
Tickets: https://www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org/concerts

London born and Sligo bred, **Kevin Burke** is a legend in traditional Irish music. His bow has driven the Bothy Band, Patrick Street, Open House and Celtic Fiddle Festival. His technical virtuosity is matched with soulful musicality, a deep knowledge of the Irish traditional repertoire and a unique personal style. A generation of Irish fiddle players have been inspired and influenced by his silky-smooth tone, pulsing rhythmic bowing and crisply executed ornamentation. Among them is **Dylan Foley**, raised in the Catskills, he is one of the most accomplished fiddlers in Irish traditional music today and a four-time All-Ireland Fiddle Champion. Hailed as "one of the finest fiddlers of his generation," Foley is known for his technical brilliance, dynamic style, and deep respect for the tradition. Joining them is master accompanist, songwriter, and singer, Dubliner **Eamon O'Leary**. His understated virtuosity on bouzouki and guitar, and "beautiful, crystalline songs" round out this exceptional trio. The Strayaways are truly a dream team of Irish music.

Message from the PCG President…….

Welcome to the 52nd Annual Traditional Irish Music and Dance Festival! We are happy to have you with us. We have a great festival planned. Friday night is our Singers Night hosted by Fergie Carey and our Ceili Mor. This is always a good time to relax and get in the festival mood. Our Saturday is a combination of familiar friends and new faces. We start our day with the John Kelly Session which is always a great hit. John Kelly was our "go to" musician thru the 1970s and 1980s. Many talented musicians who played with him reunite and play a few of John's favorite tunes. We have a great variety of workshops planned for this year. We are excited to have Caitlin Finley & Will Woodson and Damien Connelly & Sean Earnest. We are also fortunate to have Poor Man's Gambit on the main stage Saturday night. A great night of music is guaranteed. On Sunday we will be having a membership meeting at 12:00pm. Please come and share you input on the PCG direction. We would also like to modify the by-laws to change our Annual meeting date from January to April because of weather issues.

We had a very good year. We continued our monthly teaching sessions, ceilis and singers nights throughout the year. Our project with Villanova University Library is coming along. This is a long, laborious process but well worth it. Please check it out at: *https://digital.library.villanova.edu/Search/Results?lookfor=philadelphia+ceili+group&type=AllFields* and enjoy. These recordings are for listening only.

On October 31st, we have a great concert lined up. We are having The Strayaways (Kevin Burke, Dylan Foley, and Eamon O'Leary). We hope to see many of you there. In the meantime, thanks for supporting us today. Please become a member or renew your membership. It may seem like a small thing, but it goes a long way in supporting us. The board of directors meets every month, and we are very open to more suggestions.

The Ceili Group has a website that you should check for the latest "craic," http://www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org . We are also on Facebook. So, check us out, send a message to an old friend, or recommend us to new friends, see what's happening and come out and support us in the next year.

Thanks, and have a good time today. Hope to hear from you!

Slainte,

Mary Lou McGurk

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Friday October 9th - 8pm
Singers Night Hosted by Fergus "Fergie" Carey
featuring Maureen Adamson, Steve Stanislaw, and Kevin McCloskey

Ceili Dance in the Ballroom with live music by McDermott' s Handy
All ages and skill levels welcome

Saturday October 10th, Doors open at 1:00pm

Family Friendly Activities in the Barry Room

Irish Vendors, St Brigid's Crosses with The McGills from 2pm-6pm, Irish Language for Beginners with Patty Loomer at 2:30pm as well as Mask decorating, Jack O'Lanterns, and a Scone Contest!

Face Painting with Sue Foo and The Ceili Group Archive Display in the Ballroom with more vendors and crafts.

In the Ballroom

2:00 PM John Kelly Memorial Session

3:15 PM Next Generation

4:30 PM Fiona Tundall

6:00 PM Evening Concert with –
Poor Man's Gambit
Damien Connelly & Sean Earnest
Caitlin Finley & Will Woodson
and the Timoney Irish Dancers

10:30 PM Session in the Fireside Room

Workshop & Lecture Schedule

Fireside room

1:30 PM Sean Nos Dancing with Kate Spanos and Nathan Bishop

2:45 PM 2 Hand Kitchen Dances with Bobby Graham and Alec Charon

4:00 PM Ceili Dancing with Bobby Graham & Jared Bishop

Library

2:00 PM Fiddle Workshop: The Fiddling of James Morrison with Caitlin Finley

3:15 PM Piping Talk/Demonstration: The Taylor Brothers, the Famous Irish Pipemakers of Philadelphia with Will Woodson

4:30 PM Irish Fairytales and Ghost Stories with Connie Koppe

Dining room

2:00 PM Composition: The Making of a Tune with Damien Connelly

3:15 PM Accompaniment with Sean Earnest

4:30 PM Arrangement with Poor Man's Gambit

Workshop & Lecture Descriptions

Fiddle Workshop: The Fiddling of James Morrison – With Caitlin Finley

Originally from County Sligo, fiddler James Morrison was a prolific

recording artist in New York City in the 1920s and 30s. His virtuosity and attention to detail resulted in some of the best recordings of Irish music of the era. We'll learn a tune from one of Morrison's recordings, paying particular attention to the characteristic bounce, lift, rhythm, and ornamentation that make his playing unique.

Piping Talk/Demonstration: The Taylor Brothers, the Famous Irish Pipemakers of Philadelphia– With Will Woodson

Uilleann pipemakers William and Charles Taylor emigrated from County Louth to Philadelphia in the 1870s, establishing themselves in the city as first-rate craftsmen. Over the course of their career in Philadelphia, the two would make revolutionary improvements to the instrument, developing a style of uilleann pipes that are still copied to this day. Join piper and pipemaker Will Woodson for a discussion of Philadelphia's famous pipemakers, including live music played on an original set of Taylor pipes.

Introduction to Sean Nos Dancing with Kate Spanos

Join Kate Spanos for an introduction to sean nós, the old-style percussive solo dance from Connemara in the west of Ireland. In this lively workshop, we'll explore basic rhythms, footwork, and improvisation, focusing on musicality and individual expression. All levels are welcome—no prior Irish dance experience needed. You'll learn simple steps that you can adapt to your own style. Come ready to move, play with rhythm, and connect with the social spirit of Irish dance!

Accompaniment with Sean Earnest

Open to all skill levels, this class explores the art of accompanying Irish traditional music through practical techniques and accessible music theory. Rather than focusing on instrument-specific chord shapes, we'll examine the underlying harmonic principles that apply across guitar, bouzouki, piano, and harp. Using relative numeric intervals instead of letter names, we'll develop a flexible shorthand for understanding harmony, then apply it to chord scales in the keys and modes most commonly found in Irish traditional music. A basic familiarity with your chosen instrument is expected. If there is sufficient interest in learning to flatpick melodies on guitar or bouzouki, this can be covered as well. Guitarists are encouraged to use DADGAD tuning and bouzouki players are encouraged to use GDAD tuning. Please bring a pick and capo (for fretted instruments) and a recording device.

Workshop & Lectures, cont'd

Composition: the making of a tune with Damien Connelly

Damien Connolly has been composing traditional Irish music for over 30 years. In this deep-dive conversation, he will discuss his creative process and will give advice, tips and strategies for budding composers.

Sunday, October 11th

12:00 PM Annual Membership Meeting

1:00pm Next Generation Session

3:00 pm Second Sunday Ceili with instruction by Bobby Graham

5:00 pm Final Goodbye and Thank You

Thank you to the 2026 PCG Board of Directors and especially the hard working Festival Committee:

Mary Lou McGurk - President
Courtney Malley - Vice President
Maureen Adamson - Secretary
Anne McNiff - Treasurer
Rosaleen McGill
Madeline O'Dowd
Jenny Rajotte
Don Simon
Paula Warner



Be sure to get your raffles tickets and check out what you can win!

2026 Presenters & Performers

(in alpha order)

Maureen Adamson - Friday Night Performer
Maureen Adamson is an Irish Ballad singer from Philadelphia, PA. The lead singer for Kids on the Mountain and a regular guest with the Fenian Rams, Maureen travels to Ireland often to chase singing sessions and learn new songs. She is also a regular a Kevin McCloskey's Irish Ballad session on Sunday nights and is currently developing a teaching resource for American music educators to teach children about Irish Ballads the Irish seanchaí tradition.

Jared Bishop - Saturday Performer
Jared Bishop is an award winning fiddler from West Philadelphia. He plays Irish, Scottish, American, and French Canadian styles, and enjoys exploring blends of all forms of traditional music.

Fergus "Fergie" Carey - Friday Night Performer
Fergie Carey was born on the Northside of Dublin a long time ago. He moved to Philly at the age of 24 and ended up in the bar business. He currently owns Fergie's Pub, the Goat Rittenhouse, The Jim, and The Monto. He is always willing and trying to help Philly and the world become a better place. On November 15 Fergie is being honored with the Commodore John Barry award here at the Irish Center.

Alec Charon - Kitchen Dance Workshop - Saturday
Alec Charon is a guitarist, mandolinist and Irish tenor banjo player based in West Philadelphia. Born in Providence, Rhode Island, he attended Temple University in North Philadelphia, where he studied music and graduated in 2021. Alec performs tunes, ballads and rebel songs in Irish pubs throughout the Delaware Valley with the Fenian Rams, a trio with Kevin McCloskey and Andrew German. He can also be heard playing contra dances along the east coast with his string band, High Strung. An avid guitar teacher, Alec is a faculty member at Ursinus College and the Community Music School in Collegeville, Pennsylvania. He also offers private lessons in Philadelphia and the Main Line.

Damien Connelly And Sean Earnest - Saturday Night Performers
Damien Connolly is an all Ireland button accordion champion and fiddle player originally from County Clare Ireland. Over the last 20 years he has lived in Connecticut and has taught workshops at various festivals, including the Catskills Irish arts week and The Swannanoa Gathering. In 2014 he appeared with Sting as a back up musician at the Tony awards. Nephew of fiddler Seamus Connolly, Damien has three albums (Tippin Away, Inspired, Home Recordings) available on Bandcamp.com.
https://damienconnolly.bandcamp.com/album/back-to-brooklyn
He is also the author of The Irish Accordion Tutor, Vol I, available on Amazon.

Seán Earnest's empathetic and eclectic musical stylings have taken him far from his native Pennsylvania. He is best known for his tasteful and thoughtful harmonic accompaniment on guitar and bouzouki, although he also plays the tenor banjo and several other instruments. Having cut his teeth in the Irish music scenes of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New York, Seán went on to hone his craft whilst studying at the University of Limerick's Irish World Academy of Music & Dance, where he attained a first class honours Master's degree in Irish Traditional Music Performance. Seán has served as a faculty instructor for the Catskills Irish Arts Week, the Baltimore Trad Fest, MAD Week in Washington D.C., the O'Flaherty Irish Music Retreat in Texas, the Augusta Irish Week in West Virginia, the Milwaukee Irish Fest Center, the Celtic College at the Celtic Roots Festival in Goderich, Ontario, and VAKA Folk Festival in Iceland.

Seán has performed with many of Irish music's luminaries including John Carty, Mary Bergin, Louise Mulcahy, Martin Hayes, Billy McComiskey, Brian Conway, Tony DeMarco, Kevin Burke, Damien Connolly, Dr. Mick Moloney, Joanie Madden, John Doyle, Kevin Crawford, Oisín Mac Diarmada, and many others. As a vocal accompanist he has worked with a number of well-known singers including Seamus Begley, Cathie Ryan, The Murphy Beds (comprised of Eamon O'Leary and Jefferson Hamer), Colleen Raney, Kyle Carey, as well as the international touring troupes Women of Ireland and The Celtic Angels. He features on recordings by Clare accordion and fiddle player Damien Connolly, Baltimore flautist Laura Byrne, and fiddler Andrew Finn Magill. Seán has toured regularly throughout North America and beyond with the Irish group Téada, the Paul McKenna Band from Glasgow, the McPeake Family of Belfast, and his own quartet The Yanks, with whom he has toured America & Ireland and released two albums to great critical acclaim. These days Seán is a familiar face at Irish music sessions from Boston to Baltimore and enjoys teaching students of all ages and skill levels in private practice.

Bobby Graham - Kitchen Dance Workshop & Sunday Ceili Dance Caller

Bobby Graham is the director of Graham Family and Friends Ceili Dancing. Born in Philadelphia and raised in Havertown with ancestral roots from County Mayo Ireland Bobby has been a promoter of Irish Ceili dancing for over 45 years throughout the tristate area and current instructor for the PCG.

The John Kelly Memorial Session - Saturday performers

The John Kelly Memorial Session is in honor of John P. Kelly who was born in Sligo, Ireland. John is a seminal figure of Irish music and culture in Philadelphia. He loved the Irish music and played it from when he was a child learning from his Uncle. Open and giving to anyone who wanted to learn our tradition, Mr. Kelly led the music for the Philadelphia Ceili Group's Friday night ceilis from the mid 70's until he died in 1990. John's gift for passing his music on is truly one of the foundations of today's Philadelphia's Irish music tradition. The John Kelly Memorial Session consists of tunes from his repertoire and anecdotes about John by musicians who have learned from him and play in his tradition.

Connie Koppe - Irish Fairy Tales & Ghost Stories - Saturday
Connie Koppe has been telling stories in many different ways most of her life. As a singer in both opera and musical theater, visiting artist and lyricist in elementary and middle schools, children's theater performer, workshop leader, opera director and teacher, she conveys and encourages stories from the world around her. Connie lives in Germantown and is no stranger to the Irish Festival, she has been a member of the Ceili Group since 2000, volunteering, usually at the front gate, and helping out.

Patty Loomer - Irish Language for Beginners - Saturday
Patty Loomer is an Irish language teacher in Havertown. She has been studying the Irish language since 2001 and is a member of Daltaí na Gaeilge, an Irish language learning community. Her in-person classes are held at the Irish Diaspora Center on Darby Road in Havertown. She also has classes on Zoom. Her classes are geared toward beginner and advanced beginner level. If you are interested in taking classes contact her at mpjwloom@verizon.net or 610-331-8434.

Kevin McCloskey - Friday Performer
Kevin McCloskey, a singer-songwriter from Bristol, Pennsylvania, fronts the band The River Drivers, with whom he has released three albums. Their latest, "Live at Steal Stacks", has received substantial attention and heavy airplay on folk radio shows nationwide. McCloskey's passion for music that reflects the struggles of the working class began in his youth, performing Irish standards with his father, Irish tenor Tommy McCloskey. Influenced by artists like Christy Moore, Peggy Seeger, Paul Robeson, The Almanac Singers, Phil Ochs, Frank Harte, Andy Irvine, Dick Gaughan, and Mary Black, McCloskey's music blends Irish and Americana sounds with raw conviction and intensity. Irish Music Magazine describes his work with the River Drivers as "an energy source of Celtic and Americana soaked sound," while the United Mine Workers of America commended their songs for their powerful narratives that capture the harsh realities and resilience of ordinary people. TradConnect praised The River Drivers' performances as "a late night, raise the roof type outing, delivered with an energy fitting to such occasions." McCloskey leads a lively weekly Irish ballad session at Fergie's Pub in Philadelphia, PA and can be seen performing throughout the PA and New Jersey. Through his music, he continues to shed light on working-class experiences, driven by a commitment to storytelling, tradition, and emotional depth.

McDermott's Handy - Friday Nite Ceili Dance
Kathy DeAngelo and Dennis Gormley are the husband-wife duo who have been performing traditional Irish music together in the Delaware Valley (South Jersey/Philadelphia region) as McDermott's Handy since 1979. These award-winning talented multi-instrumentalists put on a super concert and combine their strong vocals and equally strong backing accompaniment with a commanding stage presence that comes from hundreds of performances in front of all kinds of audiences. With a huge repertoire they've built over 40 years of playing

traditional music, they sing in Irish and English. Kathy mainly plays harp and fiddle and occasionally adds 5-string banjo and bodhran. Dennis plays guitar, flute and tinwhistle and can be counted on to add in mandolin or bouzouki when the arrangement requires.

Next Generation - Sunday Day performers

Every month, Dennis and Kathy (McDermott's Handy) and Chris Brennan-Hagy run a session for young musicians at the Irish Center, Carpenter and Emlen Streets in Mt. Airy, Philadelphia from 1-3pm. The first hour is devoted to teaching one or two new tunes. Players of all levels are welcome. All tunes are taught "by ear" in small groups. You can bring a recording device (lots of people these days use their smart phones). At the end of the hour, all the musicians reassemble in front of the fireplace for the session. Each player gets to kick off the tune of their choice and anybody who knows it joins in. Many of the tunes we've already taught can be found in Dennis' Tunes. The session is an outgrowth of the first Irish-American Children's Weekend the teachers originally coordinated for the Garden State Discovery Museum in 1998. The event proved to be so much fun for all the youngsters involved that the teachers wanted to keep the diverse grouping of musicians connected in some way. "We have a wide range of ages who come" Kathy says, "including some adults who just want to learn some tunes. There's always room for one more. "The sessions keep getting better and better as more tunes are learned". The predominant instruments at our session are fiddles, naturally, but we certainly welcome the flute and tin whistle players. Kathy always brings a harp in case a harp player comes (we certainly wish we had more of these). Accordions, concertinas make appearances at our session too. Any generally-accepted instrument for traditional Irish music is encouraged. We suggest that every participant who comes has a basic knowledge of how to play their

MENU

*Food served from 4pm

FRIDAY

Chicken Tenders $10

Fries $6

Fish & Chips $15

Vegan Chili $10

SATURDAY*

Platters Served with Roasted Veggies & Roll

Shepherds Pie $15

Chicken Curry & Rice $15

Mac & Cheese $10

Vegan Chili $10

instrument, whatever it is. Due to the time constraint, we cannot take the time to show absolute beginners the fundamentals. Any parent and child are certainly welcome to come and "sit in" and listen to how the afternoon is conducted and see what it's like. We'd love to meet you and your budding musician.

Poor Man's Gambit - Saturday Night Performers

Poor Man's Gambit is a progressive traditional Irish band based in Allentown, Pennsylvania, USA. Steeped in the arts of Irish cultural music and dance, the trio has been presenting a unique cross section of traditional and contemporary repertoire to audiences both stateside and abroad since 2015. The band draws from Irish folk music's oral tradition by enhancing the listening experience with backstories and historical anecdotes that bind the music to the culture and people of Ireland. With two multi-instrumentalists in the line-up, and featuring fiddle, button accordion, guitar, bodhran, cittern, both male and female vocals, and dance, the band has been noted for their ability to offer several layers of musical depth in addition to refined musicality. https://poormansgambit.com/epk

Poor Man's Gambit was formed in 2015 and hails from Allentown, Pennsylvania, USA. Fronted by Corey Purcell & Deirdre Lockman, the trio has released 3 albums, completed two international tours, and has been noted as an increasingly popular Irish-American group. Steeped in the arts of Irish cultural music and dance, PMG has been presenting a unique cross section of traditional and contemporary repertoire to audiences both stateside and abroad for over a decade. The band draws from Irish folk music's oral tradition by enhancing the listening experience with backstories and historical anecdotes that bind the music to the culture and people of Ireland. With two multi-instrumentalists in the line-up, and featuring fiddle, button accordion, guitar, bodhran, cittern, both male and female vocals, and dance, the band has been noted for their ability to offer several layers of musical depth in addition to refined musicality.

Deirdre Lockman (fiddle, vocals) has been pursuing her passion for Irish music and dance since the age of four when she was first introduced to the fiddle. Born into a musical family, she was soon performing with her family band, in addition to numerous orchestras and ensembles including the Junior String Philharmonic, and the Lehigh University Philharmonic Orchestra. A quick study, Deirdre began competing in fiddle competitions at an early age, and holds several regional fiddle titles. Deirdre began Irish step-dancing at the age of 5, and competed at the regional and national level with the DeNogla School of Irish Dance out of New Jersey for eleven years, before focusing her full attention on traditional music. In addition to her work with PMG, Deirdre offers private fiddle lessons to students in the greater Philadelphia area. You can learn more through her personal site here: www.deirdreviolin.weebly.com

Corey Purcell – Button Accordion, Cittern, Bodhran, Vocals, and Dance
Having been introduced to Irish culture at a very young age, Corey quickly grew


Irish Fiddle Legend
Frankie Gavin
(of De Dannan)
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to love the Irish music and dance which surrounded him. Advancing rapidly through the ranks of the competitive Irish dancing scene, Corey soon found himself on the National, then World stage of competition. After competing for 14 years, and discovering that he preferred his own artistic and rhythmic approach to the strict form required by the judges, Corey transitioned from competitions to stage productions and performance. He has danced with several notable bands including the esteemed Irish group Danú. Corey's journey to traditional music began when he was 16, and started teaching himself tunes on the Irish style button accordion which he bought himself for his birthday. Progressing quickly, he was soon studying under 7-time All Ireland Champion John Whelan, and began honing his technique under John's tutelage. Corey found his true calling in traditional Irish music, and rapidly branched into other instruments including cittern, bodhran, and voice. Corey's 2023 solo release 'Undaunted' had the distinction of debuting at #11 on the acclaimed International Folk Charts, earning him recognition in the wider world of folk than his traditional roots would have led many to anticipate.

Kate Spanos – Introduction to Sean Nós Dance Workshop
Kate Spanos, Ph.D., is a dancer, educator, and scholar with extensive expertise in Irish dance and experience with other global movement traditions. Kate holds a Master's degree in Traditional Irish Dance Performance from the University of Limerick's Irish World Academy of Music & Dance, and she earned her doctorate in Dance and Performance Studies from the University of Maryland. Kate's blend of scholarly insight and artistic practice inspires her mission to honor cultural heritage while fostering creativity and connection through performance.
Learn more at www.katespanosirishdance.com

Steve Stanislaw - Friday Night Performer
Steve Stanislaw is a traditional singer and multi-instrumentalist. His singing style is influenced by Irish traditional singers including Paddy Tunney, Sean McDonagh, and Joe Heaney, as well as folk singers such as Luke Kelly and Al O'Donnell. He often sings unaccompanied but also accompanies his singing with guitar and 5-string banjo.

Timoney Irish Dancers - Saturday Nite Concert Performers
Under the direction of Rosemarie Timoney, the Timoney Irish Dancers promote Irish Culture though step and ceili dancing for children and adults. For more information 215-885-2304 or by email at rosemarietimoney@yahoo.com.
Mrs. Timoney encourages dancing for the joy and fun found in the Irish culture. We are a non-competitive dance group that offers affordable lessons, costumes and dance shoes. Our family friendly environment is ideal for anyone looking to get started in Irish dancing or to continue dancing at a non-competitive level. We offer step dancing classes as well as Ceili dance classes for ages 5 and older. While we don't compete, we do encourage our dancers to preform for various events in the Philadelphia area.

Fiona Tyndall Band - Saturday Performer

Fiona Tyndall originally hails from County Clare, Ireland and has been singing music of the Irish/Celtic tradition all her life. She has also lived in Boston MA and Princeton NJ, and now splits her time between both countries. Her deep love of traditional Irish music resulted in her first album, Deirin De, which blended traditional Irish language lyrics with innovative musical and vocal arrangements. In 2022, Fiona released New Frontiers, a collection of songs from County Cork singer-songwriter, Jimmy MacCarthy which blended her unique vocal talent with creative vocal and instrumental treatment, with some of Ireland's top musicians, including Sean Whelan, James Blenerhassett, Tim Edey and Liam Bradley. Fiona's unique voice that regularly brings audiences to tears (really !) lists her key influences as Joni Mitchel, Karan Casey, Niamh Parsons, and Mairead and Triona ni Dhomhaill . In 2024, Fiona completed a teaching certification associated with the Royal Irish Academy. She runs workshops in folk and traditional song/singing. Building on its success, Fiona started a monthly Singing Circle for acapella folk singers and many of her students attend – Fiona takes great pride in helping to build this community of singers as they perform at various trad sessions. Fiona regularly entertains growing audiences with live gigs across NY/NJ and PA, and headlines a monthly residency with her band, at the Dubliner on The Delaware, New Hope PA. Fiona plays Bodhran and recently took up tin whistle which she plays at traditional sessions in the Dubliner, New Hope PA, Mitchells, Lambertville NJ, and O' Reilly's Sandymount Dublin. 2025 sees the release of her brand-new album Einin and Cheoil – a collection of traditional Irish songs with unique and complex vocal and instrumental arrangement.

Nathan Bishop is a fiddler, improviser, and teacher based in Philadelphia. An eclectic performer, he plays violin and viola in his genre-hopping string trio, Midnight on the Water,manic/depressive folk trio, Faoileán, experimental Irish traditional duo the Given Note, and baroque ensemble La Fiocco. He has music directed for Mariner Theatrical and JoAnna Mendl Shaw's the Equus Project, pairing live fiddle with self-composed soundscapes to accompany dance and theater works. He was an artist-in-residence at the Mignolo Arts Center (2022) and at Fallingwater (2026). He co-founded and ran When Waves Collide, a new music and dance festival, for three years and currently co-hosts free movement/sound jams in NYC and Philadelphia alongside contemporary mover Madelyn Wansong. His work with Faoileán has received over 1M listens across streaming platforms and he recorded with GRAMMY award winners Jay Ungar & Molly Mason in 2026 as part of Midnight on the Water's first record. He has presented workshops on playing and teaching the fiddle at the University of New Hampshire, Lafayette College, and NJASTA and often teaches at Folk College and the Ashokan Center. A Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts graduate, he studied fiddle with Cleek Schrey and plays on the 46th Håkedal hardanger d'amore. He frequently performs around the mid-Atlantic with Irish bouzouki player Eamon Kelly and is obsessed with his cat, Fido.

Anton Guryev is a guitarist based in Bucks County, PA. His long musical journey has led him through diverse bands and genres from classic and folk rock, with undertones of jazz and blues, to the enchanting realm of traditional celtic music.

Be Sure to Check Out the Barry Room with Fine Vendors and Much More!

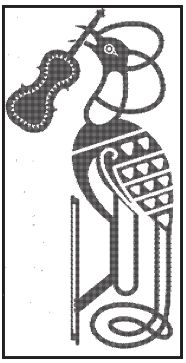
Jane's Sweet and Savory Bites (Una Mullan) -
Mini Desserts & Savouries
Traditional Irish Baked Goodies
High Tea / Birthday / Showers
A Taste of Home.

Mary Kay Mann Jewelry

Celtic Vessels
Hand-crafted, functional and decorative ceramics, celebrating the artistry of illuminated manuscripts from the Book of Kells.

The Village Irish Shop
Purveyor of Fine Celtic Clothing, Food and Fine Crafts.

plus PCG and performers merch and a some very special raffle prizes to take a chance on!





Honoring Our Legacy

In remembrance of Frank Malley our long time festival chairman, singer, storyteller, friend, and father.

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL OF OUR FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

YOU ARE ALL THE BEST!

IT DOESN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT YOU!

XOXO - the PCG Board

Congratulations to the Philadelphia Ceili Group as you celebrate the 52nd Anniversary of your Annual Irish Traditional Music & Dance Festival. We send our best wishes for continued success.

From the
Circle of Friends Set Dancers
Contact- Kathy Hopkins
215-915-4744
irishdancer2650@hotmail.com

Congratulations to the Philadelphia Ceili Group for bringing us 52 years of great music, dance, and culture!

UPCOMING IRISH CENTER EVENTS

Go to www.TheIrishCenter.org for more info and to buy Tickets

- Check out our podcast: Around the Hearth on YouTube
- **October 16** George Sinkler Swing Band
- **Saturday, October 24th**: The Tyrone Society's Bingo Night; 7 pm
- **Friday, October 30th**: Nathan Carter Concert ; 7 pm; $50/ person
- **Saturday, October 31st** : PCG Concert: The Strayaways
- **Saturday, November 6th**: Annual Mayo Ball; 7 pm (doors open at 6 pm)
- **Sunday, November 15th**: Hall of Fame Dinner; 6 pm (doors open at 5 pm)
- **Saturday, December 5th**: Donegal Ball; 7 pm (doors open at 6pm)



In Memoriam
Comhbhrón

Tom Burke

Francis “Frank” Daley, Jr.

Lawrene Donofy Dickerson

Joe Driscoll

Sherry Gallagher

Paddy Keenan

Sean Kelly

Joe Lang

THE PHILADELPHIA CEILI GROUP'S

Irish Traditional Music & Dance Festival

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

Go raibh mile maith agat!

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Courtney Malley