

The Cooley Keegan Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

sponsors a new class in San Francisco:



“An Introduction to Irish Music through the Tin Whistle”

March 28th through May 2nd, 2007

This six-session class, intended for children in grades 2 through 6, will be held Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, at the United Irish Cultural Center (2700 45th Ave. at Sloat, in San Francisco).

The class will be taught by Conall O’Raghallaigh, a Dublin native who has been playing traditional Irish music on both the uilleann pipes and the whistle for over a decade, and is past president of the San Francisco Pipers Club.

Background: Traditional Irish music, like the folk music in most cultures, has been passed down through many generations primarily by ear, with children growing up immersed in the rhythms and melodies at people’s homes, dances and social occasions. This class will teach the fundamentals of traditional Irish music through the tin whistle, the simplest and most widespread of Irish instruments, and will provide a valuable foundation for learning Irish music on any instrument.

Each class will include some discussion/demonstration of different rhythms, learning the musical scales on the whistle, learning of simple tunes by ear, and perhaps playing of tunes on other instruments (flute, violin, possibly others) that students may be learning.

What will students know / be able to do after the 6 week class?

- Play one or two different tunes from memory
- Identify the beat and differentiate jigs from reels when listening to them
- Be able to “read” the sequence of notes in a tune from the “spots” diagram
- Know the “D” scale, and “G” scale on the whistle

Cost: \$ 95 for the six-week class (some scholarships available based on need)
(only \$ 85 each if you register with another student – bring along a friend or sibling!)
These include cost of a Clarke “Sweetone” whistle (key of “D”),
and all written and recorded materials distributed through class.

Enrollment: **To assure individual attention, enrollment will be limited to 8 students, so enroll early to reserve your space!** To register, or to ask questions about the class, please email Michael Riemer at: riemer@ce.berkeley.edu, or call him at 510-548-4727.

About the Sponsor: *Comhaltas is the Bay Area branch of a worldwide organization dedicated to celebrating traditional Irish culture. We organize many music and dancing events, including a growing program for children. For more information, visit our web site at: <http://sf.ccewest.org/>*