

The Cooley Keegan Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

sponsors a new class in the East Bay:



“An Introduction to Irish Music through the Tin Whistle”

March 22nd through April 26th, 2007

This six-session class, intended for children in grades 2 through 6, will be held Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, at The Crowden School (at the corner of Rose and Sacramento, in Berkeley, near the “North Berkeley” BART station).

The class will be taught by Kristan Willits, who is both an experienced teacher, and a highly regarded player of traditional Irish music on instruments including the Irish flute, whistle and bodhrán (Irish drum).

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 (including singing along), 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 any written or recorded materials distributed through class.

Enrollment: To assure individual attention, enrollment will be limited to 8 students, so be sure to enroll early to reserve your space! To register, or to ask questions about the class, please email Kris at: kwillits@earthlink.net, or call her (daytime) at 510-540-9562.

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, see our web site at:* [http://sf.ccewest.org/](http://sf.ccewest.org)