

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2012

SAMHAIN / NOLLAIG 2012

# SCÉAL ÉILE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OF COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN



Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann



Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2012 - Cavan Town

One of the major activities of the CCÉ is running a system of competitions in Irish music. The purpose of these competitions is to develop, promote, and preserve the playing of Irish traditional music at the highest level of performance. Musicians compete in a series of qualifying rounds, with the best of them heading to the annual Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, a ten-day long event embracing all aspects of traditional Irish culture: music, song, dance, and the Irish language.

The competitions themselves comprise nearly fifty categories, covering various solo instruments, accompanying instruments, duets, ensembles, singers, solo dancers and dance groups. For each category, there are generally four age groups, ranging from children under 12-years old through adults. Competitors have their performances evaluated by one or more Adjudicators, who are themselves expert performers in the Irish musical tradition. At the end of each competition, the Adjudicator announces the results. The written evaluations made by the Adjudicators are later provided to the competitors, who may take them as a guide to improving their performances. Besides the Adjudicators, the competitors may find themselves facing a roomful of friends, family, and other spectators.

This year, the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann was held in the town of Cavan. In April, I had qualified in three categories at the Midwest North-American Fleadh Cheoil in Chicago, and so in August I found myself traveling to Ireland for the big festival. In Cavan, I would represent the Cooley-Keegan Chapter of the CCE as I competed in the categories of Miscellaneous Instruments, Mandolin, and Liriting. I had hoped to match or better my performance at the 2005 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Letterkenny, where, playing the hammered dulcimer, I had taken a 3rd Place in Miscellaneous Instruments. There were to be no medals for me this year, however. The competition was as fierce as I've ever experienced it. Yet, I can honestly say that I'm only slightly disappointed, because I'm thrilled that there are so many musicians playing Irish traditional music at such an accomplished level.

But there is much more to the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann than just the competitions: There are concerts, by long-established bands like Altan and Clannad as well as by up-and-coming acts. There are dance performances and musical recitals. There are plays, art exhibits, workshops, tours, and many other events. And there is music everywhere, on the streets and in the bars, with one or more sessions in every pub, every night.

It is estimated that upwards of a quarter million people attend the Fleadh. Many people come from overseas — I met musicians and listeners from Germany, Sweden, Norway, England, and the United States, as well as from all over Ireland itself. As with any gathering of this size, it seems that some people, alas, come just to get drunk and to party in the streets. I'm sure, however, that the vast majority were there for the music and the culture, of which there is plenty and more.

I'll not forget the people I met at this Fleadh. I played in sessions at the Slieve Rossa Bar, in McGinnity's cellar, at the New York Bar, and at the Cavan Crystal Hotel. At those sessions I made friends with many fine musicians, whom I hope to see the next time I visit Ireland. I also had many wonderful conversations with the people of Cavan itself, who were welcoming and friendly.

Next year, the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann will be held in Derry/Londonderry. I visited that city briefly, when I went to the Fleadh in nearby Letterkenny, and hope I will have the opportunity to visit it again during next year's Fleadh. Perhaps I shall see you there!

Slán, Carl Hylín



FOUNDED IN 1951, COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN IS IRELAND'S PREMIERE CULTURAL MOVEMENT. WHEN YOU JOIN COMHALTAS, YOU JOIN PEOPLE IN MORE THAN 400 BRANCHES WORLDWIDE IN SUPPORT OF THE TRADITIONAL IRISH ARTS OF MUSIC, DANCE AND LANGUAGE. WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. PLEASE CONTACT THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT [HTTP://SF.CCEWEST.ORG](http://sf.ccewest.org)



## Events this Month



### West Region Annual Meeting/ Seisiún/ Ceili

**Calling all CCE Members and friends...your support of this event on November 17<sup>th</sup> is extremely important!!**

We will have CCE visitors from Seattle and Phoenix. We have been given the entire ballroom by the UICC for this SATURDAY Night ceili (7-10pm), as well as the bar area for the seisiún (4-11pm which is open to everyone). All CCE Members are welcome to the meeting at the UICC from 2-4pm. Shannon Ceili Band will be providing the music for the ceili with a special performance by the *Celtic Dance Ensemble*. Make a night of it – come out for dinner at the Irish Center (be sure to join the ceili and session. See attached flyer for more info.

**Christmas Ceili** - December 9<sup>th</sup> at UICC at 7PM. Miliosa and Richard Lundy & Friends will be playing for dancers. See attached flyer for more info.

**Wren Boys** - - See a notice later in the Scéal for information about Wren Boys on December 26<sup>th</sup>.

**San Francisco** - On Thursdays, CCE hosts classes at the UICC starting at 7:30 followed by more dancing at the Plough & Stars until midnight -- except for the first Thursday of the month when there is no class and dancing at the Plough & Stars from 8-11PM. **There will not be dancing on November 22<sup>nd</sup> -- Happy Thanksgiving.**

**South Bay/ Peninsula** - On Tuesdays we meet at Lily Mac's in Sunnyvale. Lessons: 7:30; Dance to live music 8-10. \$5 donation suggested. Info: Michael Murphy at 415-999-6062. **There will not be dancing on December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup> -- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

**North Bay** - Mary McDonagh and Micheal Minihane teach Set Dancing on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at Brosnan School of Irish Dance from 7 to 9PM. There is a \$5 charge for this class. Tea and cakes or sweets will be served. Contact: Mary McDonagh (irishsetdancer@yahoo.com), Micheal Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com).

**New address of Lisa Brosnan's Irish Dance Studio is: 11 Belle Avenue, Suite B, San Anselmo, Ca 94960.**

**East Bay** - Starry Plough in Berkeley hosts ceili dancing on Mondays with John Slaymaker. Lessons from 7 to 9PM and dancing to live music from 9 to 11PM.

See calendar page for address, phone number and web page for all venues.



## Annual General Meeting



General Meetings of the Membership are typically held on the first Tuesday of the month. The next one will be the **Annual General Meeting** on November 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 8PM (after you vote!) at the UICC. On December 4<sup>th</sup> the monthly general meeting will start at 7:30.

**This is a members' meeting and all members are encouraged to attend in order to plan future activities.**



## Membership Corner



Please renewal your membership **NOW**.

Thanks to those who have done so already. Single Membership is \$40. Multi-membership (2 or more in household) or family memberships is \$50. If you receive the Seal by US Mail, a form was sent to you in the last Seal Eile. If you receive the Seal by email, Josephine emailed you about your renewal.

Here are the ways you can renew:

- Renew on-line through our website and remit payment through PayPal; <http://sf.ccewest.org>
- Renew on-line through our website and send your check to our PO Box. (we do not bill).
- Complete your membership form and mail it with your check to our PO Box.
- Complete your membership form and include either a check or cash – give to Josephine at dancing.

PLEASE RENEW NOW!

If you have any questions, please call Joannie at 415 664-6579; email Joannie at [olearyj@urology.ucsf.edu](mailto:olearyj@urology.ucsf.edu); or talk with Josephine at dancing. Thank you for your support.



## Song and Storytelling



The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Jeremy Friedenthal on December 7<sup>th</sup>  
46 Tum Suden Way  
Redwood City CA 94062  
(408) 888 8370  
[jeremy.friedenthal@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.friedenthal@gmail.com)

Planning for 2013, the January Seisiun on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Patrick J. McEvoy  
251 Chestnut, Palo Alto, California 94306  
(650) 493 3773  
<http://maps.swagman.com/chestnut/swagman@swagman.com>



*Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta participants gather for a group photo*



## Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta



The annual Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta (Irish language Immersion Weekend) took place at September's end, and everyone who came agreed sincerely that it was the best one ever! By Sunday evening the head of every participant was filled to overflowing with Gaeilge and each heart was rich with fun.

Our teachers were Liam Ó Cuinneagáin (beginners), Brian Ó Broin (intermediate), Bairbre Ní Chiardha (high intermediate), and Ray Mac Mánaís (advanced), all of them world class Irish teachers who had traveled to SF especially for this DSG. Brian and Ray also provided some mightily enjoyable workshops on Saturday afternoon, and a special treat was the performance by Ray of some of his award-winning *lúibíní* during our Saturday night session, with the able assistance of Brian Ó Broin in the duets.

Another plus was the expansion of our children's program. For several years, we have engaged a 5th teacher to provide a children's event Saturday consisting of a trip to SF zoo *trí Gaeilge*, which has mainly been attended by a few children whose parents are at the Deireadh Seachtaine (occasionally joined by other kids from the Irish community). The kids always have a wonderful time and look forward to it every year. This year, we added a fabulous class for the children Friday night, and they also enjoyed some playtime *as Gaeilge* Sunday. (At this time, these activities are for children who already have enough Irish to benefit from an opportunity to use the language with their peers for the day, under the encouragement and tutelage of a dedicated teacher. If you have children who would benefit from this kind of practice, they are welcome to come; contact me to discuss!).

Save the date! Next year's Deireadh Seachtaine will be held September 27-29, 2013, at the UICC as usual, *le cuidiú Dé!* More info: contact Nikki at 510 881 5958, or [cce\\_gaeilge@ccwest.org](mailto:cce_gaeilge@ccwest.org)



*The South Bay group meets at Lily Macs in downtown Sunnyvale on Tuesdays. Here is a group photo from a birthday celebration earlier this year. The birthday girls, Cathy and Laurel, are wearing their tiaras.*

## Wren Boys

*Wren's day is celebrated on December 26<sup>th</sup>, St. Stephen's Day. The tradition consists of "hunting" a fake wren, and putting it on top of a decorated pole. Then the crowds of mummers or strawboys celebrate the Wren by dressing up in masks, straw suits and colourful motley clothing and, accompanied by traditional céilí music bands, parade through the towns and villages. These crowds are sometimes called Wren Boys.*

It is time to "bury the wren" again! Join us on St. Stephen's Day, Wednesday, December 26, 2012. We will meeting at the Plough and Stars at 6PM and continue until 11 or 12 PM.

Please show up in Wren Boys outfit or some other festive wear. More details to follow later. Feel free to contact Michael Murphy at 415-999-6062.

Up with the kettle, down with the pan, hope to see you out on the Wren!

## Kevin Mallen Scholarship

The deadline for submission of this scholarship application is January 30, 2013. Applications may be obtained by calling Josephine at 681-4803 or emailing her at [josephinebrogan@yahoo.com](mailto:josephinebrogan@yahoo.com) or Joannie at 415-664-6579. For some years now, thanks to the generosity of our good friend, Kevin Mallen, RIP, we offer music scholarships to children who are members of the SF Cooley-Keegan Branch of Comhaltas. Many have benefitted from this scholarship through fiddle, tin whistle and bodhran classes. 2012 Scholarship winners and their teachers gave us a few lively tunes at the Christmas Ceili.

## CCE Classes

CCE sponsors the following classes at the UICC.

- **Adult Irish Language**
- **Children's Tin Whistle**
- **Children's Fiddle**
- **Children & Adult Bodhran**

For more information, please contact Josephine Brogan at [josephinebrogan@yahoo.com](mailto:josephinebrogan@yahoo.com) or 415-681-4803. **Pre-registration and payment is required to secure a place for all classes.**



## Set Dancing



**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday:** Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 8:00pm. Music by the Shannon Céilí Band.

**2<sup>nd</sup> through last Thursdays:**

- Lessons at the United Irish Cultural Center (UICC) in San Francisco at 7:30pm -- check at bar for room. Taped music:
- Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 9:30pm. Shannon Ceili Band typically plays on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday; Topsy House on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and last Thursday;
- Dancers are encouraged to contribute \$5 to support the live music.

**Tuesdays:**

- Lily Mac's in Sunnyvale. Lessons: 7:30; Dance to live music 8-10. \$5 suggested to support the live music.

**Mondays:**

- Starry Plough in Berkeley: Ceili dancing on Mondays. Lessons from 7 to 9PM and dancing to live music from 9 to 11PM. Contact: John Slaymaker.

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays:**

- Brosnan School of Irish Dance in San Anselmo: From 7 to 9 pm. There is a \$5 charge for this class. Contact: Mary McDonagh (irishsetdancer@yahoo.com), Micheal Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)



## Seisiún



**Seisiún:** - Sundays and Tuesdays starting at 8:30 at the Plough and Stars, various hosts.

**Song and Storytelling Seisiún:** Held on the first Friday of each month, check above for details.

COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OF  
COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN  
P.O. Box 16244  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116

# SACBHAIN 2012

De Dómhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deáardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Oct 28 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	29	30 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	31	Nov 1 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars	2 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Harold & Cathy Jones Santa Clara	3
4 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	5	6 <u>AGM Meeting</u> UICC 8PM <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	7	8 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	9 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	10
11 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	12	13 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	14	15 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars Norton Ceili Band	16	17 <u>West Region Meeting</u> UICC 2-4PM <u>Seisiún</u> UICC 4-11PM <u>November Ceili</u> UICC 7-10PM
18 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	19	20 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Song Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	21	22 <u>No Set Dancing</u> Happy Thanksgiving	23 <u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	24
25 <u>Deireadh Seachtaine</u> <u>Gaeltachta</u> UICC <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	26	27 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	28	29 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton	30 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Ellen Auriti Berkeley	Dec 1



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 YOUTH OFFICER: SEAN O'DONNELL

# Nollaig 2012

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ Sathairn SATURDAY
Dec 2	3	4	5	6	7	1
Deireadh Seachtaine <u>Gaeltachta</u> UICC <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30PM <u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	<u>Song Seisiún</u> Jeremy Friedenthal Redwood City	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<u>Christmas Ceili</u> UICC 7PM w/ Live Music <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	<u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> Lily Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Merry Christmas</u>	<u>Wren Boys</u> Meet at Plough & Stars at 6PM	<u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	<u>Set Dancing</u> Bronsan Dance Studio San Anselmo	
30	31	Jan 1	2	3	4	5
<u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars		<u>Happy New Year</u>		<u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Ceili Band	<u>Song Seisiún</u> Patrick J. McEvoy Palo Alto	

**Plough and Stars** - 116 Clement Ave. (Between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>), San Francisco, (415) 751-1122 [theploughandstars.com](http://theploughandstars.com)

**U.I.C.C.** - 2700 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. (At Sloat Blvd.), San Francisco, (415) 661-2700 [www.irishcentersf.org](http://www.irishcentersf.org)

**Lily Mac's** - 118 S. Murphy St. Sunnyvale (between Washington and Evelyn Aves)

**Starry Plough** - 3101 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (510) 841-2082 [starryploughpub.com](http://starryploughpub.com)

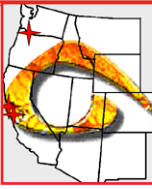
**Beckett's Irish Pub** - 2271 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (510) 647-1790 [www.beckettsirishpub.com](http://www.beckettsirishpub.com)

**Brosnan School of Irish Dance** - 11 Belle Avenue, Suite B, San Anselmo, Ca 94960 [brosnanschool.com](http://brosnanschool.com)

*You can also visit the following websites for events:*

**San Francisco CCE - Cooley-Keegan Branch** - [sf.ccewest.org](http://sf.ccewest.org)

**Santa Cruz CCE - Clifford-Hoban Branch** - [www.folkplanet.com/cce](http://www.folkplanet.com/cce)



**WEST REGION**  
**COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN**



## **WEST REGION ANNUAL MEETING & NOVEMBER CÉILÍ** ***Come One, Come All!***

**Cooley-Keegan Branch is hosting the annual  
West Region Meeting of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann  
Saturday, November 17th, 2012.**

As always we invite and encourage all members to attend the meeting.

**Our meeting will be followed by a lively traditional session, no-host dinner, and céilí.  
*Everyone Welcome!***

### **Schedule:**

West Region Meeting: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm  
United Irish Cultural Center (UICC), St. Patrick's Room

### **Seisiún, in the UICC bar area from 4.00 pm until 11.00 pm**

Traditional Irish music session, singer friendly.  
Come along, pull up a chair, join in, and enjoy!

**November Night Céilí: 7.00 pm – 10.00 pm,**  
in St. Patrick's Room, UICC upstairs.  
*please bring goodies to add to the pot luck dessert table*

### **Dance, dance, dance!**

Music will be provided by the Shannon Céilí Band,  
with special entertainment by the Celtic Dance Ensemble

### **Admission—**

**Adults: \$12.00,**  
**Teens 12–18: \$5.00**  
**Children under 12: free**

### **Dinner**

The UICC restaurant will be open for dinner from 5.00 pm to  
9.00 pm. Please note that reservations are required. Call the  
UICC at 415-661-2700, ext. 100, to make your reservations.

### ***For more information, please contact***

Josephine Brogan at: josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415.681.4803  
or Michael Riemer at riemer@ce.berkeley.edu or 510.684.9878





**COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN  
THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH**



***CHRISTMAS CÉILÍ***



**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND DANCING AND  
SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT!**

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH 2012
- WHERE:** UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER  
2700 45<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO
- TIME:** 7.00 PM TO 10 PM
- MUSIC:** MILIOSA AND RICHARD LUNDY AND  
FRIENDS
- ADMISSION:** Adults: \$10.00. Children: FREE

*For Information, contact Josephine Brogan (415) 681-4803*

*Please visit our website at : <http://sf.ccewest.org>*