



# Four Peaks Irish Arts

A Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

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## Goodbye from Flo

Hello again and welcome back to Flo's corner. Well as many of you know this is my last week left in Arizona. Chris and I are spreading our wings and heading back East, to Boston, Massachusetts, where Chris is originally from and a city I happen to love. It may seem like a big leap but to be honest I don't mind putting on a few extra layers of clothing to keep warm rather than strip-

ping off to feel cool!!! I will miss the Arizona winter though! Chris and I are looking forward to this chapter of our lives. However, we still plan to come back and visit all our friends here so I am looking at our departure as a "so-long for now friends, see you soon".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for making me feel so welcome and so at home despite being 6,000 miles away from my home. I have many great memories of Phoenix, many treasured fun times with such a great group of people I was so lucky to meet when I first arrived here and whom I will dearly miss when I leave. Thanks for the laughs, the tunes, the house parties, the dancing, and last but not least the craic!! You all have a good excuse to visit Boston now, and please do not hesitate to look me up or drop me e-mail if you are in the area. It would be great to see some of my Arizona buddies! It is indeed a bittersweet departure.

When I first arrived in Arizona, it was June 3rd, 2008. I stepped off the plane after a 13-hour flight, at 11pm. It was 40 degrees when I walked out onto the south curb at Sky Harbor International Airport. I can't tell you exactly what thoughts were racing through my head, but I am sure they were along the lines of "Holy Moley" (the polite version) "Where am I? What have I just let myself in for?, What have I left behind? What awaits me?" It was a surreal feeling to be so far from home and in such a completely different environment. Everything was strange. The next day, I woke up and it felt like that maybe I could jump in the car and motor on down to my parents' house for a visit but when I realized I couldn't, then sometimes I have to admit I felt very vulnerable and alone. Almost out of my comfort zone. I guess that is to be expected though when you move from what your used to which was a small country village in the west of Ireland to a totally new environment, which my Dad likes to call "the desert". I think he thinks sand dunes, cacti, camels, pyramids and miles of sand when he thinks of Arizona. He always says "Sure jaysus, that place is wicked hot, I couldn't shtick it" So when I tell him it rains here, he recites his own version of the "Our Father" and "Hail Mary" for us all here, if you catch my drift.



Flo's Column

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## 2009 Board Members

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If interested please contact us.

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## First Friday at ICC

The musicians who played last time at the Irish Cultural Center for First Friday were Tom Fizzell, John Raus and George O'Brien. The acoustics are great in the hall, especially for the flute. I hope more folks will play there in the future. Were the rest of you home watching the Sun's basketball game?

*Tom Fizzell waits patiently  
at the ICC for somebody to come  
along and play with him.*



## To all the musical folks - I apologize in advance!

You'll have to supply your own Rim Shot/Cymbal crash yourselves. This is a low budget operation! Here goes:

1. If you drop an accordion, and a set of bagpipes, and a viola off a 20 story building, which one lands first?? Answer: Who cares!!
2. How do you fix a broken Tuba? Answer: With a tuba glue.
3. Did you hear about the spoons player who locked his keys in his car? It took over two hours to get the drummer out.
4. What's the difference between a banjo and a chain saw? The chain saw has a greater dynamic range!
5. How many Irish singers does it take to change a light bulb? Three! One to change the bulb and two to sing about the old one.
6. Do you know how to make a million dollars singing Irish tunes ? Start out with two million.
7. How many bass players does it take to change a light bulb? None. They let the keyboard player do it with his left hand. (you may have to think about this one a little.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen. Elvis has now left the building.

## Four Peaks Irish Arts

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**Visit our website: [www.fourpeaksirisharts.org](http://www.fourpeaksirisharts.org)**  
Membership Fees: Local Chapter Dues \$30.00 Family \$50.00  
Send name, address & check payable to Four Peaks Irish Arts  
3165 S Alma School Road #29-146 Chandler, Arizona 85248

The Four Peaks Irish Arts organization will be a recognized tax exempt educational and charitable organization under section 501-C-3 of the Internal Revenue Code and a nonprofit corporation organized in the state of Arizona.



## 2009 Calendar of Events

**Sat 22nd May 2010 @ 3pm-4pm** General FPIA meeting at Jim Daugherty's home, 824 W Pershing Ave, Phoenix, AZ. 85029. Seisiun to follow!

Contact Mary for more information: mary.hillconnor@gmail.com

For other information, contact Johnny Kerr: Johnny@fourpeaksirisharts.org

### Local Open Seisiuns

**Lis Doon Varna - Peoria Irish Pub & Restaurant • Wednesdays - 7-9 pm**

16100 North Arrowhead Fountain Center Dr Peoria, AZ 85382 623-979-0730

**Tim Finnegan's Irish Restaurant & Pub • Sundays - 1-4 pm**

9201 N. 29th Ave. Phoenix, Arizona 85051 Phone: 602-997-2323

**Fibber Magees Irish Restaurant & Pub**

**Sundays Early Seisiun- 2-4:00 pm • Regular Seisiun - 4-7 pm**

1989 W. Elliot Rd. #19 Chandler, Arizona 85224 Phone: 480-722-9434

**Charly's Pub & Grill -The Hotel Weatherford • Sunday from 7-10 pm**

23 N. Leroux Street Flagstaff, AZ 86001 Phone: 928-779-1919

**Irish Cultural Center • First Friday of each month 7-11 pm**

1106 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix AZ 85004 Phone: 602-258-0109

### Mandolin Raffle

For those of you who play mandolin (or would like to), the Australian luthier Graham McDonald donated a great Celtic-style mandolin to ZoukFest to raffle off. Here's a post on the Mandolin Cafe site about it:

[http://www.mandolincafe.com/news/publish/mandolins\\_001218.shtml](http://www.mandolincafe.com/news/publish/mandolins_001218.shtml)

Graham is the guy who made my bouzouki.

The raffle tickets are \$30 apiece, and we set the limit at 100 tickets. So, everyone has at least a 1 in 100 chance of winning. The tickets appear to be going quick--46 are sold already since we posted it last week. The proceeds of the raffle support ZoukFest this year, June 6-12, on the campus of University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. This year, we'll have Andy Irvine teaching bouzouki and Martin Hayes teaching fiddle, along with our other instructors on guitar, mandolin, whistle, bodhran, etc. Check it out at <http://www.zoukfest.com/>

Full disclosure: I'm on the Board for ZoukFest (but they make me pay to attend, too!), no one on the Board is making any money on the instrument, and no one on the Board or their families can buy a ticket. Thanks, Rick Boyle

### Letters To The Editor

*Your place for opinions, recognition, venting, complaints and compliments. Send letters to [beverlyfz2@cox.net](mailto:beverlyfz2@cox.net) We can include photos with your letter!*

**Hi Bev,**

We are almost ready to go now. Leaving May 26th and driving across country. Getting out just before the heat strikes. I have to say I am happy about that but will miss all here! Thanks again Bev for your wonderful work on the newsletter, I got great complements on it while at Friday Harbor. We have a lot of people reading it from all over. Take care, Flo x x x

### Goodbye from Flo

Within days of arriving in Arizona, I set out to find Irish sessions and this is when I first met most if not all of the Fibbers musicians in Chandler. I was excited to meet Mary and Tom Conner also on that day. Mary, a great, fun-loving, strong Clare woman like myself, and Tom, a whiskey loving, uilleann piping slow air master, with such a kind heart. Finding and meeting someone from Ennis, Co. Clare in Arizona I thought would be unimaginable before I got here. When I met Mary and Tom, it made me feel like I had someone I could go to who would understand me and 'get' what it is like to move away from family and be so far away from what you know. Both Mary and Tom took me under their wing, and I called them my 2nd set of parents while I was away from home. Mary and Tom have been a great part of Chris and my experiences here in Arizona and we both would like to take this opportunity to thank Mary and Tom for their genuine support, their kindness, their words of encouragement, their pure goodness, their top notch advice and their loving hearts. They are wonderful people. We love you both and we'll miss you both dearly. Oh, and I love Tom's secret recipe for his steaks and his Texas beans!!! I've tried to get the recipe out of him with a few whiskeys but to no avail yet! I guess I'll have to wait until he comes to Ireland this summer and when he visits our house in New Quay we'll give him the 'good stuff'!!!! We might coax

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**To Flo:**

Thanks for your colorful and informative column every month! We feel like we know your family, and enjoy the insight into Irish life.



the recipe out of him then ;-) The top shelf as they say! My father has it simmering in the cupboard! Joking... of course! Thanks for all the craic you guys! My love to Fionn the cat too!

While I am here, I may as well give you all a quick run down of my trip to San Francisco. This past May 2nd, I flew on a one-day trip to San Francisco to teach a concertina workshop. It was a whirlwind trip that when I got home I didn't know whether I was still in Arizona or California. I left Phoenix at 7.45 am, arrived in San Francisco around 10 am. I got picked up from the airport at 10.15am and was brought to the workshop venue by 10.45 where I taught a workshop from 11am to 1pm and then from 2pm to 4pm. I then was brought to the airport after to catch my 6pm flight! What a day! It was a great experience. The workshop I gave was to a 'concertina club' that meets regularly to play and chat about concertinas. Really fantastic and a lot of the players there were Noel Hill workshop students. I even had a few people that were just learning about Irish Traditional Music and who had jazz music background. Some of conversations were interesting to say the least. It was lovely to go back to San Francisco even if it was just for a short visit as the last time I was there was back in 1995 with my father when I was just 13 years old. In 1995, Charlie Piggott, former member of De Dannan, my father and I, did a mini American tour taking in Boston, New York and San Francisco. It was another great time in one of my early music adventures where I got to meet Dervish, Charlie and Jack Coen and the once former duo Brendan Begley and Steve Cooney. My father also celebrated his 60th birthday in a quaint little Irish bar in the Napa Valley where we had a gig that night. We managed to keep his birthday surprise a secret from him and wheeled out a birthday cake for him and the owner popped a bottle of bubbly! They were great times and we made great memories.

Well, here is where I will sign off for now. It may be a little while before I get to write on here again as we are leaving Phoenix the morning of May 26th and then we drive across country and of course I am stopping at Graceland to see the King of Rock n' Roll. We should be in Boston the first week of June and then we fly to Ireland for a few weeks vacation June 9th. As you know, my Internet access where I live in New Quay is limited if I have any at all. It's the Internet access that still requires dial-up! If not dial-up then its run to the window and sit on the window-sill until you get enough coverage to check your e-mails which takes about 1 hour before the whole thing freezes and you start all over again. I am sure people who have visited rural Ireland will understand this. Many of the houses in New Quay do not have a computer never mind the Internet. Refreshing in a way but when you are used to the Internet being at your fingertips it can be a little frustrating at times. A string of colorful words at the computer, I have learned, really doesn't help. While in Ireland, I am hoping to attend the Comhaltas Clare County Fleadh that runs from the 18th - 20th of June. Hopefully I will have a report on that for you all and update you and any other happenings with the music scene that I encounter on my travels!

Those of you who are football/soccer fans like myself I am sure you all will be looking forward to an exciting World Cup 2010 in South Africa! Go USA and go Italy. (Chris's family is Italian so I have to root for the Italians). Since the French striker Thierry Henry decided to bring basketball rules into football, the Republic of Ireland unfortunately are not partaking in this World Cup. I suggest Henry sign up for the NBA, that which includes handling a lot of balls to win!!!!!! Needless to say the Irish people are still resentful of the French team who cheated their way to the World Cup 2010 in South Africa! You'd never have guessed would you??? “-) Well as they say, its all to do with karma. Word has it that the Irish people are rooting for Spain to win the World Cup, which I can understand as the majority of Irish people holiday in Spain. We'll wait and see!!!

Again, I hope to meet you all before I leave and play a few tunes with you all again. Thanks for the memories, the laughs, the music and the craic. It's hard to believe this will be my last time signing off from Arizona. I have had a wonderful two years here and I treasure it. It really has been one of the greatest experiences of my life so far. Thank you all for being a part of my experience.

Bye for a while and see you all soon... Slan go foill mo chairde agus Rath De Oraibh.

*Don't be dismayed at goodbyes.  
A farewell is necessary before you can meet again.  
And meeting again, after moments or lifetime,  
Is certain for those who are friends. Richard Bach*

