



Four Peaks Irish Arts

A Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

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Issue 4

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Four Peaks Irish Arts
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Letter from the Chairperson

A Chairde,

We are so honored, and I'm so delighted to have Beverly Fizzell taking on the newsletter.thank you Beverly! I've had a peek already and you're going to be impressed.

It's up to you all now to provide the news, articles, and feedback to keep her busy!

We are closing in on having our 501(c)(3) application completed and getting it in the mail. I will tell you it is quite the undertaking, but I have learned a lot from the undertaking. I know it is worth all the effort.

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Learn New Tunes!

Musicians are encouraged to participate in community tune learning seisiúns to increase their repertoire, using the Comhaltas Foinn Seisiúns books & CD's. (see Marketplace for info on these books.) This concept was based on an idea from our Treasurer Will Thorne at our most recent meeting. Since then a few members have indicated an interest in hosting and/or participating in such a seisiún and we would like to help facilitate that in any way we can. Find other players in your locale who are interested. If you would like us to list you as a seisiún host in the newsletter, please contact us with the appropriate information. If you would like more information on the Foinn Seisiún materials, please contact Johnny Kerr.



October Meeting

Please come! October 23rd is our next FPIA meeting which will be our Annual General Meeting, at ICC. Go put this on your calendar right now and we look forward to seeing you there!



New Newsletter Editor

Member Beverly Fizzell has stepped up to the plate and volunteered to take this important job. She has extensive experience in the printing industry and will be an asset to us.

There will be new columns including: Letter From the President, Flo's Corner, Member Profiles, Calendar Of Events, Marketplace (where you can advertise your business or sell things), Meeting Minutes, reports on concerts and other events around town. Especially important is the Letter To The Editor Column. This is your space to communicate with others and to let FPIA know how you feel about them and their activities.

If you go somewhere of interest to FPIA members and you don't see Beverly there, e-mail her to include it in the next newsletter. Is there anything else you want to see in the newsletter? Let me know!

Please rejoin FPIA

If you are one of those folks who has not renewed your membership, we want you back! There is a lot going on, both right now and in the future. We know you won't want to miss anything. Contact any board member and let's make plans to get back together. We need you!



got craic?

2009 Calendar of Events

October 23 -7:00 pm Annual General Meeting, at ICC
December - Christmas Event is in the planning stage
Ongoing - Several interesting workshops are in the works. Stay tuned!

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

Local open Seisiuns

Lis Doon Varna - Peoria Irish Pub & Restaurant • Wednesdays - 7:00-9pm
 16100 North Arrowhead Fountain Center Dr Peoria, AZ 85382 623-979-0730

Tim Finnegan's Irish Restaurant & Pub • Sundays - 1-4pm
 9201 N. 29th Ave. Phoenix, Arizona 85051 Phone: 602-997-2323

Fibber Magees Irish Restaurant & Pub
Sundays Early Seisiun- 2-4:00pm • Regular Seisiun - 4-7pm
 1989 W. Elliot Rd. #19 Chandler, Arizona 85224 Phone: 480-722-9434

Charly's Pub & Grill -The Hotel Weatherford • Sunday from 7-10pm
 23 N. Leroux Street Flagstaff, AZ 86001 Phone: 928-779-1919

Irish Cultural Center • First Friday of each month 7-11pm
 1106 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix AZ 85004 Phone: 602-258-0109

Support our local Irish Venues. We want them to be here.

Midwest Fleadh Cheoil music competition

It's not too early to think about entering the annual Midwest Fleadh Cheoil music competition for next year. The winner will qualify for the Fleadh Cheoil in Ireland. More information to come.

Letters To The Editor

Your place for opinions, recognition, venting, complaints and compliments.

From Johnny Kerr:

Beverly,
 The newsletter is looking great! I am so excited to see it brought to life through your talent. We are very grateful for the help! The overall format, language and use of graphics is fantastic. I really like where this is headed and am glad that the newsletter will have a personal and light-hearted feeling to it.
 Brava! Johnny

From Board: Thanks to Ann Kinahan for a good website that is getting us calls and members.

Chris Boydston says folks who play the Irish harp are known as harpers. (Hmm, what does this mean for people who play Irish tunes on the piano?) Mary Hill-Connor OK'd these facts for use in the newsletter.

From Mary Hill-Connor
 Beverly,

I truly want to thank you for stepping forward and taking on this project.
 Mary

*Send letters to
 beverlyfz2@cox.net We can
 include photos with your letter!*



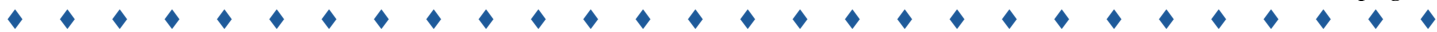
Welcome to Flo's Corner!!!

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Beverly on doing a fantastic job so far and I would also like to express my excitement in having my own little blurb. It will be fun! I was never much of a writer or English scholar so let's just go with the flow... (Pardon the pun).

I think I will start off by telling you all how I got started on Irish Traditional music. Well, seeing as most of you know where I am from you are probably thinking 'we're not surprised'. I am from a small little village (blink and you'll miss it type of a village) in North Clare by the name of "New Quay", just a stone's throw away from the famous Bellharbour and Chris Droney. I mention Chris Droney but little do people know that my father, a humble man with as much talent as Chris, is a fantastic concertina player, as was his father and my great grandfather. They all played the concertina and tried their hand at the melodeon and accordion. My father has the Clare style – that beautiful, steady-paced, melodic and simple Clare style that he has passed on to me today and for which I am ever grateful.

I owe it to both my parents for getting me started on the concertina at the age of 11 years. My dad learned all he knew by ear. A typical winter night in the Fahy household was my father, with the concertina out and the earphones in, learning a tune he recorded from the radio, or 'wireless' as he calls it. My mother would be either making the tea or knitting, tapping along to the tunes and my older brother Martin, who has no ear for music, kept telling us we were all mad. Then there was me listening and looking suspiciously at

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Profile: Johnny Kerr

I am an Arizona native and my family has been here for several generations. It wasn't until I had been playing the tin whistle and listening to Irish music for several years that I discovered I had Irish and Scottish heritage behind my name. I have been married for three years to my beautiful and talented wife, Jessi and we share our house with our two chihuahuas, Lucy and Molly. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Art Institute of Phoenix in Media Art (graphic design) and Animation. I just finished a Master's degree with the University of Phoenix in Education focusing on Curriculum and Instruction and I plan to teach art at the high school level. I currently work as a graphic designer and love it but my career plan is to have my art be more of a personal outlet and to teach young adults how to further their skills, find their own artistic voice and/or prepare them for a successful art career as an adult. My wife is currently living out her career goals as an art teacher at Independence High School in Glendale. Once I start teaching we are hoping to use our first summer off together to travel to Europe (especially Ireland)!

I first discovered a taste for Irish music in my early college days through punk bands such as the Pogues, Flogging Molly and the Dropkick Murphys. For many years I searched to find that perfect sound which I only caught a glimpse of in the occasional fiddle solo from those groups. It wasn't until I listened to my first Chieftains record (borrowed from my grandparents) that I recognized those "fiddle solos" as jigs and reels. I devoured as much of the Chieftains as possible and struggled to mimick the sounds I heard on the tin whistle, the first instrument I ever played (purchased from Pat and Patty McCrossan at Ireland's own). It was several years before I discovered that Phoenix

had an Irish cultural center where I could hook up with others who were interested in the same music. I am crazy about Irish traditional music and will likely spend the rest of my life trying to "get it right"! In addition to the tin whistle I have also played drums, acoustic guitar, mandolin, bodhran, and piano accordion. I very recently picked up the Uilleann pipes and have made that my focus as the vehicle on which to play Irish music in the future.

In addition to Irish music I am also an avid listener of 1970's-90's punk, 1960's ska and rocksteady, rockabilly, big band, delta blues, and various other artists (eg. Tom Waits, Yann Tiersen, etc) who defy genre titles. My wife and I have also enjoyed swing dancing since before we were married and have been known to cut a rug to Pat McCrossan's rock and roll tunes at the Emerald Ball!

Serving as the vice-chairperson for FPIA has been a humbling learning experience. I have never seen myself as much of a leader but through the duties involved there, in addition to the work to complete my Master's degree, I have learned a lot about myself and have really tested the limits of what I can accomplish. I would like to thank Mary Hill-Connor and the rest of the board for all of their hard work, support, and for putting up with my perfectionist habits! I would also like to thank the FPIA membership for allowing me to serve them for the last year. I would especially like to thank those in our membership who have volunteered their time, ideas and resources to make our mission a success.

Editor's note: As an accomplished graphic designer, Johnny produced the logos and other graphics in this newsletter.

Flo's Corner *continued from page 3*

my Dad learning and playing music on the concertina, dancing every now and again and maybe picking up the concertina when he wasn't looking. I was an Irish step dancer for many years but never fell in love with it as I did the music. I tell many people, I used to know the tune better than the steps to the dance!!

I started lessons with a girl by the name of Brid Meaney, a great Clare concertina player. After 6 months of hard work, I entered my first Clare Fleadh in Lissycasey and earned 3rd place. I was so proud. The hard work paid off. My brother made a plaque for me to put my first medal on and we ended up pinning my father's first winning competition medal beside it. It is still sitting at home proudly on our cabinet. Since then, I have had many opportunities come my way in music. I have traveled with music groups all over the world to places like Australia, The Middle East, and The United States and all over Europe and I have thoroughly enjoyed it all. I have taught young and old at all different levels and enjoyed it extensively. I have been a member of many groups, most recently "Inis Og" from Ennis, in Co. Clare and I have made so many good friends that are life long friends now. My dad always told me the musicians you meet in a session are

your friends for life. I do believe that to be true.

Over the years, being an Irish Traditional musician has taken me on an incredible journey and still continues to do just that. The late nights, the great sessions, the crazy sessions, the characters you meet, the love you share for the music, the getting together of friends is all what the playing of the music is about. Forget the versions, forget the music sheets, forget the ornamentation, forget that you have to go somewhere and do something you don't want to do tomorrow. When you're playing the music, enjoy it, mistakes and all.

I would love to take this opportunity to thank firstly my parents, whom I love and miss very much, for encouraging me throughout all my music endeavors. I would like to thank the musicians in Phoenix for welcoming me into the Irish music community. I enjoy playing with you all every Sunday. Thank you both, Mary and Tom Connor, for taking me under your wing when I first got to Phoenix! Hope you all enjoyed this piece, until next time :)

Ireland It's the one place on earth That Heaven has kissed with melody, mirth, meadow and mist.



Minutes of General Meeting of Four Peaks Irish Arts August 28, 2009, 7:00 PM, at the ICC.

Recorder: Tom Connor Meeting called to order by Chair - Mary Hill-Connor [meeting started 10 mins late due to officers caught in traffic]

Members in Attendance: Mary Hill-Connor, Ben Weihunt, Jack Moriarty, Johnny Kerr, Joe (Cooper)Wehunt, Mary Moriarty, Eric Wilson, Mark Clark, Tom Connor, Will Thorne jr., Patricia Fuller, Chris Boydston, Beverly Fizzell, Ruth Christensen, Tom Fizzell, Maggie Driscoll, George O'Brien, Jim Bidle, Oskar Fer, Jim Daugherty, Ann Kinahan. Guest in Attendance: David Ewell

Treasurer's report: (first 'cause Will had to leave early): \$1550 in bank account. Foynn music books/CD sets, \$1026 went to Ireland to pay for them. He suggests getting volunteers to host tune learning sessions from the Fionn books. 6 sets, then 3 sets, ...

Chair's report: 501c3 application making progress. Colin O'Donohoe has agreed to review it.

Vice Chair report: Membership timeframe moving to Jan?

Who wants a full set of Foynn books/CDs? Need to take in money first via preorders cause things are a bit tight.

Brainstorming what to do with outreach program and what to do with funds

Get 501c3 status, then can get donations of used equipment

(JDaugherty) set dancing DVD might be something to make available, so players can learn the set dance tunes.

Set Dancing instructor from Dallas to give workshop – have a set dance planned for next Wed at ICC.

501c3 will also help us get donations of instruments.

Old Business: - PRO position is still open.

New Business: Chris volunteers for Editor if no one else...

Feedback from membership has increased a lot and has been very helpful.

Mary: if don't get Treoir by 15th Nov, please let us know

Guest: David Ewell (Joe Weihunt's friend) . Passed around attendance sheet. Good attendance.

Johnny Kerr: report on the ASU's Sparky's carnival, and request for folks to form small playing groups, on their own

Mary: going to Western Division Regional meeting in Seattle, last Sat of Sep

Possibility of hosting a future North American Comhaltas Convention:

She'll bring up the subject at the Seattle Regional meeting

– find out what support would be coming from CCE

– find out what commitment FPIA would have to make

Sheraton downtown is owned by the city.

Having Dave Munnelly Band Will be here on 2/28/10 It's the highland games that weekend but not being held at the ICC

Mary Moriarty: could do a 4-5pm? George: volunteers at games might not want to come due to games conflict.

Events being worked on:

- Grainne Hambly & Scottish fiddle player
- Kevin Burke workshop/concert next April?
- Paddy Keenan – Anita will find out
- Randal Bays bringing his band – will do an workshop?
- Eliot Grasso – Johnny has been in contact: he is willing to do it and has taught lessons on several instruments
- Flo is going to be concertina instructor at Friday Harbor workshop
- Jim Bidle: Beoga is coming back –JK asks that Jim keep us posted
- George O'Brien: folk festival in Prescott, 2-3 Oct, doesn't conflict this year. FPIA welcome to share his booth. He's doing a seisiun. If enough interest he could see about a second seisiun.
- Jim Daugherty volunteers his back porch for a tune learning seisiun.
- Mary asks Maggie about Brandy and a workshop/Scottish, in Seattle(?) We will announce in our newsletter.
- George talks about Leahy coming – maybe they would do a workshop? Stresses we would need to take action now.

Thanks to Ann Kinahan for a good website that is getting us calls and members.



Mini Concert by Eric & Flo

On Friday September 4th, the principal of Hamilton High School was treated to a surprise mini-concert by Eric and Flo at the school for his birthday. Anita's friend asked if she knew any Irish musicians who could come play for a short while during school hours. He was very pleased as he loves Ireland!

Flo to teach Concertina

Our Flo Fahy has been named the Concertina instructor for the next Friday Harbor school, next March. The Ceili band she used to play in, Inish Og, has just won the All Ireland in Tullamore!

Letter from the Chairperson, *continued from page 1*

Thanks everyone for renewing your membership!

Just a hint or two of what's coming: Dave Munnelly and his band will be here on Feb 28th for a house concert. Johnny has been talking to Eliot Grasso about a house concert and workshop on whistle, flute, and pipes.

By the next time we all chat, Johnny, Tom and myself will have attended the Western Regional Annual General Meeting in Seattle, Saturday, September 26.

Elections are in order for the next meeting, our Annual General Meeting, to be held before the end of October. Further notice will be sent out as to when.

We're still looking for a Public Relations Officer. Would you like to step forward?

Now that the heat is abating how would you all like to have a Fall picnic or camp out? When and where should we do this?

Slan, Mary

FPIA Marketplace

To place your ad, send e-mail to beverlyfz2@cox.net (Deadline is the 10th of next month)

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS ! THEY HELP US ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

Ad Rates

Have something to sell, buy or advertise? Put your ad or business card in the newsletter. (Some are free to members). We can help you write your ad. e-mail your information to: beverlyfz2@cox.net

Business Ad	one year \$90.00 or one month \$10.00
Member Business Ad	one year \$60.00 or one month \$6.00
Classified Ads	one issue \$10.00 (free to FPIA folks)
Add a photo to your ad	\$5.00

Help Wanted:

Public Relations: Your skills can be put to good use for FPIA. We need an aggressive Public Relations person to take over this job. Contact mary@fourpeaksirisharts.org

Marketplace Help: Person to accept & compose ads (when needed), forward payments and encourage ad renewals. No sales experience necessary.

Contact beverlyfz2@cox.net for more information.

Your ad could be here!

Dig out that neglected fiddle, bodhran, whistle etc., free up your valuable space and provide other folks (maybe a future student) the opportunity to play an instrument. You can place an ad if you repair or build instruments or have a music performance group. Your ad might be free if you are a member in good standing at FPIA! Only classified ads are free, business ads are not.

Contact a board member for the following items:



AZ Seisiun Musician T-Shirt \$15.00

Featuring an original design by a local artist, professionally silkscreened on a 100% cotton t-shirt. Available in adult sizes small to 2XL.



Foinn Seisiun Tune Books & CD's

These are a great resource for the Irish musician. Each book and corresponding CD volume features over 100 standard session tunes. (books and CD's sold separately)



Craic Addict Instrument/Luggage Tag \$5.00

Engraved on durable acrylic, 2 1/2" in diameter. Includes beaded chain with optional Name, Address & Phone Number sticker on the back.



FPIA Logo Vinyl Decal \$1.00

This high quality 3" durable vinyl sticker can be applied to a car window, instrument case or anywhere else you want to show your FPIA colors!

