



Four Peaks Irish Arts

A Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

September
2010

Volume 3
Issue 8

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Four Peaks Irish Arts
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCÉ)
3165 S. Alma School Road #29-146
Chandler, Arizona 85248

USA

www.fourpeaksirisharts.org

Annual meeting Friday, September 10th at 7:00

You won't want to miss this important meeting. This is an election meeting and potluck followed by a seisiun! Laura Strebler has graciously offered her house for this important meeting. So bring your favorite dish and your instruments for another great night! Contact Mary Hill-Connor at 602-635-9760 mary@fourpeaksirisharts.org or Laura at (480) 332-3978 laura@fourpeaksirisharts.org for directions or more information. Laura is actually across the street from where Marni used to live in South Chandler.

Public Relations position is still open and also the office of Treasurer. For information about the actual duties and if you could do one of these important positions contact Mary Hill-Connor.

Come to this great house concert! September 18th

Four Peaks Irish Arts is pleased to present an intimate house concert featuring All-Ireland Champion musician John Whelan, with Charlene Adzima and Zac Leger. Join us on September 18th at 7:30 PM for an evening of music and craic.

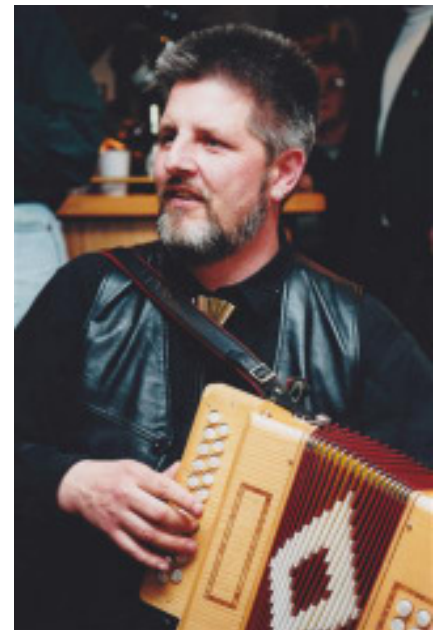
Suggested donation is \$15 at the door. Seating is limited and will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. For more details or to reserve your seat, please contact Mary Hill-Connor at 602-635-9760 or mary@fourpeaksirisharts.org. We look forward to seeing you there!
Four Peaks Irish Arts

JOHN WHELAN

Although John grew up near London in Dunstable, England, he was raised on the fiddle and pipe music of Ireland. Dunstable has a large Irish community, and his father, Denis, was from Ireland's County Wexford. "Ours was a very traditional household," John says. "My father didn't have any major vices – his only addiction was to Irish music." Denis Whelan carried a reel-to-reel tape recorder to many shows, collecting hours of live music. Songs of home elicited sentimental tears, even when the words were not in English. "It was not the words but the emotion of the music that moved me".

At the age of 14, already a seasoned winner of numerous accordion championships, John recorded his first album, PRIDE OF WEXFORD. Named in honor of his father, PRIDE OF WEXFORD was no passing fancy - the album is still in print and selling steadily.

John's artistry blossomed in America. He moved to the United States in 1980 and soon was performing with Riverdance fiddler Eileen Ivers in one of the most celebrated Irish duos of the decade. His solo album FROM THE HEART became a 1991 finalist in the Celtic/British Isles category of the National Association of Independent Record Distributors and Manufacturers (NAIRD) awards.



2009 Board Members

Mary Hill-Connor
Cathaoirleach (Chairperson)
Statutory Agent
mary@fourpeaksirisharts.org

Johnny Kerr
Leaschathaoirleach
(Vice Chairperson)
johnny@fourpeaksirisharts.org

Will Thorne, Jr.
Cisteoir (Treasurer)
will@fourpeaksirisharts.org

Laura Strebler
Rúnaí (Secretary)
Membership
laura@fourpeaksirisharts.org

Mark Clark
Auditor
mclark5060@yahoo.com

Public Relations Officer
This Position is Currently Open.
If interested please contact us.

Eric Wilson
Youth Officer
eric@fourpeaksirisharts.org

Flo Fahy
Language Officer
flo_fahy@hotmail.com

Jim Daugherty
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djr9@msn.com

Anita Arden
Music Coordinator
Newsletter Proofreader
anitaa@cox.net

Beverly Fizzell
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beverlyfz2@cox.net



New ideas needed!

Put on your creative hat! Think of ways to make our organization more appealing to current and potential new members. We want to grow in both members and fun and educational activities. Remember we should cover these four areas - dance, language, music and our rich Irish culture. Bring your ideas to the September 10th meeting. Ask yourself these questions: What can I do to do to make our club more fun? Is there something I can do to ensure participation by me and my fellow members in events? What can I do to make our club better? Can I get to know other members better? Just go ahead and do it!

FPIA officers meeting August 29

In attendance were Beverly Fizzell, Mary Hill-Connor, Mark Clark and Laura Strebler.

Highlights of the meeting:

Can we meet using Skype? Would anyone like to be in charge of setting that up? Newsletter coming out for September. Please send all articles to Beverly ASAP Annual meeting September 10, Laura's house, 7:00 pm followed by a house party/seisiun

- elections will be held
- current board slated for re-election except for possibly Will
- PRO position still open
- please bring ideas for drawing in new members and what current members would like to see happen with the branch
- Renew mailbox for 6 months
- Renewal letters coming up
- any thoughts on benefits of joining?
- Look at other branch websites
- Mark suggested recruiting events in pubs - can someone look into speaking to pub managers?

Regional meeting November 5-6 in Los Angeles

March 25- 27 National Convention in San Antonio

Sister Cities 5k run Papago Park - November 20

- Mary will contribute \$75 so we can have our FPIA logo on the shirts. Can we get a team to participate?

Four Peaks Irish Arts

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3165 S Alma School Road #29-146 Chandler, Arizona 85248 USA

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Membership: Laura Strebler laura@fourpeaksirisharts.org
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Visit our website: 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.



2010-2011 Calendar of Events

Friday September 10 - 7:00 pm Annual meeting - seisiun to follow!

Saturday September 11 - 8:00 pm Free concert at San Marcos

Saturday September 18th -7:30 pm John Whelan Concert

November 5 - 6 - Regional meeting in Los Angeles

Saturday November 20 - 5K run in Papago Park

March 25 - 36 - National Convention in San Antonio

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

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

5 K Run

Sister Cities is sponsoring a 5 K Run in Papago Park on November 20th. For more information or to sign up, contact Mary Hill-Connor at 602-635-9760 or e-mail at: mary@fourpeaksirisharts.org We want to get our FPIA logo on the shirts.

Free Concert!

Entertainers will include the Vocal Jazz Ensemble from Chandler-Gilbert Community College; The Strand, a Traditional Irish Band; Folklorico dancers; Irish step dancers from the Bracken School of Irish Dance; Native American dancers; a local progressive rock band; a Story Teller; and others. Saturday, September 11, 2010 8:00 pm at the Crowne Plaza San Marcos Golf Resort in Historic Downtown Chandler One San Marcos Place. Event is presented by The Chandler Irish Cultural Council representing the Sister Cities of Chandler, AZ and Tullamore, Ireland in cooperation with Sister Cities International.

Optional Benefit Dinner Reservations and more Information available on our website, www.chandleririshculturalcouncil.org

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.

Open Seisiuns around the valley

Robby Fox - Irish Restaurant & Pub • Sundays - 4-6 pm

640 S Mill Ave Tempe, AZ85281 Phone: 480 642-6442

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

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

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

Letters To The Editor

Your place for opinions, recognition, venting, complaints and compliments. Send letters to beverlyfz2@cox.net We can include photos with your letter!

501-C-3

We are almost there thanks to the efforts of both Mary and Tom Connor. It will be just a couple of weeks until we have it finalized and filed. As soon as we get this done much more freedom is available for us as an organization.

Renewal Form

A FPIA renewal form and return envelope may be sent to you to make it easy to pay your annual dues and keep track of your membership.

Irish music lessons

We need new ideas! We want to be able to provide young (or older) folks the opportunity to learn to play an Irish instrument. If you know how we could do this or find convenient locations where we could effectively start this kind of program, bring your ideas to the September meeting.

Sea Of Guinness

Lost at Sea, two Irishmen, Patrick & Michael, were adrift in a lifeboat following an escape from a burning freighter. While rummaging through the boat's provisions, Patrick stumbled across an old lamp. He rubbed the lamp vigorously and a genie came forth. This genie could only deliver one wish. Patrick blurted out, "Make the entire ocean into Guinness Beer! The genie clapped his hands and immediately the entire sea turned into the finest brew ever sampled by mortals. The genie vanished and only the gentle lapping of Guinness on the hull broke the stillness as the two men considered their circumstances. Michael looked at Patrick and said. "Nice going Patrick! Now we're going to have to pee in the boat."

From Mary Hill-Connor:

Our hats are off to Beverly, once again, for a great newsletter!





Presidents Letter

An Chairde,

I hope you all had a great summer! Some of you went to music camps this summer and I hope you'll take the time to write a little blurb and send it to Beverly, so we can hear of your experience through your eyes. Brian and Anne Harris are sharing are taking the time to give us their impressions of the Augusta Music Camp, a week-long school held in July. Thanks guys! If you are planning to attend a music school in the near future, keep us informed and let us share your experiences.

You should have received your Treoir by now, and that ties in with the following: The most important upcoming event, that should be on everyone's calendar, is the North American Comhaltas Convention. It's March 25-27, 2011, and it's close to home this time! San Antonio, Texas, is a mere 2 hours from Sky Harbor! If there is one event I would have you go to, it is this one. It's a combination of music school, continuous multiple seisiun, dance, and rollicking good party all rolled into one! Although it may be said that the All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil is Mecca, I really think it possible you might have as great an experience and even more fun at the convention. Tom and I certainly can testify this is true of the two conventions we attended in Parsippany, NJ, and one in St. Louis. Your latest Treoir has a big spread on this year's convention.

Comhaltas is mostly about passing on the traditions to the next generation. Some of you going to the music schools have been following the growth of the remarkably talented Michael Stribling (Oklahoma.) He just won the 15-18 years category for the Uilleann pipes at the 2010 All Ireland Fleadh in Cavan last month. As you know the All Ireland is put on by Comhaltas, and it is actually the world championships. I'd like to see young people from Arizona placing in this event!

We're starting the Fall off with a bang, with a house concert and workshops on Saturday, 18 September. This is the famous button accordion player John Whelan, fiddler Charlene Adzima, and multi-instrumentalist Zac Leger. Depending on interest we may have as many as three workshops: button, uilleann pipes, and perhaps fiddle.

Coming up even before this is our Annual General Meeting, which includes elections of officers. This year it'll be part of a hooley at Laura Strebler's house, that will go on 'til the wee hours like last time, no doubt. Please come and bring your ideas and suggestions for where you want to see us grow from here.

John Good has asked FPIA to join him at the Celtic Harvest Festival in Sedona, Sept 25-26. There will be a seisiun for all to play in. Also, De Mairt Ceol will provide music for the ceili. We really want to support John, so if you'd like to escape the heat, get some cosmic energy into you, and at the same time have the craic, come along and get your feet moving! We'll have a blast!

I shall expect a team of runners and/or walkers for the Phoenix Sister Cities 5k Run, 20 November! The Ennis Committee is responsible for this idea and event and we want it to be as successful as possible. The reason I'm boastin' about this is Ennis is my home town!

If you haven't guessed, it's important for your planning to read the newsletter thoroughly as there are great events coming this Fall. Your participation is important to all of us and to the mission of Comhaltas.

See you at the AGM and Party, at Laura's. Bring friends, and help us build our community together.

Since our last meeting, I'm happy to announce new members. Welcome to the Harris family, Ed, Judy, and children Chad, Brittany, Taylor, and Kyle! They have just moved here from Amherst, NY. We are also delighted that Gerry and Guinevere Cassida are returning to us -- welcome back!

Our hats are off to Beverly, once again, for a great newsletter!

Mary Hill-Connor





Profile: Tom Connor

I'm a Texas boy and a guitar player who married a girl from Ireland, 34 years ago. I've always loved folk and traditional music and she quickly got me hooked on the wonderful music of her native land. I started out on the tin whistle, until I finally realized the pipes were calling me!

The Irish uilleann pipes are very different from the Scottish Highland Pipes (a glorious instrument in its own right.) It is not much louder than a fiddle. It differs from all the other bagpipes in that it can be stopped between notes. These instruments are rare and hand-crafted. I play a D-pitched $\frac{3}{4}$ set made by master pipemaker Kirk Lynch.

The pipes are taught by ear. I have had personal instruction from Kirk Lynch, John May, Sean Og Potts, Gay McKeon, Mickey Dunne, Cillian Valley, Sean McKierney, Ivan Goff, and Paddy Keenan.

I play at weddings and funerals and, along with my fellow Irish Traditional Music fanatics, I play regularly at the two Sunday Irish "seisiuns" (Tim Finnegan's Pub, 1-4pm; Fibber Magee's Pub, 4-7pm) and at the monthly Ceili dances at the Irish Cultural Center.

I don't have to say too much about the pipes – they either reach deep into your heart or maybe there's a wall around it. In the last year I've joined a world orchestra. The

Pangean Orchestra is a wonderfully intriguing idea backed by a noble vision. I love getting together with musicians from different backgrounds and trying to come up with something we all had a part in. To hear the orchestra is marvelous, and it is also a powerful metaphor for world peace.

How to make a great "cuppa" by Johnny Kerr

My good friends, Tom and Mary Connor got me hooked on Barry's tea. I have often looked forward to a soothing cup of tea from Mary's kitchen when I would have the craic with them into the wee hours of the morning. Recently, an afternoon cup of tea has become a bit of a home ritual – I've found both the drinking of the tea and the brewing process to be quite relaxing after a day's work. When it comes to brewing tea you can't rush it; it's ready when it's ready so it sort of forces you to slow down and have a bit of mid-day peace!

When I first came home from the World Market with my new box of Barry's tea, I figured I'd better do some digging online and figure out how to make a "proper" cup that would come close to Mary's experienced brew (and not put to waste the expensive tea I just purchased!). After reading up, and after a couple months of trial and error, I've managed to come up with my own process which results in a pretty darn good cuppa, if I don't say so myself! I thought I'd share with you all, just for the craic!

First of all, you'll need the following basic paraphernalia: a kettle, a teapot, and teacups. A tea cozy is also another good thing to have though I've not secured one for myself just yet. To start, fill your kettle with more water than you'll need for your teapot (I'll explain why later) and leave it sit on the stovetop burner on high heat (that is, unless you have yourself a turf fire already burning!). Make sure you have your teapot and cups ready to go.

When your kettle whistles, pour the boiling water into your teapot (no tea bag just yet) and cups and return the kettle to the stove so that it does not cool. Let the hot water warm up your teapot for a moment and then dump the water out of the pot (you can leave the water sit in the cups to keep them warm until your tea is ready to serve). By warming your teapot and cups before pouring your tea you will lose less heat than if you pour into room temperature vessels. This is especially nice on a cold day when you want your tea to stay hot long enough to drink it!

Assuming your kettle has maintained its heat (should be whistling) you can now place a tea bag or two into your warmed teapot and pour water over it from the kettle. Do not dunk or stir your bag(s) at this point; just pour the water over it, cap your teapot, fit it with a cozy and let it steep for about five minutes.

After the five minutes you should remove the tea bag(s) from the teapot to avoid a bitter taste from developing (depending on how strong you like your tea you can stir and or squeeze the the bag(s) against the side of the teapot with a spoon before removing). Give your tea a good stir, empty the hot water from your teacups and you are ready to serve.

Add your milk/cream/sugar to taste, grab a couple of biscuits or cookies for dunking and enjoy!



Photo by Johnny Kerr



