



# Four Peaks Irish Arts

## Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCÉ)

March 2009

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Four Peaks Irish Arts  
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## Thank You!

We want to say “thank you” to all of our members! Our membership continues to grow and currently our branch has over 60 members. We are so excited to have so much support from the community.



## CCÉ National Convention

The CCÉ National Convention will be held April 16 – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in St. Louis, Missouri. This exciting weekend is hosted by the Saint Louis Irish Arts and promises to be full of fun and good craic. Comhaltas room rates are available at the Hilton St. Louis for \$119 per night. Convention registration is \$175. There will also be a chance to win a trip to Ireland. To find out more about this exciting event, visit the St. Louis Irish Arts website at [www.slia.org](http://www.slia.org).



## Branch Update

It's been a busy few months for our branch with lots of activity both in the community and behind the scenes! Four Peaks Irish Arts has been represented at many events and your officers continue to work on spreading the word about Irish culture throughout Phoenix and surrounding communities.

In October of 2008 we were pleased to team up with Fiddler's Dream coffee house and acoustic music showcase to bring in the infamous Paddy Keenan. Paddy Keenan, along with guitarist John Walsh put on a fantastic show and the concert was such a success that Mr. Keenan has expressed an interest in returning to the valley in the future!

## Paddy, Anita, Eric, & Tom



Following in November, we helped to facilitate a house concert with harpist and concertina player, Gráinne Hambly. It was a real pleasure to see such a brilliant artist in such an intimate setting. Much thanks to Anita Arden for her hospitality in opening up her home to Gráinne to help make this happen.

Anita Arden, our Music Officer, has presented two successful workshops to teachers on Introduction to Irish Music in the Elementary and Middle School Classroom. These workshops coach teachers on how they can incorporate Irish music into their curriculum to help meet state standards. Anita introduced teachers to instruments such as the tin whistle and the bodhran that might not have otherwise been experienced in an Arizona classroom setting. FPIA would like to thank the ICC for their generous co-sponsorship that helped



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make these workshops a success.



The Phoenix Sister Cities WorldFest 2009 festival, gave us an opportunity to present an hour of traditional Irish music, played by Flo Fahy, Ruth Christensen, Johnny Kerr, and Eric Wilson, with great singing by Tom Montgomery. We got to plug the seisiun at Tim Finnigans as well!



Your branch officers continue to brainstorm with the ICC and ICLF to find ways that our organizations can cooperate to fulfill our common missions in serving the Irish community and reaching out to increase cultural awareness to the surrounding communities. Our groups have collaborated to co-sponsor several events, including the educator workshops and look forward to a mutually beneficial partnership in the years to come.

All officers continue to work toward our goal of achieving 501c(3) nonprofit status. We are close to submitting our application and will be discussing several key points relating to this topic at our March 27 meeting. Once non-profit status is achieved we will have many more opportunities to fundraise, apply for grants and receive donations to make it possible for us to continue bringing musicians to the valley for concerts and workshops. Your support and patience in these beginning stages of our branch have been greatly appreciated.



**St. Patrick's Day Faire**

The Phoenix St. Patrick's Day Faire will be held on March 14 at Margaret T. Hance Park next to the Irish Cultural Center. Look for the Four Peaks Irish Arts booth for cool t-shirts and other merchandise including Comhaltas music books and CDs. We hope to see you there!



**Visit FPIA Online**

Stop by the FPIA website located at [www.fourpeaksirisharts.org](http://www.fourpeaksirisharts.org) for the latest news and events.

And for all you social networkers, FPIA is also on MySpace and Facebook! Chat with your friends, find out about upcoming events and discuss all things Irish online.

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
[Four Peaks Irish Arts - Myspace](http://www.fourpeaksirisharts.org)

**WHAT'S UP?**

**March 27, 2009**  
**7:00 P.M., Irish Cultural Center**  
*General Meeting*

We will be voting to ratify our by-laws and discussing our progress toward 501c(3) status. The meeting will be followed by a session, so bring your instruments!

For more information call  
602.315.3065.

**WHO'S WHO?**

**Mary Hill-Connor**  
Chairperson  
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**Johnny Kerr**  
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**Mark Clark**  
Auditor

**Flo Fahy**  
Language Officer

**Anita Arden**  
Music Coordinator

**Jim Daugherty**  
Dance Coordinator

