



Four Peaks Irish Arts

A Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

January

2010

Volume 3

Issue 1

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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



Fingal to play

Join Four Peaks Irish Arts in welcoming Fingal to Phoenix! Fingal is an exciting new trio in the world of Irish music. Its members - Randal Bays, Daithi Sproule and James Keane - are well known and respected worldwide for their musicianship and commitment to the roots of the Irish tradition. These are master musicians who know how to deliver the passion and power of this ancient music in the here and now.

Fingal will be performing in Arizona on Friday January 15th at 8:00 PM at the Irish Cultural Center 1106 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ. in downtown Phoenix.

Admission is \$20 in advance or \$22 at the door. FPIA members and Academy students receive a 10% discount!

To reserve your tickets, please contact a Four Peaks Irish Arts officer at [:info@fourpeaksirisharts.org](mailto:info@fourpeaksirisharts.org) or call Mary at (512) 917-0279.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Four Peaks Irish Arts
www.fourpeaksirisharts.org
info@fourpeaksirisharts.org



2009 Board Members

Mary Hill-Connor

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Laura Strebler

Rúnaí (Secretary)
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mclark5060@yahoo.com

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This Position is Currently Open.
If interested please contact us.

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Three great holiday parties!

The Sisters Cities meeting

and potluck was December 5th, and a seisiun was encouraged. We first played for dinner and then went and played in the cottage while they held their meeting. Several members peeked in to listen after their meeting. The accoustics in the cottage are great!



Students practicing outside the hall.

ICC/IFA Academy Christmas Party

We were happy to find such a warm reception at the ICC at the December 12th Christmas program and potluck.



125 people signed up for the event. It looks like a lot more came, especially from the looks of the food tables. Pies were stacked three deep!

All afternoon, folks kept coming in with new dishes to try. Why did we eat all that food?

While we enjoyed lunch, Pat McCrossin took the stage with his guitar and entertained us with Christmas songs. The students from the fall classes also performed for us. There were dancers, players and singers. Even Santa dropped in with his banjo!

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Four Peaks Irish Arts

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Newsletter Editor: Beverly Fizzell beverlyfz2@cox.net

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.

2009 Calendar of Events

January 15 - 8:00 pm Fingalto at ICC

For more 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



Our Flo has gone home to be with her family in Ireland. Don't fret! She is coming home January 15th.

Chairperson's Letter

A Chairde,

**Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit,
Soichan leat agus bail o dhia ort le
gach daoine.**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year, peace be with you and the blessing of God for you and everybody.

We are on to a very exciting New Year starting with Fingal coming on the 15th Jan. The Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann North American Convention is the weekend of April 8th, 9th and 10th, in Parsippany, NJ. It would be wonderful if we could have a group from FPIA attend. The convention is a combination of a music and dance school, and one long party, with seisiuns breaking out everywhere you look. One has only to experience the camaraderie once to get an inkling of why so many trad people go to this gathering. It's like going to a Fleadh Cheoil in Ireland, and many come over from Ireland to attend. Have you ever thought of entering one of the Comhaltas competitions? Well maybe this is the year to do it! It would be nice to see our members competing in the Midwest Fleadh Cheoil, May 7-9, as it is a qualifying round for the All Ireland! The All-

Continued on page 4

Celtic Chorale Singers Auditions in January

Celtica! is a brand new, 16-20 voice musically experienced Chorale devoted to the Music of the Celts. Rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays from 7:00-9:30 PM beginning in early January. Celtica! is in partnership with The ICC.

Auditions and Rehearsals will be held in The Cottage at the ICC at 1106 North Central Avenue in Phoenix. Celtica! will be under the Direction of Founder Coleen Van Slyke, and Accompanist Melody Perry. We urge interested singers to secure an audition time right away. For more information, please contact: celticachorale@gmail.com

The British Jukebox radio program *Mark Clark*

Just wanted to let you all know that my Radio Program is up and running every Sunday at 8pm (Arizona, Mountain time)

Just go to "Radiophoenix.org" and click on "Listen Now" tab and wait for to it play live.

The show is called "The British Jukebox" and it focusses on New and Cult classics of British (and Irish) music not often heard in the US.

Radio Phoenix is a community radio for the Phoenix area and is a non-profit public radio station.

Feel free to listen in and enjoy the music! Mark Clark

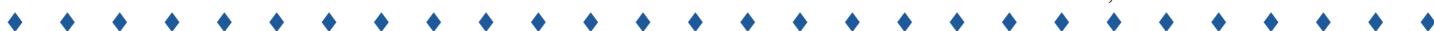
Memorial Day in Prescott

May is a long way off, but I wanted to give you plenty of time to get your camping gear together. We have a reservation for the Prescott Granite Basin site for next Memorial Weekend. Mark your 2010 calendar when you get it. Please spread the word (but no blurbs in the AZ Irish Music newsletter, please). All Arizona Irish musicians, families, and dogs are welcome. Ruth

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!*

I guess nobody has anything to say this month. Come on now, don't be bashful!



Profile

Chris Boydston - Irish Harper

Music has been a part of my family since I was three years old. I was raised in Longview, Texas. One of the little-known gems about living there was the quality piano theory a kid could get from the neighborhood piano teachers. Thanks to Mrs. Phillips, I was never for want of a musical education. I studied piano for most of my childhood and entered competitions as a classical pianist.

Many moons later, in the early 90's, I discovered Irish harp. It was the Chieftains, featuring a well-known eccentric harper named Derek Bell. I purchased "Chieftains 4" which featured his O'Carolan and Trad solos. I was hooked. I wanted to be just like him. I wanted to play Irish Traditional Music.

I was given the gift of a student harp in 1999. I wasn't too intimidated by it since the harp is close to the percussion family, as is the piano. This gave me a theory and familiarity of the harp fairly quickly. Unfortunately, I couldn't tour Ireland forever in search of instructors of Irish ornamentation. Thankfully, friends of Comhaltas and the local Irish Cultural Center introduced me to Gráinne Hambly and Máire Ní Chathasaigh. Through my communication with them, I was able to construct my own little theory program of Irish harp which I continue to use to this day...so far, so good.

I went to local seisiuns to try my stuff. Eventually I became part of the local Irish music scene. These days I make my home at two pubs, Fibber Magee's and Tim Finnegan's, where I play with the dearest group of friends



you could ever have.

I enjoy my FPIA community as they help promote ITM education. Currently, I am developing a project that includes Youth Officer and piper, Eric Wilson and music coordinator, Anita Arden. The goal is the development of an educational presentation of the uilleann pipes and Irish harp in ITM.

In my spare time I like to design websites, play the didgeridoo, and study early Celtic history, mythology, and language. I still dabble in sleight-of-hand magic from my days as a magician. I'm a die-hard Dallas Cowboys fan...I think that's it!

Presidents Letter *from page 3*

Ireland Fleadh Cheoil is Ireland's premier traditional festival. The Organising Committee are aiming for over 250,000 visitors and 11,000 musicians to attend this year's event. Most of all, your feedback is important. What can we do to make this a better experience? How can we -- all of us working together -- make FPIA the best it can be? Again, our best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year! Mary

William Thorne sent this:

A useful website to explain modes in Irish music.

<http://www.intermix.freeuk.com/>



1923 Safety Last

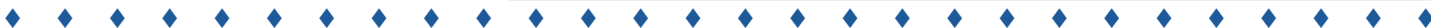
Original 1923 Silent Film
Starring Harold Lloyd.
accompanied by live Theatre Organ

Historic Orpheum Theatre
203 W Adams Phoenix.

January 9th - 6:45 pm
General Admission \$15.00
Children under 12 are free.

For more information check website:
<http://silentsaturdays.vots-atos.org>

Presented by Valley of the Sun chapter of the the American Theatre Organ Society



Christmas Parties, from page 2

Later in the afternoon, about a dozen seisiun players and friends took off for their usual Sunday afternoon seisiun at Fibber's. They are a devoted bunch!



George has been a good boy this year, Santa



The fibber's seisiun players have improved by leaps and bounds over the years. Stop in for a pint and listen to them on Sunday afternoons at 4:00. If you join the seisiun, Fibber's provides a drink.

CHRISTMAS CRAIC AT THE HOME OF ANITA ARDEN

FPIA's music coordinator, Anita Arden treated us to a party at her lovely home on the Saturday before Christmas. Some of our regular musicians were off in other parts of the world, but enough people attended to turn the event into a real house hoolie. Some of the more notable moments included:

- Darrin Moore's daughter, Whitney providing us with some great Irish fiddle
- Tom Connor introducing us to his new uilleann pipe regulators.
- Brian and Anne Harris contributing their Iowa tradi-



tion of dill pickles wrapped with cream cheese and corned beef (see photo)



Anita's personal friends enjoyed the atmosphere just as much as the musicians. We're not quite sure when the last people left but it was well into the early morning hours. This is typical for a group of folks who love the ceól and the craic as much as the members of FPIA and the Irish seisiun community. Chris Boydston

Irish Harper

More photos on page 6





Brian and Ruth



Tom Connor and Pipes



Party Guests



Whitney Moore, Darin's daughter

Don't throw out those Guinness cans!



Irish Cultural Center Art Gallery
 The December artist's works on display are from the Celtica Gallery. Owner Ira Hayden is responsible for the ongoing care and displays of the various artists work at ICC. He is showing some really great western art of his own for the month of December.



New t-shirt available

We are unveiling a new t-shirt design. The shirts can be purchased by e-mailing or contacting any branch officer. They are sand (light tan) colored with a dark brown imprint, available in adult sizes small- to extra large, and are being sold for \$15. They were designed by Johnny Kerr and professionally silkscreened by a local print shop.

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

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

Ad Rates

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

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.

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

Advertising in other newsletters

Our ad for the January Fingal concert is in the January newsletter of the local chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society. An ad for their silent film is on page 3 of our newsletter. Hopefully their members will come to our concert, and we in turn can enjoy their silent film at the Orpheum Theatre. Ask Brian and Mary about the great time they had at the Phantom of the Opera silent film there in October.

Marketplace Help Person needed to accept & compose ads (when needed), forward payments and encourage ad renewals. No sales experience necessary. Contact beverlyfz2@cox.net for more information.

Contact a board member for the following items:



AZ Seisiún 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 Seisiún 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!

