

PRESS RELEASE



To Members of Four Peaks Irish Arts:

Over the last year as FPIA has gained more presence here in the Valley we have had the pleasure of working alongside several other organizations to promote Irish music. Both officers and members of FPIA have provided their time and musicianship to represent Irish traditional music to our community alongside other organizations and events such as the Irish Cultural Center, World Fest and the Celtic Symposium. Up to this point many of these events came at a last minute notice to us and we scurried to round up a few musicians who were able to fill the spot on a short notice. As these opportunities to promote Irish music to our community become increasingly available to our branch, we would like to come up with a process that would fulfill such opportunities a little more efficiently and showcase our local talent, you!

Since our goal as a branch of Comhaltas is to promote Irish traditional music, we want to do so in a way that truly represents it well. Because of this it is not our desire to put a random mix of musicians on stage in a session-style format as we have sometimes done in the past for lack of alternative options. We would like to give branch members the opportunity to indicate who among you are interested in performing when such opportunities are available and to what level you can commit. The ideal arrangements would be for small groups (3-5 players max) and those who are interested in giving solo performances to provide your name, instrument(s) played, schedule availability and contact information (especially cell phone numbers for those short notice spots) for us to keep on file and pool from. The groups are limited to 5 players because it just makes performances more logistically feasible; fewer players means fewer schedules to work out, fewer bodies on stage, fewer microphones to set up and better compensation for the players (when applicable). Also, fewer players typically results in a tighter sounding performance.

All performers should classify themselves as a solo performer or small group performer (or both). For small groups you must be able to commit to consistently working with the same few players so that your performances will be rehearsed and represent the music well. Small groups should have similar schedule availability for rehearsal and performances - you do not have to be a "band" but it is expected that if you are put on stage you will have played together and worked out cohesive tune sets prior to the performance. Not all performances will be paid but for those that are, the funds will go to the players to divide amongst themselves as they wish. FPIA does not make any money off of such arrangements; we are satisfied to have the music represented to the community! If the player(s) decide to donate a portion of the performance compensation to the branch then it will be received the same as any other donation (once we have acquired our non-profit status you will receive a donation receipt for tax purposes).

The frequency of performances will depend on how many events are available as well as how many individuals/groups respond to indicate their participation so please do not come into this expecting the branch to be a band promoter as that is not our intended role. We will do our best to find the appropriate fit for each event and to give all registered players equal opportunity. However, it should be noted that since Comhaltas aims at bringing in younger generations to keep the traditions alive, there may be times when younger performer(s) are chosen over an older player of the same ability to represent the organization to the youth of our community. This will depend on the audience and the purpose of the event.

If you have any questions or would like to indicate your availability for solo or group performances please contact Johnny Kerr at, Johnny@fourpeaksirisharts.org.

-Four Peaks Irish Arts