



# Philadelphia Ceili Group Seanachie ~ March 2015

## Upcoming Concert Events Sponsored By the Philadelphia Ceili Group

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### Friday, February 27th

### FullSet returns to Philadelphia after their triumphant set at the 2014 Festival! at the Irish Center

8:00pm, 6815 Emlen St. Phila., PA 19119

**Tickets: \$15.00 online for members; \$20.00  
online non-member; \$25.00 at the door**

**For online tickets, go to:**

[http://www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org/philadelphia\\_ceili\\_group/concert-tickets.html](http://www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org/philadelphia_ceili_group/concert-tickets.html)



All accomplished young musicians in their own right, FullSet create a stunning and unique sound that is full of energy and innovation, whilst all the

time remaining true to their traditional roots. In recent years this young group has received much critical acclaim, even being compared to supergroups such as Danú & Altan by respected Irish Music Magazine. FullSet are set to thrill audiences throughout the world.

Following the tremendous success of their debut album “Notes At Liberty”, FullSet are quickly becoming one of the most well known bands in the Irish music scene today. In October 2011 they were honored by being announced as the winners of the RTÉ/RAAP Breakthrough Annual Music Bursary Award. Having been shortlisted along with 12 other groups in 4 different categories ahead of a field of almost 800 other groups and artists. As well as this, in 2012 FullSet were honored to receive “Best New Group Award” from the well respected Irish American News as well as “Best New Comer” in Bill Margeson’s Live Ireland Awards.

Just in time to get you in the mood for St Patrick's Day, Philadelphia welcomes FullSet to the Commodore Barry Club aka The Irish Center for another phenomenal show in the Ballroom!

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**Sunday, April 12th**

**In two Minds- Len Graham and Brian Ó hAirt return to Philadelphia after several years absence from the Irish Center**

**7:00pm, 6815 Emlen St. Phila., PA 19119**

**Online Tickets: \$18.00 for members; \$20.00 non-member; \$22.00 at the door for everybody.**

**For online tickets, go to:**

[http://www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org/philadelphia\\_ceili\\_group/concert-tickets.html](http://www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org/philadelphia_ceili_group/concert-tickets.html)



To speak of Ireland's singing traditions is to draw from a patchwork of songs and singers, poets and tongues, histories and stories that reach as far back as *fadó ó shin* to as near as yesterday. Its richness is matched only by Ireland's famous shades of green or the subtle accents of her people scattered among provinces and counties, islands and parishes. To bring such disparate traditions together as Ulster's ballads and Conamara's lyrical *sean-nós* would seem contrary. However, the balance of Len Graham's brassy, rich baritone and Brian Ó hAirt's silver, clear tenor strikes a chord that touches the heart—that conveys volumes in each note they sing. Further balanced by stories, tunes, lilting and dancing, Len and Brían create a magical backdrop for an enriching evening not often

experienced even in Ireland. Join them for their return visit to New England and its surrounding communities in April 2015 as they perform selections from their newest album to be formally launched on this upcoming tour.

County Antrim born, **Len Graham** has been a full-time professional singer for three decades. From the early 1960s Len sought out and recorded older singers such as Eddie Butcher and Joe Holmes; and after winning the All-Ireland *Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann* traditional singing competition in 1971 his reputation began to grow along with his own passion for the songs of his native Ulster. He has since recorded both solo and collaborative albums with John Campbell, Cathal McConnell, Garry Ó Briain and Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin and with the famed band Skylark. He his list of honors include the Seán O'Boyle Cultural Traditions Award, the TG4 "Traditional Singer Of the Year" award, the "Keeper of the Tradition" award from the Tommy Makem Festival of Traditional Song, the US Irish Music Award in the "*Sean-Nós* Singing" category, and the *Gradam na mBard CCÉ* (CCÉ Bardic Award). Len's book – *Here I Am Amongst You* on the songs, dance music and traditions of Joe Holmes (1906-1978) was published by Four Courts Press in 2010.

**Brian Ó hAirt** is the only American to have won the coveted senior title in traditional singing at the All-Ireland *Fleadh Cheoil* in Listowel, Co. Kerry in 2002. In his teens, Brian's introduction to Chicago's Irish-speaking community allowed him to cultivate a rich understanding of the *sean-nós* singing tradition even before his eventual immersion in the language while living in the Connemara region of western Co. Galway. This experience has left him with a vast repertoire of song and rich store of language that continues to inform and inspire his singing. He has performed and taught extensively in North America and Ireland and has been featured on various NPR and RTÉ radio programs. Like Len, he also received the US Irish Music Award in the "*Sean-*

Nós Singing” category and is an award-winning sean-nós dancer (*Cruinniú na mBád*, 2003) and accomplished instrumentalist on concertina, accordion, and whistle performing regularly with his Chicago-based ensemble Bua.

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## Friday, March 13th, 8:00 pm St. Patrick’s Day Ceili

The Philadelphia Ceili Group St. Patrick’s Day Ceili Co-sponsored by the Circle of Friends Set Dances.

Live music by the McGillians - Hosted by John Shields and Cass Tinney

Bring a dessert or dish to share, 50/50 raffle, prizes.

Admission: Adults \$15, Students \$10, Children Free

The Commodore Barry Club, “The Irish Center”, 6815 Emlen St., Philadelphia, PA 19119

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## A Message from the Philadelphia Ceili Group Board:

The Philadelphia Ceili Group Board would like to thank all of you who have supported us in the past year. Thank you for coming to our concerts, workshops and lectures. It is our pleasure to provide you with the opportunities to experience

great traditional Irish music and dance. We enjoy meeting you and speaking with you. Thank you also for renewing your membership. This support keeps us afloat and enables us to keep our programs alive.

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PCG 2014 Annual Meeting scheduled for January 18, was held on February 15, 2015 because of the inclement weather. The meeting went over the events of the prior year and gave members an opportunity to learn more about how the Philadelphia Ceili Group has operated in the past year and what the plans are for the upcoming year. All current members are welcome and encouraged to attend this yearly meeting. Currently the PCG has 95 members whose membership dues are current and 20 lifetime members. PCG’s has an on-going goal in to increase the number of members who join or renew their memberships. The great majority of PCG’s operating funds come from membership dues and in order to expand programming and event awareness we will need to grow this number.

If there are any Board of Director positions open or up for renewal – nominations are taken and voted on. The Board of Directors for 2015 are as follows (note – This year officers were voted on at the February Board Meeting that happened directly after the annual meeting) the outcome of that vote is shown here:

### Officers

Mary Lou McGurk	President
Courtney Malley	Vice President
Anne McNiff	Secretary
Beth Ann Bailey	Treasurer

### Directors

Jim McGill, Rosaleen McGill, Lori Lander Murphy, Marybeth Phillips and Matt Griendling.

## Annual Meeting Outcomes:

1. Change to By-Laws - an amendment to the by-laws addressing the scheduling of the Annual Meeting when weather precludes the meeting happening within the current parameters. Language was adopted to give the Board authority to reschedule the annual meeting as early as 7 days after a meeting has been postponed because of weather.

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Mark Your Calendars NOW - and **SAVE THESE DATES**: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, **September 10, 11, and 12, 2015!**

Our Annual Irish Music Festival will be in full swing, and you'll want to be there!

We open Thursday with our traditional **Singers' Night**, and always have our Friday Night **Rambling House and Ceili**. Saturday is an all-day and night affair, with family-friendly events throughout, and dance, vocal, and musical instrument workshops, and more.

Our **Saturday Night Concert** will top off the weekend, with a fabulous traditional Irish music groups for this festival extraordinaire. Keep looking at our website for updates on our 3-day Irish festival, and set aside those dates – Be sure to spread the word to your family and friends!

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## A Reminder:

The PCG Board meetings are normally held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month at 2:00 p.m. at the Commodore Barry Club aka “The Irish Center.” The remaining Board Meeting dates for 2015 are as follows: March 22, April 19, May 17, June 14, No meetings in July and August, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 13.

Annual Meeting and Election of board members: Jan 17, 2016.

## Monthly Events Sponsored By the Philadelphia Ceili Group

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**Singers Session:** Every 1st Wednesday of the Month at 7:30 pm the Singers Session is run by Terry Kane. Join local Irish Singers both of English and Irish tunes. All levels of singers welcome. For More information check website: [www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org](http://www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org) or call 215-704-5982. Bring a snack or dessert to share “It will be great craic!” The Session will be held at The Commodore Barry Club. (March 4, 2015, April 1, 2015, May 6, 2015 and June 3, 2015) The Singer’s do take the summer off ;-)

The Singer’s Session resume on the Singer’s Night of our Festival Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> and thereafter will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup>, November 4<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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## Irish Traditional Music Sessions:

Every 1st Friday of the Month from 8:00 -9:00 there is a **slow session**. This is a traditional Irish session in all ways except one: the tempo. Common session tunes will be played at a slower than normal pace, so that beginning and intermediate players can more easily learn the tunes and join in the session. Also great for experienced players who are picking up another instrument! A **regular session** sponsored by the Irish Center will run after that from 9:00 - On. For more information contact Courtney Malley at [courtney@starlinx.com](mailto:courtney@starlinx.com) or 215-704-5982

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**Ceili Dance:** Every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the Month at 8:00 p.m. there is a Ceili at the Commodore

Barry Club. A Ceili (kay-lee) is a traditional Irish gathering for fun, fellowship, and laughs (or craic as the Irish might say). Traditional Ceili dances were enjoyed at house parties and crossroads gatherings in the rural country sides. There are several dances which are easy for beginners to learn, such as, Haymaker's jig, Siege of Ennis, Fairy Reel, etc. Many of these traditional dances have a follow the leader pattern that new dancers can easily pickup on their 1<sup>st</sup> attempt. Our dance caller will teach the basic 3's, 7s, jig step, and Ceili swing at the start of the event. Come early (7:30 ish) and learn the basic steps while meeting new friends! You'll never learn if you don't try. Cost is \$12.00 when there is live music, \$10 when it's recorded music unless otherwise noted.

February 27<sup>th</sup> (Recorded music provided by John Shield's ) March 13<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day Ceili (Music provided by the McGillian's \$15 admission) April 24<sup>th</sup> (Music provided by McDermott's Handy) May 22<sup>nd</sup> (Recorded music provided by John Shield's ) and June 26<sup>th</sup> (music provided by McDermott's Handy )

*Stay tuned for the summer 2015 schedule.*

## Upcoming PCG Event Dates

**Concert- Friday February 27<sup>th</sup> - FullSet**

**Monthly Ceili Dance-** Friday February 27<sup>th</sup>

**Monthly Singers Session-**Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

**Monthly Music Sessions-** Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

**Monthly Ceili Dance-** Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

**Monthly Singers Session-**Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

**Monthly Music Sessions-** Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Concert-** Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup> Brian O'Hart & Len Graham

**Monthly Ceili Dance-** Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>

## Events Also Of Note:

**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>-** The Irish Center's annual post-parade gathering takes place in the Ballroom. (see page 6 for more details).

**Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**



The Coatesville Traditional Irish Music Series presents...

At the Coatesville Cultural Society  
143 East Lincoln Highway  
Coatesville, PA 19320

**David Power**, uilleann piper  
Master of the classic piping repertoire and of all the technical aspects of playing his distinctive and difficult instrument

Weds., Apr., 8, 2015; 8:00 PM  
\$15 in advance; \$18 at the door  
Reserve online at: [www.CTIMS2.org](http://www.CTIMS2.org)  
(610) 486-2220 / (484) 995-6817  
Email: CTIMS-1@verizon.net

*Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>*



**"Masters of the Celtic Harp", Grainne Hambly & William Jackson**, will perform a house concert in West Chester, PA, on Friday, April 10th at 7:30 p.m., after a day of giving free workshops at West Chester University.

Grainne and William are two of the foremost harpers from Ireland and Scotland and their virtuosity extends to including concertina, tinwhistles and bouzouki in their creative arrangements. Exquisite musical arrangements, outstanding repertoire, wonderful history and storytelling will dazzle the audience in an intimate house setting. Seating is limited. Tickets are \$20 each and address/directions are provided with advanced paid reservations. Purchase tickets online at <http://www.harpagency.com/buytickets.htm> or call Kathy DeAngelo at You Gotta Have Harp, 856-795-7637.

Workshops in the Sigma room in the Music building at West Chester University: Scottish music with William Jackson from 3-4:15pm. Irish music with Grainne Hambly at 4:30-5:45pm (harp & any musically appropriate instrument). Contact Katherine Ball-Weir to sign-up: email [kballweir@gmail.com](mailto:kballweir@gmail.com). Workshops sponsored by the West Chester Foundation. For more bios on the artists go to <http://www.harpagency.com>

Listen & watch: <http://youtu.be/LR8mXsQY-KY>  
<http://youtu.be/1hTuDIx3R6o>

## The Commodore Barry Club



The Philadelphia Ceili Group has called the Commodore Barry Club aka "The Irish Center" its home since 1958. The Irish Center has always supported all the events, concerts and Festivals the PCG has held there. Here are some upcoming events that we hope you will support and enjoy!

The Irish Center is located at 6815 Emlen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119. Please check [www.theirishcenter.com](http://www.theirishcenter.com) for additional events.

## Saint Patrick's Day and Other March Events at the Irish Center

**Sunday, March 15:** The annual post-parade gathering takes place in the Ballroom. The cover charge for adults is only \$10. Music is by the Vince Gallagher Band, John Shields with recorded music and set dancing, and other artists. Dinner, catered by the Irish Coffee Shop is available for purchase (shepherds pie, ham and cabbage, potatoes, vegetables, dessert). Fish and chips or chicken tenders and chips are also available after 3:30.

**Tuesday, March 17:** The traditional Irish celebration starts at noon, with the mass of Saint Patrick's Day in the Barry Room, followed by the March senior luncheon in the Ballroom (cost for the luncheon is \$10).

**Friday, March 20:** Irish recording artist Liam McLaughlin, from County Antrim, returns to the Irish Center to host a night of social dancing in the Fireside Room at 8:00PM The cost is only \$15

#### **NEXT GENERATION:**

A group of musicians of all ages that meet every second Sunday of the month from 1-3pm at the Irish Center in Mt. Airy for a session. The Next Generation is led by Chris Brennan-Hagy, Kathy DeAngelo and Dennis Gormley, who spend the first hour teaching a tune and leading the session in the second hour. Participants should already know how to play their instruments. All tunes are taught by ear. Free. The session meets monthly September through June. Website:

<http://www.hslc.org/~gormley/mcdh/nextgen.htm>

#### **Circle of Friends Irish Set Dancers**

John Shields offers Irish Set Dance classes at the Commodore Barry Club in Mt Airy. Please see below schedule:

**Advanced Class:** Wednesday, 7:30 pm -9:30 pm  
Please contact John Shields for more information: 215-722- 1674  
[johngshields@aol.com](mailto:johngshields@aol.com)

**Second Friday Sets** - All sets - CD's or live music sponsored by John & Cass on most 2nd Fridays of the month. Call for information. 215-722- 1674.

**Fourth Friday Ceili** - sponsored by the Ceili Group on the 4th Friday of each month, dances are Ceili, set, waltzes, quick step - live music - call for information (215) 704-5982.

#### **Philadelphia Area Irish Cyber News: JUST A FEW FUN AND INTERESTING SITES TO CHECK OUT ON THE WEB:**

[www.Philadelphiaceiligroup.org](http://www.Philadelphiaceiligroup.org) The Philadelphia Ceili Group is devoted to the promotion and perpetuation of Irish music, dance and culture in Philadelphia and throughout the Greater Delaware Valley. Offering information about great concert series, ceilis and other activities.

[www.irishphiladelphia.com](http://www.irishphiladelphia.com) Irish Philadelphia brings together all aspects of \*Irishness\* in the Delaware Valley under one roof. More than that, they give you the tools to become a full participant in this wonderfully rich culture.

[www.Ctims2.org](http://www.Ctims2.org) The Coatesville Traditional Irish Music Series, a little bit outside of Philadelphia, but offering a great concert series of Irish traditional music.

[www.irishmemorial.org](http://www.irishmemorial.org) Website devoted to information about the conception and history of the Irish Memorial. The Memorial stands prominently at the southeast corner of Front and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia. The Irish Memorial is dedicated to the memory of more than one million innocent men, women and children who perished during the years 1845 to 1850 and to the millions of Irish immigrants who found here in the United States of America the freedom, liberty and prosperity denied to their ancestors in Ireland.

#### **PHILADELPHIA CEILI GROUP. JOIN TODAY!**

The Philadelphia Ceili Group is a non-profit, volunteer, educational organization (governed by a nine member Board of Directors), which is dedicated to the support of Irish Culture through a variety of activities. The Ceili Group

(pronounced Kale-lee.) was founded in 1958 to preserve traditional Irish ceili, or set dancing. From our beginning as a group of precision dancers, the Ceili Group has grown to encompass a wide range of activities, centered on Irish music and dance. In addition to our popular Annual Festival, members can take advantage of discounted prices for:

Special Dance Events, Musical and Dance Lessons, Concerts by world-renowned performers, Concerts featuring talented newcomers, Cultural and Craft activities, Music workshops taught by first class musicians, Music Sessions. Bring along your instrument, or just sit back and enjoy!

### **Annual Membership Dues**

Individual \$15.00, Family \$25.00, Lifetime membership \$500.00, (Lifetime members receive FREE ADMISSION to all Ceili Group Events)

You can join on-line by going to [www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org](http://www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org) and going to the membership page, **or** Send your check or money order with the following information: Name, Address, Phone #, and Email Address to:

**The Philadelphia Ceili Group**  
**6815 Emlen Street**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19119**

### **Updates to the PCG WebPage:**

Supporters of the Philadelphia Ceili Group can now donate on-line! Just go to [www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org](http://www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org). There is a "donate now" button in the left hand corner. We are very grateful for all of your support. If you have any questions or require a letter for tax purposes please contact us at [phillyceiligroup@gmail.com](mailto:phillyceiligroup@gmail.com).

### **SUPPORT LOCAL IRISH RADIO SHOWS!**

**Saturday:** Noon-2:00 on 740 AM:  
The Irish Hours with Mike Concannon

**Sunday:** 11-Noon on WTMR 800 AM and at [www.wtmrradio.com](http://www.wtmrradio.com):  
Vincent Gallagher Irish Hour

**Sunday:** Noon-1:00 on WTMR 800 AM, [www.wtmrradio.com](http://www.wtmrradio.com)  
"Come West Along the Road"  
with Marianne MacDonald.



### **A Personal Note from the Philadelphia Ceili Group Board:**

The Philadelphia Ceili Group and Board of Directors wishes to express their deepest condolences to board member Courtney Malley and lifetime member Bryan Malley on the sudden loss of their mother, Rose Malley on February 6, 2015 after a brief illness. Rose was a longtime member of the Philadelphia Ceili Group, a one-time performing dancer, the volunteer coordinator of the festival back in the 70's, and board member of the Irish Center in the 80's.

The Philadelphia Ceili Group and Board of Directors also wishes to express their deepest condolences to our friend and member Jerry Sweeney, on the loss of his dear partner, Peggy McDermott. Peggy passed away on December 16, 2014, and had been ill for a number of years.

When she was well enough to attend our concerts and ceili events, Jerry escorted Peggy to them all.

## Irish Soda Bread

450g plain flour  
1 level teasp. bread soda  
Pinch salt  
25g soft butter  
1 egg, whisked with 250 ml buttermilk

### Method

Pre-heat oven to Gas Mark 6, 200°C (400°F).  
Sieve the dry ingredients into a large bowl.  
Rub in the margarine.  
Pour in the egg and buttermilk mixture and stir well.  
Turn out onto a floured board and knead lightly for a minute or two.  
Shape into a round and flatten slightly.  
Place on a baking sheet. Mark with a deep cross and bake in the oven for approximately 30-40 minutes.

Cool on a wire rack.

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**[www.LoughMaskVilla.com](http://www.LoughMaskVilla.com)**