



Philadelphia Ceili Group Seanachie ~ January 2011

The **Philadelphia Ceili Group** is looking forward to an exciting year with a new Board in place and exciting concerts and events coming up for the spring. The Ceili Group is governed by a 9 member Board of Directors interested in the support of Irish culture through a variety of activities. We hope that 2011 will prove to be an exceptional year with the various events being offered. The current board is composed of Frank Dalton, Lori Lander Murphy, Courtney Malley, Jimmy McGill, Rosaleen McGill, Mary Lou McGurk, Anne McNiff, Beth Ann Moran Bailey and Tom O'Malley.

The PCG Board meetings are normally held the 3rd Sunday of the Month at 2:00 p.m. at the Commodore Barry Club aka "The Irish Center."

The Board Meetings dates for 2011 are as follows:

February 20, 2011	August no meeting
March 20, 2011	September 18, 2011
April 17, 2011	October 23, 2011
May 15, 2011	November 20, 2011
June 12, 2011	December 18, 2011
July no meeting	

January 15, 2012: Annual Membership Meeting

At every PCG board meeting there is an agenda item that opens up the floor to members for questions and comments. Over the next several months we will be using this time to take questions, comments, suggestions, etc. from members regarding the annual PCG Traditional Irish Music and Dance Festival. The 2010 festival that took place in September was a success in many ways but there is always room for improvement and new suggestions. We would really like to hear from you. Copies of the

festival report are available at meetings or can be emailed to you at your request.

This part of the meeting can also be used to bring up any other questions, comments or suggestions on ideas that you as our members would like to see the Philadelphia Ceili Group address. You can also email your idea or comment to the Board at phillyceiligroup@gmail.com or attend one of our board meetings and speak during the member input part of the agenda.

A Message from the President

Happy New Year everyone and may good fortune find you this year! We are really looking forward to this coming year. We have some great concerts on our schedule. Isaac Alderson and Jonas Fromseier will be here in February. We are co-sponsoring a Jackie Daly and Matt Cranitch concert with the Coatesville Irish Traditional Music Series. Nic Gaviskey is coming in April and they are a young new group and we are really looking forward to hearing them. We are already working on the festival line up and it is just so exciting. And of course we have our monthly ceili's, music sessions and Singers nights. We are doing our best to keep traditional Irish music alive and kicking in our area. I would like to thank Sarah O'Doherty, our outgoing board member for all of her help and support over the last couple of months and we look forward to working with her again. And I would like to welcome Lori Lander Murphy to the board. Lori is very familiar with the Philadelphia Irish community and will be a great asset to us.

PCG Sponsored Events ~ Mark Your Calendars:

Friday, January 28, 2011: 4th Friday Ceili, 8:00 p.m., Irish Center

Wednesday, February 2, 2011: Singer Session, 8:00 p.m., Irish Center

Friday, February 4, 2011: Slow Session followed by Regular Session, 8:00 p.m., Irish Center

Saturday, February 12, 2011: *Isaac Alderson and Jonas Fromseier* Concert, 8:00 p.m. Irish Center

Friday, February 25, 2011: 4th Friday Ceili, 8:00 p.m., Irish Center

Wednesday, March 2, 2011: Singer Session, 8:00 p.m., Irish Center

Friday, March 4, 2011: Slow Session followed by Regular Session, 8:00 p.m., Irish Center

Friday, March 25, 2011: St Patrick's Day Ceili Mor, 8:00 p.m., Irish Center – Live music with the McGillians

Sunday, March 27, 2011: *Jackie Daly and Matt Cranitch*; Concert, 8:00 p.m., Coatesville Cultural Center, Co-Sponsorship with the Coatesville Irish Traditional Music Series

Friday, April 1, 2011: Slow Session followed by Regular Session, 8:00 p.m., Irish Center

Wednesday, April 6, 2011: Singer Session, 8:00 p.m., Irish Center

Friday, April 22, 2011: 4th Friday Ceili, 8:00 p.m., Irish Center

Saturday, April 23, 2011: *NicGavisky* Workshops (times to be announced) Concert 8:00 p.m., Irish Center

Wednesday, May 4, 2011: Singer Session, 8:00 p.m., Irish Center

Friday, May 6, 2011: Slow Session followed by Regular Session, 8:00 p.m., Irish Center

Friday, May 27, 2011: 4th Friday Ceili, 8:00 p.m., Irish Center

June, July and August events to be announced

37th Annual Traditional Irish Festival

Thursday, September 8, 2011, Friday, September 9, 2011 and Saturday, September 10, 2011.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you have any experience in technical theater and are interested in volunteering to assist with setting up and running LIGHTS or SOUND at PCG events please contact Anne McNiff at phillyceiligroup@gmail.com. Community Service hours to meet school requirements available. We are also looking for more member involvement in different capacities. Please contact us if you are interested in becoming more involved in the Ceili Group! In addition, if you have photos from past PCG festivals and/or events, please contact Beth Ann Bailey at bab12@verizon.net. Also, if you are a CPA who is familiar with non profits, please contact Beth Ann Bailey at the above email.



An Update on the Archive Project

by: Mary Lou McGurk, President

This project is coming along slowly but very steadily. In December we were approached by the Librarian at Villanova University, where we have one copy of our archives. They would like to scan and mount on the Web digital copies of our archives. This work would be done totally without cost to anyone except staff time by the special and digital collections team at Falvey Memorial Library and would be for use by the students in the Irish studies program. I met with the director and his staff and I think that this is a great opportunity for us. I would like to start with the most current year 2010, as a test run. They have a musicologist on staff, who will transcribe the recordings. After that I would like to alternate between the oldest recordings and then the new, i.e. 1977, 2009, 1978, etc. We are still missing a few releases from 2010, but working diligently to have those soon. We now have a total of 728 performers and 265 signed releases. Four performers have declined to participate, which leaves only 459 more releases to obtain. So please if you know that you have performed at a concert or a festival for us and have not signed a release, please do so. If you have not heard from me yet or you know someone that I haven't gotten hold of yet, please contact me at mlmcgurk@verizon.net.

Thanks again to all of you that have signed. I will keep you updated.



Upcoming Events Sponsored By the Philadelphia Ceili Group:

Saturday, February 12, 2011, 8: 00 p.m.

ISAAC ALDERSON and JONAS FROMSEIER



Saturday, February 12, 2011, 8:00 pm
Commodore Barry Club 6815 Emlen St.
Philadelphia, PA 19119

General Admission: \$15.00

PCG members \$13.00

Purchase tickets online:

http://www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org/philadelphia_ceili_group/concert-tickets.html. Tickets will also be available at the door.

ISAAC ALDERSON began pursuing the craft of Irish traditional music at the age of thirteen in his home city of Chicago. Throughout his teenage years he had the good fortune to study with Fermanagh flute and whistle master Laurence Nugent, and took piping lessons periodically with Al Purcell, Kieran O'Hare, and Jerry O'Sullivan, among others. At the 2002 Fleadh Cheoil in Listowel, Isaac was named the All-Ireland Senior Champion on three instruments: uilleann pipes flute and whistle, the first American to do so. Now residing in New York City, he has played throughout the northeast and across the country, and in Europe and Canada with a wide range of traditional and modern Irish music artists.

Originally from Denmark, **JONAS FROMSEIER** took up the banjo in his teens. Being from a small island, he would travel to the mainland every month to go the nearest session in Copenhagen and learn tunes from the local players, both Irish and Danish. At twenty-one Jonas moved to Ireland to play music full-time and now resides in Galway. He has been fortunate enough to meet and play with numerous legends in Irish music. In 2007, Jonas was asked to join Irish group Arcady and in 2008 he started up his own band Mórğa. Jonas has toured extensively in Europe and the United States with various groups.

Isaac and Jonas met in February of 2010 while on tour, and became fast friends and musical partners. They are delighted to be doing their first ever independent tour in the US as a duo.

Sunday, March 27, 2011, 8:00 p.m.

Jackie Daly & Matt Cranitch



TWO MASTERS OF IRISH MUSIC

Admission: \$15 / (610) 486-2220

Coatesville Traditional Irish Music Series @ The
Coatesville Cultural Society 143 E. Lincoln Hwy.
/ Coatesville, PA

**The Coatesville Traditional Irish Music Series,
in cooperation with the Philadelphia Ceili
Group present:**

JACKIE DALY has been described by the New York Times as “probably the best accordionist in Ireland.” Born in Kanturk, Co. Cork, he grew up surrounded by the rich music tradition of Sliabh Luachra (Shleeve LOO-cra). His lifelong affinity with fiddle-music resulted in two highly acclaimed and classic albums featuring fiddle and accordion, one with the late Co. Cork musician Séamus Creagh, and the second with the great Kevin Burke. Jackie has been a central figure in some of the most dominant groups playing Irish music in recent times. His performances with the bands De Dannan, Patrick Street and Buttons & Bows attest to his wonderful music and versatility. However, it is the style and repertoire of Sliabh Luachra music that has made the most significant impression on his playing.

MATT CRANITCH is renowned as a fiddle-player and teacher, both at home in Ireland and abroad. He has performed extensively at concerts and festivals, as well as on radio and television, and has presented lectures, master-classes and workshops on various aspects of Irish traditional music. He has won several All-Ireland titles, as well as The Fiddler of Dooney and The Oireachtas Crotty Cups. Currently, he plays and tours with *Sliabh Notes*, the band with whom he has recorded three highly-acclaimed albums. An authority on the Sliabh Luachra fiddle-style, Matt received a Ph.D. from the University of Limerick in 2006 for his study: ‘Pádraig O’Keefe and The Sliabh Luachra Fiddle Tradition’.



Saturday, April 23, 2011, 8:00 p.m.

The Philadelphia Ceili Group in its traditional way and following its mission is introducing a new and upcoming band formed in 2009 and the first time to perform in the Philadelphia area similar to groups the Philadelphia Ceili Group has previously introduced to the area.

NIC GAVISKEY



Bernadette Nic Gabhann - Fiddle



Caitlin Nic Gabhann - Concertina



Sean McComiskey - Accordion



Sean Gavin - Flute

Saturday, April 23, 2011, 8:00 pm
Commodore Barry Club
6815 Emlen St. Philadelphia, PA 19119

General Admission: \$15.00

PCG member: \$13.00

Purchase tickets online:

http://www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org/philadelphia_ceili_group/concert-tickets.html

Tickets will also be available at the door.

NicGaviskey is the trans-atlantic musical quartet of **Sean Gavin** on flute; **Bernadette Nic Gabhann** on fiddle; **Caitlín Nic Gabhann** on concertina; **Sean McComiskey** on accordion.

The girls from County Meath met the Detroit and Baltimore boys at the Catskills Irish Arts

week in upstate New York in the summer of 2009. Their coming together in a spontaneous early morning session created a rhythm and feel to the music that was infectious not only to themselves, but to all those listening.

These young musicians forged a mighty connection in those early morning hours and what followed was four musicians playing as one with a collective familiarity which surprised them all, and left them yearning for more, months after they had departed to their homes far away.

Caitlín and Bernadette are the daughters of respected Mullahoran. County Cavan, Ireland, fiddle player Antóin MacGabhann.

Caitlín Nic Gabhann is a three times All-Ireland concertina champion. Also an accomplished dancer, Caitlin has toured with many Irish dance shows, including Riverdance.

Bernadette Nic Gabhann competed successfully at Fleadhanna Cheoil through the years, and has spent the past decade performing and touring North America, Canada, Korea, Taiwan and Japan with Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance, Gaelforce Dance and other solo ventures.

Sean Gavin's style on the flute reflects his lifelong immersion in, devotion to, and love for traditional Irish music. This was no doubt encouraged by his Clare born, fiddle playing father, Mick Gavin.

Sean McComiskey is among the most innovative young performers on the button accordion. Son of North America's veteran accordion player Billy McComiskey, Sean's own unique harmonic style has earned him a spot in the pantheon of Irish accordionists far beyond his native Baltimore.

Enjoy the music. Workshops will be available and the date and times will be announced as we get closer to the event:

Sean Gavin: Flute Workshop
Bernadette Nic Gabhann: Fiddle
Workshop
Caitlin Nic Gabhann: Concertinna
Workshop
Sean McComiskey: Accordion Workshop

Monthly Events Sponsored By the Philadelphia Ceili Group

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 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.

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. You will play common session tunes 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 or 215-704-5982

Ceili Dance: Every 4th 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. 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.

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:
Vincent Gallagher Irish Hour

Sunday: Noon-1:00 on WTMR 800 AM, www.wtmrradio.com & archived at www.tradtours.com:
"Come West Along the Road"
with Marianne MacDonald.



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 for additional events.

Events sponsored by the Commodore Barry Club aka “The Irish Center”

Monday, February 14, 2011: Seniors luncheon at 12:30 in the Fireside Room. Enjoy a free lunch, with music by Vince Gallagher. This event is Co-sponsored by the Irish Immigration Center and the Commodore Barry Club.

Sunday, March 13, 2011: Join us after the parade for food and music in the Commodore Barry Ballroom. Admission for adults is \$10, children free. Food and beverage can be purchased separately.

Thursday, March 17, 2011: Join us as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the traditional manner with mass at 12:30. Food and music will follow in the Fireside Room.

Monthly Events at the Irish Center

The Next Generation Young Musicians – A group of musicians of various ages meet every second Sunday of the month from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Irish Center for a learning 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>

Please contact Dennis Gormley at gormley@hslc.org for additional information.



Circle of Friends Irish Set Dancers

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

Beginner Class: Tuesday, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Please contact John Shields for information: 215-722- 673, johngshields@aol.com

Advanced Class: Wednesday, 7:30 pm -9:30 pm John Shields & Cass Tinney. Please contact Cass

Tinney for more information: 215-637-9366 - casstinney@aol.com

Ceili:

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.

Second Friday Sets - All sets - CD's or live music sponsored by John & Cass on most 2nd Fridays of the month.

Events sponsored by the Coatesville Traditional Irish Music Series

O'Sullivan's triumphal return to Coatesville!



Sunday, January 30, 2011, 8:00 p.m.
(Up the stairs in the Backroom Theater)
Admission: \$15 / (610) 486-2220

Jerry O'Sullivan's reputation for technical and artistic mastery of his instrument, the Irish uilleann (ILL-en) pipes, is unsurpassed in the United States, and is demanding considerable attention overseas.

Born in New York to an Irish-American mother and a father from Dublin, Jerry learned to play the pipes during summer visits to his father's family in Ireland, by listening to and asking questions of experienced master pipers like Peter Carberry, Dan Dowd, Mick O'Brien, and others.

Jerry has now become an ambassador of the uilleann pipes, maintaining the historic traditions and melodies of the instrument while tastefully expanding its range into new genres of music and media.

Jerry O'Sullivan will also lead a uilleann piping workshop for intermediate level pipers on the afternoon of concert day.

The time has not been set yet. The fee will be \$30.00 and advance registration is required. Please call (610) 486-2220 to enroll. * Pipers take note: Jerry will be rolling out his new set of C pipes and is very excited about this gig!

Coatesville Traditional Irish Music Series @ the Coatesville Cultural Society
143 E. Lincoln Hwy; Coatesville, PA
(610) 486-2220. CTIMS.info/

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 new-comers, 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:

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 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**

