



## Philadelphia Ceili Group Seanachie ~ March 2014

### Upcoming Concert Events Sponsored By the Philadelphia Ceili Group

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### Bringing Trad Home House Concert Series: Up Coming Event

**Friday February 28, 2014, 8:00pm**

**A House Concert in Ambler with Caitlin Nic  
Gabhann & Ciarán Ó Maonaigh**

Email [phillyceiligroup@gmail.com](mailto:phillyceiligroup@gmail.com) to reserve  
your space and get address

**Tickets: \$15 general public, \$13 PCG  
Members**



Three time All-Ireland champion on concertina,  
**Caitlín Nic Gabhann** is a regular performer at  
festivals and in concert halls from North America  
all the way to Asia. She is also an accomplished  
dancer and in 2009, joined **Riverdance** as a  
troupe dancer. Writing tunes since the age of ten,

her compositions have been performed in the  
Cork Opera House and The National Concert  
Hall, Dublin. She teaches concertina annually at  
summer and winter schools in Ireland, Europe  
and USA and has performed with the RTÉ  
Vanbrugh Quartet, Paddy Keenan, Liam Ó  
Maonlaí, Cherish The Ladies, The Kilfenora Ceili  
Band and for Presidents and Royalty around the  
world. Caitlin will be joined by **Ciarán Ó  
Maonaigh on fiddle**. A former recipient of TG4  
Young Musician of the Year, fiddle player hails  
from the Gaoth Dobhair gaeltacht in Co.  
Donegal. Growing up, he was heavily influenced  
by his extended family; his grandfather and  
teacher Francie Mooney, Altan members Mairéad  
Ní Mhaonaigh and Frankie Kennedy, Derry  
fiddle player Dermot McLaughlin as well as the  
Donegal fiddle legend John Doherty amongst  
others.

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### **Friday, March 14th, 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: \$15, PCG Members & Students \$10,  
Children Free

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

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**Saturday, March 15, 8:00pm**  
**Catch Some Stars of the Irish Music**  
**World!**

**Mick Moloney, Athena Tergis, &  
Billy McComiskey with special  
guest, Michelle Mulcahy**

Commodore Barry Club / Irish Center  
6815 Emlen Street, Phila., PA 19119  
PCG Members - \$15, General \$20

Tickets are available online at  
[www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org](http://www.philadelphiaceiligroup.org) . We encourage  
you to purchase your tickets early.

**Mick Moloney** and his world-renowned Irish  
music colleagues take the stage that night, for  
quite an extraordinary event, since Moloney  
rarely comes to our area, and more often than not,  
is away on tour around the globe.

Moloney has won prizes and honors  
internationally, as a performer and as a consultant  
on Irish music documentaries for our Public  
Broadcasting. He has achieved the highest  
official honor a traditional artist can receive in the  
U.S. - that of the **National Heritage Award.**

Moloney spends half the year performing music  
for audiences from New York to Los Angeles,  
Europe, and throughout Asia, while sharing his  
knowledge in Folklore and Ethnomusicology, and  
spends one semester each Fall teaching students  
at New York University.

But those kudos pale in comparison to how the  
audience responds to his riveting playing of  
stringed instruments, telling of the tales of  
Ireland, historic and otherwise, and his engaging

voice. He always gets the proverbial "Standing  
Ovation"!

Moloney wears many hats, and in the 41 years  
since he came to the U.S. to study for his Ph.D. at  
University of Pennsylvania, he has delighted  
audiences with his vast storehouse of songs and  
instrumental pieces of Irish traditional music, on  
banjo, guitar, mandolin, and more.

When he appears on Saturday, March 15th at the  
Irish Center, he'll be bringing two long-time  
colleagues, each beloved for their renderings of  
traditional Irish music - **Billy McComiskey on  
accordion, an All-Ireland Champion, and  
Athena Tergis on fiddle, a star of Riverdance  
on Broadway.**

But in addition to those, Moloney is presenting an  
**artist new to American audiences-**

**Michelle Mulcahy, who has won All-Ireland  
Championships on 3 instruments: harp,  
accordion, and concertina.** Michelle is  
considered Ireland's most adroit and creative  
harper today!

Don't miss this **one-night only phenomenon of  
Irish music stars,** the perfect celebration for St.  
Patrick's Month for the entire family!

*The Philadelphia Ceili Group is most grateful to  
our sponsors for this concert: **The Irish  
Center/Commodore Barry Club,** and also the up-  
to-the-minute-resource for all things Irish:  
[www.IrishPhiladelphia.com](http://www.IrishPhiladelphia.com).*



## 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 2013 Annual Meeting was held on January 19, 2014. The meeting goes over the events of the prior year and gives 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 weekly meeting. Currently the PCG has 96 members whose membership dues are current and 22 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 2014 are as follows (note – officers are voted on at the January Board Meeting that happens directly after the annual meeting, the outcome of that voted 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, Tom O'Malley, Marybeth Phillips

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### Proposed Change to By-Laws

The board of directors would like to make a proposal to make a change in the by-laws. This would be an addition of a definition of a quorum of the board of directors. Right now there is no definition of a quorum of the board in our by-laws. Robert's Rules defines a quorum as the number of members that must be present to conduct business. Our board consists of nine members. We would like to add the statement that a quorum of the board consists of 5 members. This would mean that the board can conduct business with only 5 members present provided that the missing board members are aware of the meeting and have responded that they are unable to attend. This will be voted on at the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

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Mark Your Calendars NOW - and **SAVE THESE DATES**: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, **September 11, 12, and 13, 2014!**

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 musical group for this festival extraordinaire. We just launched a crowdfunder funding campaign specifically to bring two bands from Ireland for our Saturday evening concert. See below for more information.

Keep looking at our website for updates on our 3-day Irish festival, and set aside those dates - making sure you spread the word to your family and friends!

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## PCG CROWD FUNDING CAMPAIGN!

The Ceili Group is launching a new crowd funding campaign through Indiegogo to help raise money for this year's 40th Annual Traditional Irish Music and Dance Festival.

The festival is the oldest, most continuous running Irish festival in the country, and as many of us know, it has been shrinking the recent years. In its current state, we just break even, and each year it is a struggle to fund more performers, caterers, lecturers, dancers, sound, lights, hospitality and the space, to name a few.

We have been searching for more ways to raise money to fund more performers and groups to participate in hopes of drawing a larger crowd.

Our goal is to raise over \$4000 by April 1st in order to afford to bring the new, young traditional group, FullSet to come teach workshops and perform on Saturday September 13th at our Festival.

We are also excited to host Traditional singer from Galway, Sean Keane, will also be bringing his band to instruct and perform this year.

The money will also help defray the costs of advertising and production, which means that the more money we raise, the more advertising we can afford and the more potential for the Ceili Group to make a profit and have more money to bring larger acts throughout the year.

There are different levels of rewards for donations above \$20, but smaller donations are also accepted. We ask our members to donate, share and make sure they come celebrate with us this September for our 40th Festival!!

Here is the link for more information or to donate:

<http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/philly-ceili-group-s-40th-annual-traditional-irish-music-dance-festival--2>

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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 2014 are as follows:

March 23, 2014 , April 27, 2014 , May 18, 2014, June 22, 2014 , No meetings in July and August

September 28th, October 19<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>, December 21st.

Annual Meeting and Election of board members:

Jan 18<sup>th</sup> , 2015

## 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 5, 2014, April 2, 2014, May 7, 2014 and June 4, 2014) The Singer's do take the summer off ;-)

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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. 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](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 its recorded music unless otherwise noted.

February 28<sup>th</sup> (music provided by McDermott's Handy) March 14<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day Ceili (Music Provided by the McGillian's \$15 admission) April 25<sup>th</sup>, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup> (Recorded music provided by John Shield's )

*Stay tuned for the summer 2013 schedule.*

## This Month's PCG Event Dates

**Monthly Singers Session**-Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

**Monthly Music Sessions**- Friday, March 7<sup>st</sup>

**Monthly Ceili Dance**- Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

**Concert- Saturday**- Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

## Events Also Of Note:

**Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> - 7:00PM: RUNA** returns for a special concert at 7:00PM.

**Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**- The Irish Center's annual post-parade gathering takes place in the Ballroom.

## 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 9 7:00PM:** RUNA returns for a special concert at 7:00PM. Runa offers a contemporary and refreshing approach to traditional and recently composed Celtic material. Tickets are \$12 prior to March 1, then \$15. Doors open at 6:00pm and bar food is available.

**Sunday, March 16:** Our 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.

**Monday, March 17:** The March senior luncheon takes place at 1:00 this month.

**Friday, March 21 and Friday, March 28:** Local musician Andy Maher and his band will be playing in the Fireside Room at 8:00PM. Andy has been performing for over 35 years, and his band features the music of the 70’s and 80’s, and all of your favorites.

### 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 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](mailto: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](mailto:casstinney@aol.com)

**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. Call for information.

## **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.

Irish Philly recently produced a CD, **Ceili Drive: The Music of Irish Philadelphia**, which features some of the leading lights of Irish music in Philadelphia area, including Kevin McGillian and sons, John and Jimmy; John, Eugenia, and Judy Brennan; John and Michael Boyce and Karen Boyce McCollum; Gerry Timlin; Dennis Gormley and Kathy DeAngelo; RUNA; the Next Generation kids including Haley Richardson; Marian Makins and Gabriel Donohue (performing "Duffy's Cut"); John Byrne; Tim Hill; Kitty Kelly; Chris Brennan Hagy; Tom O'Malley; Hollis Payer, and many, many more. Ordering information is on the website and on the Irish Philadelphia Facebook page.

[CTIMS.info](http://CTIMS.info) 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).

setting up and running lights at PCG concerts please contact Anne McNiff 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.



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