

In Step

Promoting traditional Celtic dance, music and culture.

Newsletter of the Greater Washington Ceili Club

www.gwcc-online.org

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 9



The Irish Echo Top Traditional CDs for 2008

McComiskey and Conway solo albums top the traditional list for 2008. Economic tempest didn't capsize musical quality last year

~ Earle Hitchner, (c) 2009 Irish Echo Newspaper Corp

Physical album sales plummeted 20 percent in 2008, and the 32 percent rise in revenue from digital downloads did not make up the difference. Overall, music sales fell 8.5 percent last year, and no one sees that trend changing in the future.

Against this volatile economic backdrop, the quality of Irish traditional recordings remained encouragingly high in 2008. It was especially hard to rank the best of them, and I have no doubt that shuffling the order here could produce an equally persuasive list. But in the interest of put up or shut up, I put up this ranking of ten, standing above all other albums last year and belonging in every traditional music enthusiast's library.

1. "OUTSIDE THE BOX" by Billy McComiskey (Compass Records Group 7-4488-2): Twenty-seven years of waiting for a follow-up solo album to his "Makin' the Rounds" (1981) might have created an expectation beyond reach, but Billy McComiskey's "Outside the Box" confidently meets that expectation. The Brooklyn-born, Baltimore resident, whom I describe as "Irish America's premier B/C button accordionist" in my essay for his CD, lets his personality shine through. Using a four-voice gray

Paolo Soprani box, McComiskey plays music that's muscular yet finessed, sensitive yet never fey, imaginative yet ungimmicky, and fun-loving yet sobering. Guests such as Liz Carroll, Joanie Madden, and Mick Moloney join him to vary and deepen the appeal of his recording. But my favorite tracks are



McComiskey with just Brendan Dolan on keyboards or album producer John Doyle on guitar, mandola, or bouzouki. What further distinguishes this recording is the absolute beauty of McComiskey's own compositions, including the reels "Keogh's/Maggie Lynn's," the waltzes "The Diamond/Sleepless Nights," and the jigs "Nora Sweeney/Elizabeth Cullen."

An essay from Mick Moloney and tune notes from Myron Bretholz in a 14-page insert featuring several vintage photographs round out an album that delivers on all fronts.

2. "CONSIDER THE SOURCE" by Brian Conway (Clo Iar-Chonnachta CICD 173): Choosing between this second solo album by fiddler Brian Conway and the second solo album by Billy McComiskey for the top spot in this list was unnervingly difficult. Both are outstanding, and what makes the selection even more vexing is that this solo CD by Conway is better than his first, "First Through the Gate," which was the Irish Echo's No. 1 trad album of 2002. Born in the Bronx and now living in White Plains, N.Y., he performs here with

Continued on next page

more detail, subtlety, playfulness, and punch. Brian Conway has never been more comfortable in his own musical skin than on "Consider the Source," to which I contributed an essay. The jigs "Keys to the Convent/The Knockawhinna/Teviot Bridge" trace the compact invention with which he climbs in



register and then nimbly descends, all the while holding firm to the melodic spine. "Matt Hyland," sung by Dan Milner, and "Highland Mary," sung by Niamh Parsons, illustrate an oft-overlooked aspect of his fiddling art: skillfully

nuanced support for singing. Joined by such guests as Billy McComiskey, Joanie Madden, and Brendan and Felix Dolan, Brian Conway gives us his finest musical achievement to date.

Here are Earl Hitchner remaining eight top traditional albums for 2008:

3. "Crossroads" by Mairtin O'Connor, Cathal Hayden, and Seamie O'Dowd
4. "The Home Ruler" by Catherine McEvoy
5. "Live At St. James Church, Dingle," by Beal Tuinne
6. "Rossinver Braes" by Ben Lennon and Tony O'Connell
7. "Wind & Reeds" by Paudie O'Connor and John O'Brien
8. "The Spectacle Bridge" by Michael Hynes and Denis Liddy
9. "Welcome Here Again" by Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill
10. "Flame On The Banks" by Maeve Donnelly with Tony McManus

~~~ *SET DANCE FOR FEBRUARY CEILI* ~~~

The set for the February Ceili is the Labasheeda Reel Set. This set comes from Labasheeda in County Claire, where it was known simply as the *Reel Set*. The reels are danced with the Clare reel step and the jig with the 'up' jig step. Dick de Freyre will be teaching this set on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and the notes are located on pages 10 & 11 of this newsletter. So bring 'em with you to the Ceili!



## BEV'S BEST BETS

~ Bev Ricks

### Altan ~ *Worth Playing Hooky For*

It was the first night of the winter dance class session and I hated to miss it. But when the invitation came to see Altan, I knew I couldn't turn it down. The Barns at Wolf Trap, two cozy reconverted barns dating from the 18th century, with balcony seating in what had once been a hay loft, made a perfect venue for Altan's traditional Irish music.

Mairéad Ni Mhaonaigh, regarded as one of Ireland's great female singers, on par with Mary Black, Moya Brennan, and Sinéad O'Connor, has a soulful soprano that evokes the kind of reflective emotion appropriate for ballads about lost love, hardship and death. But, she jokingly noted between numbers, the group also does songs where no one gets killed.

Other members of the group include Ciaran Tourish (tin whistle, fiddle, and vocals), Dermot Byrne (melodeon, button accordion), Daithi Sproule (guitar, vocals), and Ciaran Curran (bouzouki). They provided plenty of upbeat jigs and reels. And while, the audience didn't fully act on the invitation to dance, I distinctly heard the reverberation of many feet, my own included, beating the wooden floor, keeping time to the music.

Altan has enjoyed much critical acclaim over the years. Billboard cited *Island Angel* as the fourth-best-selling album of world music in 1994, cementing the group's reputation as a headliner for music festivals in Europe and the US. Altan even played for President Clinton at the White House on St. Patrick's Day, that same year. More recently, Altan recorded its latest studio album *Local Ground* in 2005, which has received enthusiastic reviews. Tourish has a solo album out called *Down the Line* and Ní Mhaonaigh released her debut album, *Imeall*, in December 2008.

The original members of County Donegal based Altan, named after a lake in the small town of Gweedore, got together in the mid-1980's, creating

Continued on next page.

music at kitchen parties and playing informally in local pubs.

Their local success gave them the impetus to leave their day jobs and “go professional.” But after a decade, sadly flute player and founder, Frankie Kennedy, succumbed to cancer. Using Kennedy as continued inspiration, the group is now an international success with over 10 CD’s to their credit. The Frankie Kennedy Winter Music School/ Scoil Gheimridh Frankie Kennedy has also been established in Gweedore to honor Altan’s co-founder. This is the same Frankie Kennedy after whom GWCC named its \$200.00 scholarship, awarded to talented young people who qualify through local competitions to compete at a higher level in Ireland at events like the fleadh (music) or the oirachteas (dance).

As with any good concert, band members shared bits of their lives in funny vignettes that endeared them to their fans. For each song they played they also shared the source of their music, thanking the musicians, lyricists, and teachers who inspired them to continue the musical traditions of their Irish speaking and fiddle playing forefathers. Ciaran Tourish’s obvious gratitude is noted in the program, which quotes him as saying, “We never ever forget who we learned this music from and where it comes from.”

Make sure you see Altan the next time they come to town and in the meantime, buy a CD

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### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPRING FLING**

The 2009 GWCC Spring Fling Weekend in Shepherdstown, West Virginia is set for 27 – 29 March. Once again we have rooms reserved at the Clarion Inn and Conference Center with even better room rates than last year. There will be a welcome reception at the Clarion’s Rumsey Tavern before the Friday night ceili. And we will be dancing on the great wood floor at the War Memorial Building in downtown Shepherdstown.

Details and registration forms are on pages 12 and 13 of this issue of *In Step*.



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## **DANCE NOTES**

~ Edie O’Donnell

On Sunday, January 25th, the GWCC monthly ceili was held at Cherry Hill Park, with more than eight sets of enthusiastic dancers in attendance.

The workshop dance was the South Kerry Set, taught by Dick de Freyre. This dance has a dizzying house and square-to-home body which was fun for both beginner and advanced dancers. After a few tries, everyone seemed to be enjoying it. The band was comprised of Donna Long, Laura Byrne Egan, Rosie Shipley, and Sean McComiskey. The music was absolutely terrific, with many pleased comments from the dancers!

The first set of dances included the Clare Plain Set, the first half of the Caragh Lake Jig Set, and the Six-Hand Fairy Reel. The pot luck tables once again showed off the culinary talents of our dancers; we had to have table “annexes” for all the great dishes. The second set of dances started with the Haymaker’s Jig. It was followed by the Clare Mazurka and the South Kerry, our workshop set. During the second break, one of our newer dancers, Lara Payne, won the 50/50 prize. We ended the evening with Paris Set, transplanted to January because we ran out of time at New Year’s Eve, followed by the remainder of the Caragh Lake, and the Clare Lancers Set.

We had a very special treat at the second intermission. The Teelin School of Dance performed live and in costume for us. These dancers really showed what precision and timing are all about! The audience divided its time between rapt attention and wild applause, especially for the dance with the drumsticks. It was a wonderful addition to the ceili.

Please note a scheduling change for March; the ceili is scheduled for March 15th, to coincide with St. Patrick’s Day. And you’ll have another chance for a dance event with our Spring Fling taking place the last weekend in March. See the flyer in this newsletter. Mark your calendars now!

Blue Fins Bar & Grill  
and the  
Harp & Shamrock Society of Gaithersburg  
Present

**A CELTIC FUND-RAISER**

Proceeds to benefit the 9th Annual  
Gaithersburg St. Patrick's Day Parade

Sunday, February 22, 2009

3:00 – 7:00 PM

Featuring  
SEAMUS KENNEDY IN CONCERT

Irish Step Dancers  
Great Fun  
Door Prizes  
50/50 Raffle & Silent Auction

The Annual Gaithersburg St. Patrick's Day Parade  
will be held Saturday, March 14, 2009 at the  
Washingtonian Center in Gaithersburg, MD

Blue Fins is located at the corner of Quince Orchard  
& Clopper Roads (301-947-1993)

**GWCC Officers and Board of Directors**

**Officers:**

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Tom Scullen    | President      |
| Dixie Baker    | Vice-President |
| Ed O'Connor    | Treasurer      |
| Paul O'Donnell | Secretary      |

**Board Members:**

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Susan Day         | Don Kaliher    |
| Linda Fitzpatrick | Frank McCarthy |
| Dick de Freyre    | Emmett Murphy  |
| Betty McCarthy    | Edie O'Donnell |
| Joan O'Connor     | Bev Ricks      |
| Jane Twomey       | Patrick Twomey |

**Committees (Chair):**

|              |                                  |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Ceili        | (Dixie Baker and Dick de Freyre) |
| Membership   | (Frank and Betty McCarthy)       |
| Outreach     | (Edie O'Donnell and Dixie Baker) |
| Newsletter   | (Don Kaliher)                    |
| Scholarship  | (Beth Curren)                    |
| Cape May     | (Linda Fitzpatrick)              |
| Spring Fling | (Joan O'Connor)                  |
| Publicity    | (Emmett Murphy)                  |
| Elections    | (Edie O'Donnell)                 |

## MONTHLY CEILIS

**Note: ceili in bold is GWCC**

First Saturdays (Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb, Apr, May)  
7 – 11 pm

First Sundays (Dec, Mar) 4 pm

Emerald Isle Club Ceili

Live music Peter Fitzgerald/J. Patrick's All-Stars

All dances called by Marilyn Moore.

American Legion Hall

2301 Putty Hill Avenue (NEW LOCATION)

Parkville, MD

Family friendly – ceili, set and two-hand dances

Info: Judy Kondner, [judy@kondner.com](mailto:judy@kondner.com)

Second Saturdays:

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann (CCE)

Class at 7 pm, Ceili 7:30 – 11pm

Live music by the Bog Wanders Ceili Band.

All dances called by Marilyn Moore.

Great Falls Grange (Jan-May 2009)

9819 Georgetown Pike

Great Falls, VA 22066

Family friendly – ceili, set and two-hand dances

Info: Kendra Swann ([kendrar179@aol.com](mailto:kendrar179@aol.com))

Second Sunday:

J Patrick's Irish Pub Ceili 4:30 – 8:30pm

1371 Andre Street, Baltimore, MD

Live music by *J Patrick's All Star Ceili Band*

All dances called by Marilyn Moore

Sets and a few ceili dances

Info: call 410-244-8613

**Fourth Sundays (Jan, Feb, and Apr 09)**

**Third Sundays (Mar and May 09)**

**GWCC Ceili at Cherry Hill 5 pm**

**Set workshop starts at 4pm**

**Live music. Potluck supper.**

**Sets and few Ceili dances - some dances called**

**Cherry Hill Park Convention Center**

**9800 Cherry Hill Rd, College Park, MD**

**Info: 301-294-3568 [rdefrey@aol.com](mailto:rdefrey@aol.com)**

## LOCAL SEISIUNS AROUND TOWN

J Patrick's Pub, Locust Point, MD

Monday – Beginners Seisiun 8-10 pm

Tuesday w/Laura Byrne-Egan & Jim Egan, 9-12M

Thursday w/Peter Fitzgerald 8-Midnight

Kids Seisiun w/Donna Long

Info: 410-244-8613

Royal Mile Pub, Wheaton, MD

Kids' Seisiun, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 5-6:30

info: [jmitchellf@yahoo.com](mailto:jmitchellf@yahoo.com)

Adults' Seisiun, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 7-10:30

Info: 301-946-4511

McGinty's Publick House, Silver Spring, MD

Kids' 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday info: [jmitchellf@yahoo.com](mailto:jmitchellf@yahoo.com)

Adults' Tuesdays, 8:00

Dennis Botzer and Patrick Kavanagh

info: [dennis.botzer@ey.com](mailto:dennis.botzer@ey.com)

Children's Irish Music Session, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 6:30 – 7:50 p.m.

Info: [mail@karenashbrook.com](mailto:mail@karenashbrook.com), 301-592-0101

RiRa Pub, Bethesda, MD

Wednesdays, 7-11 and Sundays, 3-7 p.m.

Philippe Varlet and Rob Greenway

Info: [philvar@erols.com](mailto:philvar@erols.com)

Auld Shebeen, North St & Rte 123, Fairfax, VA

Saturdays, 12-2:00, kids once a month 11:00

Info: 703-293-9600

Kids' info: <http://www.novasession.org>

O'Faolain's Irish Pub

20921 Davenport Dr, Sterling, VA

Sundays, 6:30-9:30

Betsy O'Malley & Jim Wade

Info: 703-444-9796

Ryan's Daughter Irish Pub,

600 East Belvedere Avenue, Baltimore, MD

Sundays, 5-8 pm

w/ Laura Byrne-Egan, Pat Egan, Julia Fitzgerald

Info: 410-464-1000

O'Lordan's Irish Pub

14 Liberty St., Westminster, MD 21157

Open Irish traditional session

Wednesday, 8 pm

Info: 410-876-0000

Nanny O'Brien's Pub, Mondays, 9 pm

3319 Connecticut Ave, NW, DC

Info: 202-686-9189

## WEEKLY DANCE CLASSES

**Note: class in bold is GWCC**

[Check with Instructor/School for exact class dates]

Mondays

Ceili, set and 2 hand dance, 7:30 – 8:30 pm  
1<sup>st</sup> and St. Stephen's Church, 6815 York Road,  
Baltimore, MD (at York & Regester Road)

Instructor: Marilyn Moore

Ages 8 – adult welcome

Info: Marcia Ferguson, [marciaferg@comcast.net](mailto:marciaferg@comcast.net)

Mondays

Set Dancing, 7 – 8:30 pm, Beginners  
Howard County Parks and Recreation

Instructor, Jan McVey

Ellicott Mills Middle School, 4445 Montgomery  
Ave, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Info: 410-313-7275, [www.howardcounty.gov/RAP](http://www.howardcounty.gov/RAP)

Tuesdays

Ceili & set dancing 7:00 beginners, 8:00 improvers  
Ring of Kerry

Instructors: Anne Marie Russell (beginners)

Marilyn Moore (improvers)

Ridgeview Middle School

16600 Raven Rock Drive, Gaithersburg, MD

Info: Roger Andes, [randes@erols.com](mailto:randes@erols.com)

Tuesdays

Sean Nos Dance Class, 8:00 – 9:00 pm

J. Patrick's Irish Pub,

1371 Andre Street, Baltimore, MD

Instructor: Kelly Smit

Traditional Irish music & dance session 9 pm

Info: [www.SeanNosDanceBaltimore.com](http://www.SeanNosDanceBaltimore.com)

Tuesdays

Ceili and set Dancing, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Fairfax City Department of Recreation

Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax,

Instructor: Hugh Conway

Info: [ceiliset@yahoo.com](mailto:ceiliset@yahoo.com), 703-273-6869

Wednesdays

Ceili & set dancing 7 – 9pm

J Patrick's Pub

Instructor: Dan Stanton

1371 Andre St, Locust Point, Baltimore, MD

Info: 410-276-2766

## MORE WEEKLY DANCE CLASSES

**Note: class in bold is GWCC**

[Check with Instructor/School for exact class dates]

Wednesdays

Set dancing & steps: 7:30 – 9 pm

Instructor: Jim Keenan

Gaithersburg/Rockville Area

Info: [jnkeenan@comcast.net](mailto:jnkeenan@comcast.net)

Wednesdays

Set Dancing Classes 7:30 – 9:00 pm

St. Mary's County, MD

Instructor: Diane Clark

Info: 301-475-3542, [cdpclarke@md.metrocast.net](mailto:cdpclarke@md.metrocast.net)

Wednesdays

Sean-Nos Dance: beginner 7:30-8:30 pm

Advanced Beginning, 8:30 – 9:20 pm

Joy of Motion Atlas Studio, 1333 H Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20002

Instructor: Shannon Dunne

Info and registration [www.joyofmotion.org](http://www.joyofmotion.org)

Wednesdays,

Basic Ceili Dances 6:30 – 7:30

January 7th-Feb. 11th (six week session)

6844 Olney-Laytonsville Rd. Laytonsville, MD 20882

Instructor: Annie Hurley

Info: [AnnieHurleySchool@gmail.com](mailto:AnnieHurleySchool@gmail.com)

**Thursdays**

**Set dancing 7:00 beginners, 8:00 advanced**

**GWCC**

**Instructor: Paul O'Donnell**

**Frost Center, 4915 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville, MD**

**Info: [IrishGWCC@aol.com](mailto:IrishGWCC@aol.com)**

**Mini-ceili on the third Thursday of the month**

Saturdays

Ceili & set dancing 10:30am–12pm beginner friendly

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann (CCE)

Instructor: Marilyn Moore

Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax, VA

Info: Larry 703-281-0910 [lfrank2@earthlink.net](mailto:lfrank2@earthlink.net)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Note: events in bold are GWCC**

Feb 6, Friday, 9 pm

Pete Papageorge

Irish Times, 14 F Street, NW, DC

Info: 202-543-5433

Feb 7, Saturday, 12 noon-10:30 pm

FSGW Mid-Winter Festival, Takoma Park

Middle School, Takoma Park, MD

Info: [www.fsgw.org](http://www.fsgw.org)

Feb 7, Saturday, 8 pm

Emerald Isle Club Ceili

2301 Putty Hill Avenue, Parkville, MD

Info: [judy@kondner.com](mailto:judy@kondner.com)

Feb 12, Thursday, 8 pm

Iona, Uptown Concerts @ Cellar Stage

Faith Community United Methodist Church of  
Hamilton

5315 Harford Rd., Baltimore MD 21214

Info: 410-521-9099

Feb 14, Saturday, 7 pm

CCE Ceili, Great Falls Grange

9819 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA

Info: [kendrar179@aol.com](mailto:kendrar179@aol.com)

Feb 15, Sunday, 4, 6, and 8 pm

Beth Patterson, Celtic-Cajun bouzouki

Old Brogue, 760C Walker Road, Great Falls, VA

Info: 703-759-3309; [www.oldbrogue.com](http://www.oldbrogue.com),

Reservations Required

**Feb 19, Thursday, 8 pm**

**GWCC Mini-Ceili w/ Tina Eck, Brendan**

**Mulvihill, Rob Greenway**

**Frost Ctr, 4915 Aspen Hill Rd, Rockville MD**

**Info: [IrishGWCC@aol.com](mailto:IrishGWCC@aol.com)**

Feb 19, Thursday, 9 pm

Pete Papageorge, Irish Times, 14 F St, NW, DC

Info: 202-543-5433

Feb 20, Friday, 8 pm

Old Bay Ceili Band, Chesapeake Arts Center

194 Hammonds Lane, Brooklyn Park, MD

Info: 410-636-6597; [www.chesapeakearts.org](http://www.chesapeakearts.org)

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

**Note: events in bold are GWCC**

Feb 20/21, Friday/Saturday, 9:30 pm

Seamus Kennedy, Mick O'Shea's

328 N. Charles Street, Baltimore MD 21201

Info: 410-539-7504

Feb 21, Saturday, 8 pm

Old Bay Ceili Band Concert, Chesapeake Arts Center

194 Hammonds Lane, Brooklyn Park, MD 21225

Info: <http://www.chesapeakearts.org/>

Feb 21, Saturday, 9 pm

Pete Papageorge

Irish Times, 14 F Street, NW, DC

Info: 202-543-5433

Feb 22, Sunday, 3 pm

Harp & Shamrock Society of Gaithersburg

St. Patty's Day Parade Fund raiser w/ Seamus

Kennedy,

Blue Fins Bar & Grill, Quince Orchard & Clopper  
Roads

Info: 301-947-1993

**Feb 22, Sunday, 4 pm**

**GWCC Ceili at Cherry Hill Conference Center**

**9800 Cherry Hill Rd, College Park, MD**

**Info: 301-294-3568 [rdefreyre@aol.com](mailto:rdefreyre@aol.com)**

Feb 24, Tuesday, 8:30 pm

Seamus Kennedy, Harry Browne's

66 State Circle, Annapolis MD

Info: 410-263-4332

Feb 26, Thursday, 9 pm

The Wolfstones, Mick O'Shea's

328 N. Charles St., Baltimore MD

Info: 410-539-7504

Feb 26, Thursday, 9 pm

Pete Papageorge, Irish Times, 14 F Street, NW, DC

Info: 202-543-5433

Feb 28, Saturday, 7:30 pm

Maura O'Connell, The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon  
Avenue, Alexandria VA 22305

Info: 703-549-7500; [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com)

*Continued on next page.*

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: events in bold are GWCC

Feb 28, Saturday, 8 pm

John Roberts, English song & concertina  
(Homegrown Concerts), National Colonial  
Farm, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD  
Info: 301-789-1190

Feb 28, Saturday, 8 pm

Scythian, 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Blarney Ball, The  
University Club of Washington, DC  
Info: [www.scythianmusic.com](http://www.scythianmusic.com).

Feb 28, Saturday, 8:30 pm

Slide (Irish Music Magazine as 'Best Traditional  
Newcomers' in 2001)  
The Philadelphia Ceili Group  
The Commodore Barry Club  
Carpenter Lane and Emlen St, West Mt Airy, Pa  
19119  
Info: (215)843 8051,  
<http://www.theirishcenter.com>

Feb 28, Saturday, 9 pm

Pete Papageorge, Irish Times, 14 F Street, NW, .  
DC  
Info: 202-543-5433

Mar 1, Sunday, 3 pm

Portraits of Ireland, Teelin Irish Dance Company  
Stephens Hall Theatre, Towson University  
8000 York Road, Towson, Maryland 21252  
Info: [www.teelin.com/POIhome.htm](http://www.teelin.com/POIhome.htm)

Mar 1, Sunday, 4, 6 and 8 pm

Iona, Old Brogue  
760C Walker Road, Great Falls, VA 22066  
Info: 703-759-3309; [www.oldbrogue.com](http://www.oldbrogue.com) ,  
Reservations Required

Mar 5, Wednesday, 7:30 pm

The Saw Doctors, The Birchmere  
Alexandria, VA  
Info: [www.sawdoctors.com](http://www.sawdoctors.com).

Mar 7, Saturday, 8 pm

Emerald Isle Club Ceili  
2301 Putty Hill Avenue, Parkville, MD  
Info: [judy@kondner.com](mailto:judy@kondner.com)

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: events in bold are GWCC

Mar 11, Wednesday

*Lunasa* at the Reston Community Center,  
Reston, VA  
Info: [www.lunasa.ie](http://www.lunasa.ie)

Mar 14, Saturday, 3 pm

Portraits of Ireland, Teelin Irish Dance Company  
Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 West Patrick  
Street  
Frederick, Maryland 21701  
Info: [www.teelin.com/POIhome.htm](http://www.teelin.com/POIhome.htm)

Mar 14, Saturday, 7 pm

CCE Ceili, Great Falls Grange  
9819 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA  
Info: [kendrar179@aol.com](mailto:kendrar179@aol.com)

**Mar 15, Sunday. 4 pm**

**GWCC Ceili at Cherry Hill Conference Center  
9800 Cherry Hill Rd, College Park, MD  
Info: 301-294-3568 [rdefreyre@aol.com](mailto:rdefreyre@aol.com)**

**Mar 19, Thursday, 8 pm**

**GWCC mini-Ceili w/ Tina Eck and friends  
Frost Center, 4915 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville  
MD  
Info: [IrishGWCC@aol.com](mailto:IrishGWCC@aol.com)**

Mar 20, Friday, 8 pm

DANU and Ocean's Orchestra, Concert Hall at  
Strathmore  
5301 Tuckerman Lane, Bethesda, MD 20852  
Info: [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)

**Mar 27-29, Friday- Sunday**

**GWCC Spring Fling Dance Weekend  
Shepherdstown, WV  
Friday & Saturday night Ceilis, set dance classes  
Accommodations at Clarion Hotel and  
Conference Center, 17 Lowe Drive,  
Shepherdstown, WV  
Info: 301-294-3568, [dixiemb@aol.com](mailto:dixiemb@aol.com)**



Greater  
Washington  
CELI  
Club

**Sunday, February 22nd**

**5:00 - 9:00 PM**

**Set Workshop at 4:00**

**Cherry Hill Park  
Conference Center  
9800 Cherry Hill Rd.  
College Park, Md.**

**Entrance Code 76000**

**"Set of the Month"**

**Labasheeda Reel Set**

**MUSIC BY**

**THE IRISH INN MATES**

**TINA ECK**

**FLUTE**

**BETSY O'MALLEY**

**TENOR BANJO**

**JESSE WINCH**

**DRUMS**

**MITCH FANNING**

**FIDDLE**

**PLUS SPECIAL GUEST**

**MARC GLICKMAN**

**PIANO**

**PROGRAM**

Clare Plain  
North Kerry Set  
Siege of Ennis

Sweets of May  
South Kerry Set  
Waltz  
Connemara Reel

Labasheeda Reel Set  
Ballyvourney Jig  
Clare Lancers



**POT LUCK SUPPER DURING THE 1st BREAK**



**ADMISSION**

GWCC members-\$12- ° Nonmembers-\$15  
Kids under 11-free ° Students 11 to 20-\$8

For more information, call (301) 294-3568 or <http://www.gwcc-online.org>

## THE LABASHEEDA REEL SET

Study Notes by Joe O'Hara, Copyright © William Lynch 2007

### First Figure - Show Each Lady (Reels) 192 bars

- 1 Lead around with crossed hand hold in front, the lady turning clockwise under the gent's raised arms on the last 2 bars. 8 bars
- 2 Swing, with waltz hold. 8 bars
- 3 1st top gent show each lady: 1st tops dance house within the set and the gent places his lady between lady and gent of the 1st side couple on the last 2 bars, the side lady dancing out to create the space. 1st gent dances house within with this lady and places her between the 2nd top couple. He repeats this movement until back in place, all the ladies having moved around 1 place clockwise. 32 bars
- 4 Swing new partners. 8 bars
- 5 1st side gent (L of 1st tops) show each lady. All swing. 40 bars
- 6 2nd top gent shows each lady. All swing. 40 bars
- 7 2nd side gent shows each lady. All swing. 40 bars
- 8 All house around. 8 bars

### Second Figure - High Gates (Reels) 128 bars

- 1 Lead around. Swing. 16 bars
- 2 1st top couple: House within the set. 8 bars  
High gates: The dancing gent takes his lady's L hand in his R and the R hand of the lady on his L (the 'visitor') in his L hand. He raises his L arm to form the first 'gate' for the dancing lady to pass through and follows her round under his own arm. He then raises his R arm to make the second gate through which the visitor dances and again he follows her round. He raises his L arm to make the final gate, his partner dances through, he follows her round, and all drop hands and dance into place. 8 bars  
Swing. 8 bars
- 4 1st side couple house within. High gates. 16 bars
- 5 Swing. 8 bars
- 6 2nd top couple house within. High gates. 16 bars
- 7 Swing. 8 bars
- 8 2nd side couple house within. High gates. 16 bars
- 9 Swing. 8 bars
- 10 House around. 8 bars

### Third Figure - Little Christmas (Reels) 128 bars

- 1 Lead around. Swing. 16 bars
- 2 1st top couple house within. On the last 2 bars, they and the couple on their L turn to face each other. 8 bars  
Swing four: facing couples take crossed arm hold behind each others' backs, L arm over and R arm under, to form a tight ring and swing clockwise. 8 bars
- 3 Swing partners. 8 bars
- 4 1st side couple house within. Swing four with the couple on their L. 16 bars
- 5 Swing. 8 bars
- 6 2nd top couple house within. Swing four with the couple on their L. 16 bars
- 7 Swing. 8 bars
- 8 2nd side couple house within. Swing four with the couple on their L. 16 bars
- 9 Swing. 8 bars
- 10 House around. 8 bars

### Fourth Figure - Show Each Gent (Reels) 192 bars

- 1 Lead around. Swing. 8 bars
- 2 1st top lady show each gent: 1st tops dance house within the set and the lady places her gent between lady and gent of the 1st side couple on the last 2 bars, the side gent dancing out to create the space. 1st lady dances house within with this gent and places him between partners of the 2nd top couple and takes the 2nd top gent. She repeats this movement until back in place, all the gents having moved around 1 place clockwise. 32 bars
- 3 Swing. 8 bars
- 4 1st side lady show each gent. 32 bars

5 Swing. 8 bars  
6 2nd top lady show each gent. 32 bars  
7 Swing. 8 bars  
8 2nd side lady show each gent. 32 bars  
9 Swing. House around. 16 bars

#### Fifth Figure - The Fling 168 bars

1 Lead around. Swing. 16 bars

2 Top couples: Slide and home: couples dance 1 step towards the centre and 1 step back (2 bars) and 4 doubled steps in place, turning once or twice as preferred (2 bars). Slide and change: they dance 1 step to the centre and back (2 bars) and either double or house across into the opposite place (2 bars). 8 bars Slide and home. Slide and change, back to their own places. 8 bars

Turn opposites: opposite dancers dance 2 steps to meet and turn each other L elbow in the centre and dance back to face their partners (4 bars). Slide and home. 8 bars

House around, doubling the last 2 steps. 8 bars

3 Side couples now dance 2. 32 bars

4 Top couples repeat 2. 32 bars

5 Side couples repeat 2. 32 bars

6 All dance at home. House around. 16 bars

#### Alternative Fifth Figure - The Jig 176 bars

1 Lead around. Swing. 16 bars

2 Top couples: House around each other. 8 bars Advance, retire (4 bars) and ladies cross over R to R to the opposite gent while the gents dance in place (4 bars). 8 bars House around each other, new couples. 8 bars Advance, retire (4 bars) and ladies cross back to their own place while the gents dance clockwise into their 1st corner and their 1st corner ladies dance clockwise into the gent's vacated place to form new couples (4 bars). 8 bars House around each other, new couples. 8 bars

Advance, retire and ladies cross over R to R to the opposite gent while the gents dance in place. 8 bars

House around each other, new couples. 8 bars Advance, retire and both ladies and gents dance back to their own partners. 8 bars

3 Dance at home. 8 bars

4 Side couples now dance 2. 64 bars

5 Dance at home. House around. 16 bars

#### Sixth Figure - The Hornpipe 160 bars

1 Quarter house: with waltz hold, couples dance 2 steps in place and turn 2 steps on to the next place on the R (4 bars). The movement is repeated from each place and back to home. 16 bars

2 House around. 8 bars

3 Changeover: partners all dance 1 step into the set and 1 step back (2 bars). The gents make a clockwise turn outside the set while the ladies dance inside the set to their corner gent (2 bars) and new couples dance at home, turning once (4 bars). 8 bars

4 Quarterhouse. House around. Changeover. 32 bars

5 Quarterhouse. House around. Changeover. 32 bars

6 Quarterhouse. House around. Changeover. 32 bars

7 Quarterhouse. House around. 24 bars

#### STEPS

The reels are danced with the Clare reel step and the jig with the 'up' jig step.

**Registration Form**

Hotel: Reserve your room directly with the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 17 Lowe Drive, Shepherdstown, WV, 25443  
Phone: 304-876-7000  
<http://www.clarionshepherdstown.com/>

Tell them you're registering for the "GWCC Weekend." **Deadline: March 13, 2009**

Rate, room only, no meals: \$89 + tax per room per night



Event

**Deadline: March 13, 2009**

\_\_\_\_\_ People @ \$60=\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay for event package by check made payable to GWCC. (Do not pay GWCC for hotel.)

Mail this form and check to:

Dixie Baker  
164 New Mark Esplanade  
Rockville, MD 20850

Information: Dixie Baker: 301-294-3568  
(DixieMB@aol.com)

**GWCC  
SPRING FLING  
WEEKEND  
2009**



**SHEPHERDSTOWN  
WEST VIRGINIA**

**MARCH 27, 28, 29**

**GREATER WASHINGTON CÉILI CLUB**

## ***FIFTH ANNUAL SPRING FLING IN WEST VIRGINIA***

**We're back in Shepherdstown for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling.** Lodging will again be at the award winning Clarion Hotel and Conference Center. The special rate at the hotel (down from last year!) is for the room only, so you'll be free to choose to eat at the fine restaurants at the Clarion or choose one of the many and varied restaurants downtown.

The package will include a breakfast of bagels, spreads, juice, coffee and tea before the Saturday morning dance instruction. We'll be dancing right downtown in the historic War Memorial Building at German & King Streets with Jim Keenan providing the dance instruction.

**Book with the hotel by March 13, 2009 to receive the special GWCC hotel rate.**

**Complete & mail the registration form on the other side to purchase the event package.**

### **SCHEDULE OF RATES**

Room at the Clarion Hotel/Conference Center: \$89 + tax /Per Room/Per Night-No Meals  
**(Note: Book Your Hotel Accommodations directly with the Clarion-304.876.7000)**

Pre-purchased Event Package to include all the events below: \$60/person, Children under 12 free—Deadline for pre-purchase is March 13, 2009. Event pricing will apply after March 13.

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### **Friday March 27**

**Arrival** at the Clarion Hotel, 17 Lowe Drive Check-in after 3:00

**Welcome Social**-from 4:30 to 6:00 in the Rumsey Tavern @ the Clarion—The first drink is included in your package fee.  
Dinner your choice

**Ceili:** 7:30 to 11:30 pm (\$15 Without Package)

- War Memorial Building, German & King Streets. Live Music by ***Custom House*** - with your favorite sets
- 

#### **Saturday March 28**

**Breakfast** of Bagels/Spreads/Juice/ Coffee/Tea (\$10 Without Package)

- War Memorial Building: 9:00 to 10:00

**Morning Dance Workshop** (\$15 Without Package)

- War Memorial Bldg: 10:00 to 12:00
- International dance instructor Jim Keenan will teach the sets.

*Lunch your choice*

**Afternoon Dance Workshop** (\$15 Without Package)

- War Memorial Bldg: 2:00 to 4:00

Dinner your choice

**Ceili:** 7:30 to 11:30 (\$15 Without Package)

- War Memorial Bldg:  
Music by: ***Dave Abe, Billy McComiskey, Zan McLeod, & Myron Bretholz***

#### **Sunday March 29**

Breakfast your choice

Free time to tour Shepherdstown & surrounding area

**Join the club!**

Get our monthly newsletter and save on monthly ceilis, all for just \$15 per person.  
To sign up or renew today, send this membership form and your check to:

Frank McCarthy, 728 Milshire Court, Silver Spring, MD 20905

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Greater Washington Ceili Club  
P.O. Box 1703  
Silver Spring, MD 20915-1703