



President's Notes

"To neighbor" was a verb used often where I grew up in the rural southwest corner of Iowa. This verb described almost any intentional interaction with those who lived near us. We neighbored with phone calls, casseroles, childcare, shared chores and lifts into town. This is how we did hospitality, by neighboring. Neighboring was how the quilt of our lives became bound together.

In a similar way, the Celtic Music Association neighbored with many groups ever since 1992. We neighbored with our many program sponsors; with the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Friendly Sons of St Patrick; with Holy Trinity Catholic Church and with the Beaverdale neighborhood. We neighbored with each of you at our events and we neighbored with the dozens of acts who have graced our stages. It is how we all are bound together to support each other.

We love the music and because of it, we come closer together even if for a few hours on a Saturday night. I am amazed by the neighborliness of our concert crowds, as I get on the stage to welcome the bands for their performances. The bands comment on your attentive warmth without fail. You all are neighboring experts, and you make me proud to live among you.

This spring, we will continue to lavish our neighborly hospitality on HighTime and Calan, as well as with all of you. Please, come spend an evening neighboring with each other and with the artists, you won't be disappointed. Tickets are still on sale for the remaining concerts.

Oh yes, we are making a new neighborly connection in a few weeks. Our March 14 concert with Calan will be held at the Franklin Junior High building on 48th & Franklin. We were very impressed with the venue, with its ample parking, easy access and updated theater. I am sure that you will be impressed as well.

Slainte, Brian Smith, President

HighTime Performs February 15, 2020 at Holy Trinity



This fresh new trio from the heart of Connemara, Ireland combines Irish music and an intriguing blend of modern folk influences to produce a rich sound and exciting experience to delight listeners. Featuring an unusual line-up of flute, whistles, harp, bodhrán, guitar and vocals (with some Irish dancing steps thrown in!), HighTime make a youthful and energetic statement.

Equal measures of music and tradition from old Ireland coupled with bold new arrangements make for a tasty platter of music, song and dance from these three young men. From the village of Ardmore on the rugged west coast, Ciarán and Séamus have been immersed in the region's rich and diverse musical heritage their whole lives. Joined by a friend of many years, Michael, a master in his field hailing from Glossop, Manchester, their music encapsulates the essence of their comradery which is the driving force at the heart of this enthusiastic trio.

HighTime play with a breathtaking energy and passion that is both effortless yet drivingly soulful and fun. Neighbors, Ciarán and Séamus, and great friend, Michael, have a unique and virtuoso musical connection through so many years of performing together and individually; all the while enchanting audiences worldwide with music, song and dance steeped in the well of Irish tradition - No doubt their music and energy-fueled live performances are sure to get the hands clapping and toes tapping!

Ciarán Bolger - Guitar and vocals
Michael Coult - Flute, whistle & vocals
Séamus Ó Flatharta - Celtic Harp, whistle, bódhran drum, Irish dancing & vocals

General Admission: \$25 advance; \$30 day of show. Tickets on sale now at our outlets and on-line through Eventbrite at www.thecma.org.



March 14, 2020 at Franklin Jr. High

The Welsh band Calan is on a mission to prove that traditional music, based on folklore and taught and performed through the generations, actually does rock. With 2017 performances in Australia and China following several months touring the US and UK supporting the new album Solomon (Sain Records, May 12th), Calan is on its way to accomplishing that.

Despite the ancient roots of Calan's music, this brash, young group is comprised of a new generation of ambassadors, striving to take their sound to new audiences, raising some eyebrows with their deliberate presentation, while also raising the international profile of traditional Welsh music.

The musicians include Calan vocalist, accordionist, and wearer of the clogs, Bethan Williams-Jones, who sings in both English and Welsh, and learned her style of award-winning clog dancing from her father, who was also a champion. Patrick Rimes (Fiddle, Whistle, Pipes) and Sam Humphreys (Guitar, bagpipes) In his youth, Rimes was a junior Celtic Welsh fiddle champion for three years running. Angharad Jenkins (fiddle), the daughter of harpist Delyth Jenkins and late Welsh poet, Nigel Jenkins. Finally, Alice French (Harp) who studied the instrument at the University of Wales, becoming so drawn into the wealth of traditional harp music that Wales has to offer, that she is now examining and developing the traditional harp playing methods once used by the Romani Gypsies of Wales. The Foy school of Irish Dance will perform at this concert.

The Calan concert is dedicated in memory of past president Doug Jones, whom we lost in the Fall of 2016. It was a dream of Doug's to have a Welsh band perform for the CMA.

Friends of the CMA

Please consider helping us bring quality Celtic music to the Des Moines area by becoming a friend of the Celtic Music Association. A \$25 membership fee will provide support to the organization. Memberships will include a special beverage cup (bring it back to the concerts). CMA memberships can be mailed to: The Celtic Music Association, P.O. Box 30001, Des Moines, IA 50310 or on-line at www.thecma.org, through Eventbrite.



More Fun Facts

- Both Le Vent du Nord and Calan, our March band, have performed at the Shrewsbury festival in England.
- Le Vent du Nord gives over 100 performances a year!
- Before they were a band, the members of HighTime decided it was "high time" they started playing as a band. The rest is history and how they got their name.
- Calan received a commission from the Live Music Now organization to compose music for Yehudi Menuhin's story book, The King, the Cat and the Fiddle. This commission was part of events to celebrate 100 years since Menuhin's birth.
- The inspiration for the band's name dates back to their early days as street musicians when someone happened to photograph them in front of a sign for a construction company called "Calan," which is a term that means the beginning of something new or a fresh start

January Concert - Le Vent Du Nord



Photos by Jack Bush

LE VENT DU NORD



Featuring the hurdy gurdy



Continuing our tour of Celtic Nations for this season, the Celtic Music Association hosted Le Vent Du Nord from Quebec to the stage at Holy Trinity. Concert-goers were treated to an amazing repertoire of Canadian Celtic/Acadian music, complete with tight, layered vocal harmonies, at least 2 fiddles in play with each song and even a hurdy gurdy to round out the amazing sound. The band responded to the warmth of the crowd with musical virtuosity, and friendly banter. It was a sublime evening to ward off the January chill.

Local Events:

Iowa Irish Language and Culture presents An Evening of Irish Music and Entertainment at Cirque Wonderland Studios, 105 S. 11th St., West Des Moines on Saturday March 21 at 6:00pm

This year the CMA is a proud sponsor of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's annual St. Patrick's day Parade. Join them in downtown Des Moines at noon on Tuesday, March 17 for the parade. Then follow up with music by Kelly's Clan, and dance presented by the Foy school of Irish Dance at the Marriott.

Get fit and run for a good cause at their annual Friendly Son's 5K/10K run/walk on Sunday, March 22, 11:00am. To register go to their website: www.friendlysonsiowa.com.

Show your Celtic music pride!
Wear a CMA hat or backpack, \$15 each. A variety of shirts available.
Pick them up at the next concert.



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www.thecma.org**

Many thanks to website designer Dan McCurley, who volunteered to help us with the new updated website. If you prefer to receive your newsletter electronically, please let us know at cmadsmmail@gmail.com. As we add more features, we will keep you posted here and on Facebook. Contact Dan if you like his work at djmccurley@gmail.com and www.djmccurley.com.





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**Remember to like us on
Facebook to keep up-to-date on
Celtic Music in central Iowa!**



Ticket Outlets:

Celtic Music Association, (515) 771-2215, P. O. Box 30001,
Des Moines, IA 50310, www.thecma.org (check only)

Eventbrite, on CMA website (credit)

Holy Trinity Parish Office, (515) 255-3162, 2926 Beaver Ave.,
Des Moines (cash or check only)

Cooney's Tavern, (515) 255-5566, 3708 Beaver Ave., Des Moines
(cash or check only)

Up Tempo Music, (515) 277-1045, 2714 Beaver Ave., Des Moines,
www.uptempo-music.com (cash or check only)

Cindy's Boutique, (515) 274-0118, 114 5th St., Valley Junction,
W. Des Moines, www.cindysboutiquevj.com (cash or check only)



**Email us at: cmadsmmail@gmail.com if you would like to be
removed or added to our newsletter email list. We will
remind you about upcoming concerts and events.**