

Happy February Folks,

We are starting to feel the anticipation of the approaching June doings we are getting a wee bit excited! Preparations are moving along well. We are pleased to announce we have secured a new pub to host the Cruinniú sessions. Hough O'Connor's Pub is just across from our host hotel, the Crowne Plaza, and about a seven minute drive from the UST campus. The owner, Peter Kingston, is a Cork man and has welcomed us to this new venue with open arms. There are rooms to host a pair of sessions and areas we can set up smaller sessions, if folks are so inclined. Parking is plentiful. Read more about Hugh O'Connors on page three of this newsletter.



Slán!

Shawn Cayson, Director

On behalf of the The Cruinniú Criú



In the meantime, if you need a Celtic fix, the South Texas Celtic Festival is happening next Saturday (Feb 22nd) in McAllen. The event is run by Cruinniú alum Angelika Eleni and is growing steadily year by year. Expect to see some Cruinniú board members in the session there Saturday evening! It will be warm; the music and doings will be great! Follow this link for event details.

<https://www.angelikaruiz.com/portfolio/irishfest>

Before I close, watch for details soon on a planned Cruinniú Céilí fundraiser in April. Last year's céilí was so much funa great family event. We will reproduce that vibe and look forward to seeing some familiar faces.

2025 INSTRUCTORS

BRENDA CASTLES

INT-ADV CONCERTINA

MÁIRTIN DE CÓGÁIN

STORYTELLING AND
CONCERT EMCEE

JOHN DOYLE

INT-ADV GUITAR

COLIN FARRELL

INT-ADV WHISTLE

KATIE GERINGER

FIDDLE FUNDAMENTALS

THERESE HONEY

INT-ADV HARP

DAVID HOWLEY

INT-ADV BANJO/MANDOLIN

PAUL MCCLURE

INT-ADV BODHRAN

MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK

INT-ADV IRISH FLUTE

ROBERT SHADDOX

BODHRAN FUNDAMENTALS

CAITLIN WARBELOW

INT-ADV FIDDLE

REGISTRATION



2025

IS OPEN

<https://gulfcoastirish.org>



COST: EARLY BIRD February 1—March 31 \$325 April 1— \$350
9 Instructional classes, 4 Irish Journeys, Céilí, Concert and sessions galore.

NEW: THIS COMES DIRECTLY FROM THE 2024 SURVEYS **1 Day Options**

COST: EARLY BIRD February 1—March 31 \$175 April 1— \$200

We are offering a **one day option** for both the **Harp and Fiddle Fundamentals**
How will this work?— Instructional units will vary in content. You select which day works for you. For specific details, e-mail us at the address below. The instructor will respond to your questions.

Email: info@gulfcoastirish.org **Subject:** One Day Option

LOCATION: University of St. Thomas Campus, Houston

ACCOMMODATION: Host Hotel, Crowne Plaza & Private Room on Campus at UST

PARKING: Secure Parking at UST, street parking also available.

MEALS: On campus, **Breakfast**— F-S-S **Lunch**—F-S-S (*you must pre register*)

See our web page for details on local restaurants.

CÉILÍ: Friday Night in the Dining Hall @UST

CONCERT: Saturday night “All Star Concert” at Jones Hall

Both céilí & concert are open to the public

SESSIONS: On UST campus and Hugh O’Connors Pub Dincans

GCC T-Shirt: Reserve your t-shirt by May 1, pick up at check-in on Friday, June 6th



IRISH WORD/ TRADITION WORD

GRÁ — Love
(graw)

MO CHROIDHE
(moh kree)

My heart, darling, dearest one

We need some
volunteers on the
ground during GCC.

For information on
this, please contact
info@gulfcoastirish.org
Subject: volunteer 2025

The Irish All Star INSTRUCTOR CONCERT

Saturday, June 7th
7:30pm, Jones Hall
Tickets \$30.00

Open to the public. We encourage you to pre-purchase tickets via our web page. If available, tickets will be sold at the door.

Hugh O'Connors Pub Dincans



will be the official location for the 2025 GCC sessions.

Members of our Board met last week with Peter Kingston, co-owner of this newly opened location of Houston's Hugh O'Connors pubs. This new pub is perfectly located for our Cruinniú sessions, just eight minutes from the University of St. Thomas and very near our host hotel. The pub

is roomy enough for two or three simultaneous sessions

Peter is a native of Cork. He has owned pubs in Cork City and Houston. He and his Irish business partner, David Roche, have been big supporters of traditional Irish music in Houston for the past



eleven years. Peter's first Houston pub, The Gorgeous Gael, hosted weekly Sunday performance by Houston's The Jig Is Up for the five years it was open, and the successor Hugh O'Connors Pubs have featured multiple traditional band performances during St. Patrick's seasons. Peter had already stated his intention to make Hugh O'Connor's

Dincans the epicenter of Irish music in Houston, so it was no surprise when he welcomed the idea of hosting the GCC sessions. He is in full support of our event and also suggested sponsoring an Irish whiskey tasting as a fundraiser (stay tuned).

They have partnered with an excellent new restaurant, On the Kirb, just a block away, on Kirby Drive, to bring delicious food to your table. Simply scan the QR code on your table, order, and the food will be brought to you.



Hugh O'Connors Pub Dincans will be hosting Houston's long standing Sunday afternoon sessions, 4-6 pm. They really know how to pour a great pint, and they have a top collection of Irish whiskeys.

If you cannot get to a session,

The McGonigal's Mucky Duck

Wednesday night session is now recorded. It is available for viewing and playing along with via YouTube.

Irish Session/Live from Norfolk Street



Is thankful for the continued support of the



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

43rd Annual NORTH TEXAS IRISH FESTIVAL



February 28 to March 2, 2025
FAIR PARK • DALLAS, TEXAS • NTIF.ORG
PRESENTED BY THE SOUTHWEST CELTIC MUSIC ASSOCIATION

FACULTY CONNECTIONS

A COLUMN DEDICATED TO CRUINNIÚ INSTRUCTOR NEWS AND INFORMATION by Laura Michaelides



Colin Farrell

We are thrilled that Colin Farrell will be teaching whistle this year at the Cruinniú.

Colin was born in Manchester, England, to a very musical family and

started playing the fiddle and tin whistle at an early age. He has since made a name for himself performing and recording with an array of great musicians in Europe and the US, including Flook, Grada, Karen Casey, Kevin Crawford, John Doyle, Patrick Doocey, The Elders, Julie Fowlis, Tim O'Brien, The Michael McGoldrick Band, The Ashley Davis Band, the Crannua Collective and notably, for the last 12 years, Lúnasa.

Colin is also a prolific composer whose tunes have been played and recorded by numerous bands and musicians. Colin holds a Masters Degree in Music from Limerick University. He currently lives in Florida with his wife and two children. When not touring, Colin has been teaching at schools and various camps around the US and Europe.

Colin's 2010 solo debut album 'On The Move' was named one of the year's 10 best albums by The Irish Echo and his second album 'Make A Note' released in 2015 was awarded Instrumental Album of the year by Live Ireland. His album "Music and Mischief", made with Kevin Crawford, has also been widely acclaimed.



Máirtín de Cógáin

The ever-entertaining, Cork-born Máirtín de Cógáin joins us once again to teach storytelling and to regale us with story and song. He will also act as emcee for our

Saturday night all-star concert and is sure to bring laughter and fun to the event. Máirtín is an All-Ireland Storytelling champion twice over. He earned a degree in Irish language from University College Cork. Not only a storyteller, he is also a ballad singer and collector, raconteur, dancer, and bodhrán player.

As an actor he has appeared in the film "The Wind that Shakes the Barley" and has co-written many productions with the Be Your Own Banana Theatre Company. Notably, he played De Bogman off-broadway in NYC. As a bodhrán player, Máirtín has shared his expertise at various events including the Catskills Irish Arts Week, Augusta Irish Week, Kansas City Irish Fest, CelticFest Mississippi, Minnesota Irish Fair, and La Crosse IrishFest.

He also leads The Máirtín de Cógáin Project and The Fuchsia Band, touring the globe, playing bodhran and sharing ballads and stories. Máirtín Cógáin's work can be found on a number of albums, including the Máirtín de Cógáin in Project's "From Cork with Love", "Soldier's Songs" with Jimmy Crowley, and "The False Start".

EDUCATION

University of St. Thomas, Houston,

The Flynn Center for Irish Studies sponsors several Irish-related events and classes each year.

www.stthom.edu

use **SEARCH** enter **Center for Irish Studies**

SESSIONS



IN YOUR AREA

ALABAMA

Every Sunday

McSharry's Irish Pub
101 N. Bancroft St., Fairhope

ARLINGTON, TX

Tuesday nights beginning 7pm. at
J. Gilligan's Bar & Grill at 400 East
Abram St.

1st Sunday 3-6pm at Hooligans
Pub 310 E. Abram St., #150

AUSTIN TX

Thursdays BD Riley's 7-10:30pm

Sunday Kelly's starts at 3pm

Tuesdays Suds Monkey 7-8:45pm

BOULDER, CO

Sunday @ 2pm East Simpson
Coffee House, Louisville

Sunday @8 pm at Liscene 1
Pub (in the Boulderado Hotel)

BRYAN, TX

Every **Wednesday** 6:30-9:00pm
Murphys Law, 107 N Main St.

DENVER, CO

Tuesdays and Wednesdays

@ 6pm at Clancy's in Wheatridge
Sunday @ 4pm, Celtic on Market
Irish Pub

Sunday @ 3pm @ Abbey Tavern

DENTON, TX

2nd & 4th **Saturdays**, 3-5pm
meets at Steve's Wine,
111 Industrial St.

EDMOND, OK

Every **Monday** evening @ 7pm
The Patriarch Craft Beer House
& Lawn , 9 E Edwards St.

FORT COLLINS, CO

1st Sunday @ 2pm
at Avogadro's Number,
605 Main St.

3rd Sunday @ 4pm at
Equinox Brewing,
133 Remington St

Mondays @ 7pm at The Forge
Publick House,
255 Old Firehouse Alley

GRANBURY, TX

3rd Saturday of each month
6-9:00pm at D'Vine Wine,
107 E. Bridge St.

HOUSTON, TX

Sundays 4-6pm
Hugh O'Connors Dincans
5010 Dincans St.
Monday 7:30-9:30p.m.
Chelsea Wine Bar
4106 E Nasa Pkwy,
El Lago, TX 77586 (upstairs)

Wednesday 7:30-10:00pm
McGonigel's Mucky Duck,
2425 Norfolk St.

LOCKHART, TX

Meets **monthly**. Doors open at
4pm. Sessions runs 4:30-8pm.

LOCKHART... contd,

All ages and levels are welcome.
O'Donnell's Irish Pub,
119 E San Antonia St.

MANSFIELD, TX

3rd **Friday** 5-7pm meets at
The Dirty Job Brewing,
117 N Main St.

McKINNEY, TX

Wednesday evenings 7-10p.m,
Celt Irish Pub, 100 N
Tennessee St.

OKLAHOMA

4th Saturday of the month
2-4pm at The American Banjo
Museum, 9 E Sheridan Ave.
Oklahoma City
1st Sunday of each month
2-4pm @ Bishop Quigleys
1810 S Cincinnati Ave, Tulsa

RICHARDSON, TX

First Monday of each month
7-10pm at Gillespie's Tavern,
3500 Shire Blvd, Suite #112

SAN MARCOS, TX

1st & 3rd **Wednesdays**
7-9:30pm @ Wake the Dead
Coffee House,
1432 Old Ranch Rd 12



SESSIONS

In YOUR AREA

Chicago Area Sessions

CHICAGO AREA SESSIONS

Updated: June 18th, 2024

Venue	Addr	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Chief O'Neill's Pub	3471 N Elston Ave, Chicago 60618			8				5
Clancy's Pizza Pub	4624 W 103rd St, Oak Lawn 60453		7	7		7		
Corrib Irish Pub	5522 N Elston Ave, Chicago 60630				8			4
Gaelic Park Chicago****	6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452				7:30			
Galway Arms	2442 N Clark St, Chicago 60614		8	8	8			8
Galway Bay	500 W. Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL		8					
Chicago Street Pub	75 N Chicago St, Joliet, IL	7:30						
Irish American Heritage Center	4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago 60630				7			
Lanigan's Pub *	3119 W 111th St, Chicago 60655							5
McGonigal's Pub**	105 S. Cook St., Barrington, IL			7				
Mrs Murphy & Sons Irish Bistro	3905 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago 60613			7:30				1
Quigley's Irish Pub***	43 E Jefferson St, Naperville, IL			7:30				
The Celtic Knot	626 Church St., Evanston, IL							4
The Grafton	4530 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago 60625							5
The Harp & Fiddle	110 Main Street, Park Ridge, IL				8			
The Kerryman	661 N. Clark St, Chicago, IL							5
The Wolfhound Bar & Kitchen	3188 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL		7:30					

* Oldest continuous session in Chicago

** Alternate Wednesdays – check with the pub for any given week

*** 3rd Wednesdays

**** 1st & 3rd Thursdays



Tell us about a session in your area
email us at:- info@gulfcoastirish.org

Celebrating in March

CHICAGO AREA

THE DIRTY WELLIES

are playing at Franklins Public House,
12306 S Harlem Ave,
Palos Heights, IL 60463
7-9:30 pm
March 15th



FB: The Dirty Wellies
www.thefirtywellies.com



A 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization led by volunteers with a passion for Irish traditional music. See DONATE on our web page.
All financial donations are tax deductible.



GCC
is a



HOUSTON SCHOOL
OF IRISH MUSIC



Contact The Cruí

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