



CRUINNEWS

March 2025

Join us for our sixth annual gathering
June 5th – June 8th, 2025

Registration is now open at www.gulfcoastirish.org

Greetings all,

Happy St. Patrick's! There's always lots of good music to be had in March for we lovers of Irish Trad! While March will be busy, we are working up an event in April at our host pub here in Houston. We have partnered with the Hugh O'Connors management team along with the good folk over at Glendalough Distillers to present a whiskey tasting event on Sunday, April 6th from 4-7 pm. There will be live music, dancers from the Irish Dance troupe of Clann Kelly, and of course, some fine whiskeys and gin. The Hugh O'Connor's bartenders also pour a proper pint of Guinness! This is a fundraising event for the Cruinniú to offset our considerable expense in putting on the June event. You can find details and purchase advance tickets here gulfcoastirish.org/whiskey

Cruinniú event registration continues. We find ourselves with just a few rooms left in the campus dorms. If you want to stay close to the action, this is the best way to do it. The dorms have private baths, climate control, refrigerator, and microwave and are well-secured. They provide a close retreat to nap, return e-mails, or simply to freshen up. We got great feedback from students this past year. Sign-up now to take advantage of this great option.

More to come next month as we close in on the June event!



Slán!
Shawn Cayson,
Director

On behalf of the The Cruinniú Criú



Our 2025 Instructors

Brenda Castles

int-adv concertina

Máirtín de Cógáin

storytelling & 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



Cruinniú 2025 Registration is now open!

9 Instructional classes, 4 Irish Journeys, Céili, Concert, and Sessions galore.

There's less than a month to take advantage of the Early Bird Savings!

EARLY BIRD Special: *Ends March 31* \$325
Standard Registration: April 1 – June 5 \$350

NEW: One Day Option

(You asked for this in the 2024 surveys. You got it!)
We are now offering a **one day only** option for both the **Harp and Fiddle Fundamentals** classes.

One Day EARLY BIRD Special: *Ends March 31* \$175
One Day Standard Registration: April 1 – June 5 \$200

How will this work? Instructional content will vary by day. For specific details, e-mail us at the address below and the instructor will respond to your questions. You select which day works best for you.

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

LOCATION: The University of St. Thomas Campus, Houston, TX

ACCOMMODATION: Host Hotel, Crowne Plaza or Private Room on the UST Campus

PARKING: Secure Parking at the UST parking garage, Free street parking is also available.

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

See our web page for details on local restaurants.

CÉILI: Friday Night in the Dining Hall at UST

CONCERT: Saturday night "All Star Concert" at Jones Hall

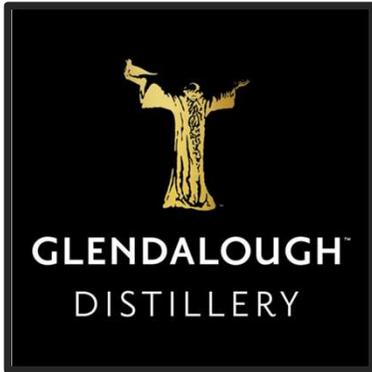
Both the Céili and Concert are open to the public





Glendalough Whiskey Tasting

Sunday, April 6th



The bottles shown are for illustration purposes only.
These may not necessarily be the spirits served at the event.

On Sunday April 6th, the kind folks at Hugh O'Connors, Dincans are partnering with Glendalough Distillery to host a whiskey tasting. All proceeds from the event will go to offsetting the considerable expense incurred putting on the Gulf Coast Cruinniú. Glendalough is a craft distiller located in the Wicklow Mountains in Ireland and this tasting will showcase three of their whiskeys and two of their gins.

Where: Hugh O'Connors, Dincans 5010 Dincans Street, Houston, TX

When: April 6th, Sunday from 4 until we run out of whiskey

The event is open to the public. Tickets will be available at the event.

Tickets for the tasting: \$35

Advanced tickets are available at gulfcoastirish.org/whiskey

Seatings are on the half hour, first come-first served.

Needless to say, you must be at least 21 years old to participate.

Also... Irish Music and Dancing

Hugh O'Connors will also have live music from the Houston Session players and Irish step dancing from Houston's Clann Kelly. Come enjoy a pint while you wait for your seating, or even if you aren't joining the whiskey tasting! No tickets needed to enjoy the music and dancing.



Louvain's Corner

IRISH WORD / TRADITION of the month

Teacht isteach (tcheech ish teach) : Come on in... (to our house)

When visiting a home for the first time enter via the front door.

True friends and family enter through the back door.

Donations

Thank you to those who have donated.

Please remember that many companies have business matching donation program for 501 (c) (3) non-profits.

Please check if your employer has such a program and consider giving to GCC.

All donations are tax deductible.

Click the DONATE tab on our web page.

Education

University of St. Thomas, Houston

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

Visit www.stthom.edu and search **Center for Irish Studies**

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers on the ground for the GCC.

If you are interested, please contact

info@gulfcoastirish.org

Subject: Volunteering at GCC



If you can't get to a session, the Houston McGonigel's Mucky Duck Wednesday night session is now broadcast live at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@LIVEfromNorfolkStreet>

You can watch previous sessions at:

<https://livefromnorfolkstreet.com/blogs/session>



If you have gigs, concerts or sessions you'd like to promote, email us at info@gulfcoastirish.org
We will publish it in our April newsletter.



**New home for the
Cruinniú Sessions!**



Faculty Connections

A column dedicated to Cruinniú instructor news and information .. by Laura Michaelides



Katie Geringer

We're pleased to bring Houston-based fiddler Katie Geringer back to the Cruinniú to teach fiddle fundamentals. This is a one- or three-day class tailored to classical violin players or fiddlers coming from other folk idioms who want to step into the Irish traditional style. Katie's music evolved from her classical training and her experiences performing bluegrass and old-time music in the southeast where she grew up. She then quickly gravitated towards Irish music and began listening, learning, and imitating as much as she could from notable players in the genre.

Katie holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education and a certificate in Violin Performance from Florida State University, as well as a master's degree in Traditional Irish Music Performance from the University of Limerick. While there, she competed at the Limerick County Fleadh and was awarded 1st place in the Senior Division. She has also toured the northeast and midwest US as a fiddle player for the Dublin Irish Dance production.

A passionate, thoughtful, and in-demand teacher, Katie has taught at summer camps, in-school workshops, the Irish Ensemble at Florida State University, the Houston School of Irish Music, the Gulf Coast Cruinniú, and the O'Flaherty Irish Music Retreat. She has also presented at the American String Teachers Association national conference on teaching Irish music authentically in the classroom. Katie is certified to teach the Rolland Method (Level 1), a method which uses healthy, relaxed movement to promote ease and fluidity in string playing. She also maintains an active private studio of both classical and Irish fiddle students.



Therese Honey

We're fortunate to have Therese Honey joining us to teach harp. She is a dynamic and motivating instructor who loves to share her knowledge of technique, repertoire, and musical history with her students. Workshop attendees can select a one- or three-day option to study harp at the Cruinniú with Therese. Her workshop is appropriate for both classical harpists who would like to try out a different genre and already involved with Irish traditional music.

An early childhood fascination with the harp later blossomed into a successful career as a professional harpist and recording artist for Therese. She studied for 14 years with Bea Rose, the principle harpist for the Houston Symphony, and Professor of Harp at the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston. She specializes in the early music of the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Baroque eras, as well as the music of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

Therese plays both Celtic, early, and classical pedal harps. She tours throughout the United States and has also performed in Ireland. She performs with the [Texas Early Music Project \(TEMP\)](#), and is a member of the band Wyndnwyre, which plays the traditional music of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, as well as 13th c. Medieval music. She also occasionally joins forces with the early music ensemble [Istanpitta](#).

Therese maintains an active teaching studio in the Houston area. In addition to her private practice, she does workshops on a variety of topics. Therese has recorded seven solo albums, has also collaborated with quite a number of other recording artists, and is also the author of seven books on the harp.



We are thankful for the continued support of



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



Céili Fundraiser Announcement



We are going to have a Céili Fundraiser Sometime in April. Time and Location TBA. Watch your email and social feeds for more details as we finalize the plans

Cruinniú 2025 Instructor Playlist

We've compiled a playlist of a few tunes (and a story from Máirtín) featuring some of our instructors for your listening enjoyment. Follow the links below to the playlists on Spotify, YouTube, and Apple Music. Enjoy!

 [YouTube Playlist](#)

 [Spotify Playlist](#)

 [Apple Music Playlist](#)

If the links above do not work, cut and past the links below in your browser

Spotify: <https://tinyurl.com/GCCSpotify> YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/GCCYT> Apple: <https://tinyurl.com/GCC-Apple>

That's all for this month! Watch your email, social media feeds, and our website (gulfcoastirish.org) and for more information as it becomes available.

The Gulf Coast Cruinniú

is 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 project of



Contact the Criú

Director: Shawn@gulfcoastirish.org

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Sponsorship: Erica@gulfcoastirish.org

Questions: Info@gulfcoastirish.org





Sessions in your area:

Wonder where to go for a session in your area or while travelling?
Go to <https://thesession.org/sessions> and search for your area.

ALABAMA

Sundays 6-8:30pm
McSharry's Irish Pub
101 N. Bancroft St., Fairhope

COLORADO

BOULDER, CO
Sunday 2pm
East Simpson Coffee House, 201 E
Simpson St

Sunday 8pm
The License No. 1. Pub
(in the Boulderado Hotel)
13th And Spruce St

DENVER, CO
Sunday 4pm
Celtic on Market Irish Pub
1400 Market St

Sunday 3pm
Abbey Tavern
5151 East Colfax Ave

Tuesdays 6pm
Wednesdays 6pm at
Clancy's Irish Pub
7000 W 38th Ave

FORT COLLINS, CO
1st Sunday 2pm
Avogadro's Number
605 Main Street

3rd Sunday 4pm
Equinox Brewing
133 Remington St

Mondays 7pm
The Forge Publick House
255 Old Firehouse Alley

OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY
4th Saturdays 2-4pm
The American Banjo Museum, 9 E
Sheridan Ave

TULSA, OK
1st Sunday 2-4pm
Bishop Quigleys
1810 S Cincinnati Ave

EDMOND, OK
Mondays 7pm
*The Patriarch Craft Beer House &
Lawn*
9 E Edwards St

TEXAS

DALLAS AREA
See Next Page

AUSTIN, TX
Sunday 7pm
Kelly's
Tuesdays 7-8:45pm
Suds Monkey

Thursdays 7-10pm
BD Rileys

BRYAN, TX
Wednesday 6:30-9:00pm
Murphys Law
107 N Main S

GRANBURY, TX
3rd Saturday 6-9pm
D'Vine Wine
107 E. Bridge S

HOUSTON, TX

Sunday 4 - 6pm
Hugh O'Connors Dincans
5010 Dincans Street, Houston

Monday 7:30-9:30p.m.
Chelsea Wine Bar
4106 E Nasa Pkwy,
El Lago, TX (upstairs)

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





Sessions in the Greater Dallas, TX area

Thanks to Ken Fleming for this info

Monthly Session at Gillespie's Tavern 1st Mondays

This is an open session led by accordionist Ken Fleming, and all levels are welcomed. Players receive one free drink. For info on the pub, go to <https://gillespiestavern.com/>. For directions, go to [MAP](#). Please contact times@irishtradmusic.org for more details.

Weekly TIMES Session at the Celt Irish Pub in McKinney – Every Wednesday

The weekly TIMES sessions at the Celt Irish Pub are held every Wednesday evening from 7-10 p.m. All levels are welcomed, and players get one free drink. For more info on the pub, go to <https://www.theceltmckinney.com/>. For directions, go to [MAP](#). Please contact times@irishtradmusic.org for more details. You can also learn more about the session on the Celt Irish Pub Session Facebook [PAGE](#).

Weekly Session at J. Gilligan's in Arlington – Every Tuesday

This weekly public session is held on Tuesday nights beginning at 7 p.m. at J. Gilligan's Bar & Grill at 400 East Abram Street, Arlington, TX. All levels are welcomed. For more info on the pub, go to <http://www.jgilligans.com/>. For directions, go to [MAP](#). You can learn more details about the session on the Gilligan's Session Facebook [PAGE](#).

Session at Steve's Wine Bar in Denton – 2nd & 4th Saturdays

This public session is held on the 2nd and 4th Saturday afternoons from 3-5 p.m. at Steve's Wine located at 111 Industrial Street in Denton, Texas. Each session player receives a discount on beverages. For more info on the bar, go to <https://www.steveswinebar.com/>. For directions, go to [MAP](#).

Monthly Learning Sessions in Dallas Area – 2nd & 4th Saturdays

The Dallas Slow Sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 2-4 p.m. Please contact Jim Wells at jimwellssr123@gmail.com for more details.

Monthly Session at D'Vine Wine in Granbury – 3rd Saturdays

This public session is held on the 3rd Saturdays from 6-9 p.m. at D'Vine Wine at 107 E. Bridge St., Granbury, TX. You can learn more details on their Facebook [PAGE](#). For more info on the winery shop, go to <https://dvinewinegranbury.com/>. For directions, go to [MAP](#).

Monthly Session at Dirty Job Brewing in Mansfield – 3rd Fridays

This public session is held on the 3rd Fridays from 5-7 p.m. at Dirty Job Brewing at 117 N Main St, Mansfield, TX. You can learn more details about the session on the Arlington-Mansfield Sessions Facebook [PAGE](#). For more info on the bar, go to <https://www.dirtyjobbrewing.com/>. For directions, go to [MAP](#).

Monthly Session at Hooligans Pub in Arlington – 1st Sundays

This public session is held 1st Sundays from 3-6 p.m. at Hooligans Pub at 310 E. Abram St., #150, Arlington, TX. The first 40 minutes is devoted to learning tunes. You can learn more details about the session on the Arlington-Mansfield Sessions Facebook [PAGE](#). For more info on the bar, go to <https://www.facebook.com/hooliganspubarlington/>. For directions, go to [MAP](#).

TIMES Session Players Perform Every Sunday at Celt Irish Pub

If you like Irish trad music, come listen to some of our areas best players each Sunday from 3-6 p.m. at the Celt Irish Pub in McKinney. Players representing TIMES are seated each time, so the music changes from week to week based on who the players are. But one thing is certain, you'll hear the "pure drop" from a variety of talented musicians. To see the schedule of players, go to [SCHEDULE](#).





Chicago Area Sessions

Updated: June 18, 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 111 th 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

Upcoming Performances & Concerts

Chicago Area

Saturday, March 15th: *The Dirty Wellies* Mar 15th are playing at Franklins Public House, 12306 S Harlem Ave, Palos Heights, IL 60463 7-9:30 pm
FB: The Dirty Wellies www.thedirtywellies.com

Dallas Area

TIMES Session Players Perform Every Sunday at Celt Irish Pub

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Houston Area

Saturday, March 15th: *HUP!* will split in 2 and half the band will be at Texas Leaguer 12 – 2pm then 3 – 5pm at Hugh O'Connors Marq-E. The other half will be at Finn McCool's from 4-6pm

Monday Mar 17th: *HUP!* Will split in 2 again and be at Hugh O'Connors Marq-E, 1-3pm, Hugh O'Connors Dincans, 3-5pm and at Finn McCool's from 4-6pm

Saturday, March 29th 3 pm *Wyndhwyre* will perform a free concert at Winnoak Pocket Park in The Woodlands at the corner of Brooksedge Dr. N. and Fallsbury Way in The Woodlands

Sunday, April 27 2 PM *Paul Brock Band* at Cullen Hall at the University of St Thomas
Free and open to the Public

