



# CRUINNEWS

May 2025

Join us for our sixth annual gathering  
June 5<sup>th</sup> – June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Register at [www.gulfcoastirish.org](http://www.gulfcoastirish.org)*

Hello my Irish Trad friends!

We are on the final leg of a long journey toward what will be a mighty weekend of tunes, dance, song, and fellowship beginning on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, with our kickoff session at Hugh O'Connors Pub! We are starting classes a little later this year to allow for late night session activity, rest, and practice.

A reminder that we have two clinics on Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup>, before the Cruinniú event weekend. One is with Mike McGoldrick focusing on low whistle and the other with John Doyle giving focus to song and song-writing. These clinics will run from 10a - 3p on the UST campus in Strake Hall with a 1-hour lunch break. The suggested donation is \$50. Please e-mail [info@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:info@gulfcoastirish.org) if you would like to register or have questions. Such a great opportunity to sit with these masters!

Also, we are again having a céili on campus on Friday evening at the Crooker Center Dining Hall at UST. It was such great fun last year! We had 250+ in attendance with a great family atmosphere! The céili will feature an all-star band made up of faculty musicians and will also feature superb dancers from Clann Kelly to call and teach the set dances. Refreshments will be available on a donation basis to include beer, wine, and sodas. Don't forget your dancing shoes!

Watch for a mailing soon which will include an updated student guide with all of the very latest information including the Cruinniú schedule, maps, class locations, points of interest, and a checklist of items to bring. We are "ALL SYSTEMS GO!" and are looking forward to connecting with old friends, making new ones, and sharing tunes around this music we love!

If you have any questions in advance of the event, ping us at [info@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:info@gulfcoastirish.org) and we'll get them answered for you.

See you in June!



Slán!  
Shawn Cayson,  
Director

On behalf of the The Cruinniú Criú



[gulfcoastirish.org](http://gulfcoastirish.org)

## 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, 6 Irish Journeys,  
Céili, Concert, and Sessions galore.

**Registration: \$350**

## **NEW: One Day Option for the Harp and Fiddle Fundamentals classes**

*(You asked for this in the 2024 surveys. You got it!)*

We are now offering a **one day only** option for  
the **Harp and Fiddle Fundamentals** classes.

**One-Day Registration: \$200**

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

**Email:** [info@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:info@gulfcoastirish.org)    **Subject:** One Day Option

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

**ACCOMMODATION:** Host Hotel: Crowne Plaza: Houston Med Ctr-Galleria Area. For  
reservations, email [info@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:info@gulfcoastirish.org); Subject: Hotel Accommodation. Give us your  
name and phone number and we will contact the hotel on your behalf. If rooms are  
available, the hotel will give you the GCC rate and call you to for details.

Campus private rooms are sold out.

**PARKING:** Secure parking in the UST parking garage, Free street parking.

**MEALS:** The deadline has passed for pre-registering meals. See our web page or last  
months newsletter 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 céilí and concert are open to the public.





## Attractions Near the UST Campus ... by Laura Michaelides

This is the second of two articles about attractions in Houston close to the University of St. Thomas. If you have a bit of spare time, the University is right in the heart of a culturally dynamic area with many rewarding cultural opportunities.

### Walking Distance from Campus

Just west of the University lies the extensive museum campus of the **Menil Foundation**, as well as the Rothko Chapel. For those who appreciate art, the Menil is an important destination. John and Dominique de Menil were art patrons and philanthropists who founded the foundation in 1954. In 1987 the main museum opened, in a gorgeous building designed by the renowned architect Renzo Piano. The Museum now includes the Main Building, the Drawing Institute, the Cy Twombly Gallery, the Dan Flavin Installation at Richmond Hall, and the Fresco Building. Surrounding the campus is a public park area that is both welcoming and lushly green.

Art lovers from all over the world seek out the Menil, as well as the **Rothko Chapel**, which is a stone's throw away from campus. This is a non-denominational contemplative octagonal space, which holds murals by the artist Mark Rothko. The building was designed by Philip Johnson, Howard Barnstone, and Eugene Aubry.

At the north end of the University's campus, adjacent to the Cruinniú events, lies the **Chapel of St. Basil**. If you want to step out for a few minutes during the weekend, step into this beautiful and quiet space for a few minutes of downtime. Both the University campus and the chapel were designed by the famed modern architect, Philip Johnson.





## A Longer Walk from Campus

Walk fifteen minutes away from the University, and you are in the heart of Houston's Museum District. The sprawling campus of **Houston Museum of Fine Arts** includes the **Cullen Sculpture Garden**, the Caroline Wiess Law Building, the Beck Building, the Kinder Building, a cafe and a restaurant. Here you'll find permanent exhibits of art from around the world as well as important traveling exhibits. Don't miss the passage between the main building and the Beck building, the James Turrell tunnel, which is quite thrilling.

Nearby is Houston's **Museum of Natural Science** comprising 433,000 square feet devoted to fantastic exhibits which study everything from dinosaurs, butterflies at the Cockrell Butterfly exhibit, the skies and stars at the Burke Baker Planetarium, gems, the human body, and lots, lots more.

Also in this area is the **Houston Holocaust Museum, Houston Museum of African American Culture, the Buffalo Soldiers Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Arts Houston, the Asia Society, the Center for Contemporary Craft, the Houston Zoo, and Hermann Park.**

As you can, see there is a lot to do and see. Take an extra day or two and explore some of what Houston has to offer.





# You Can Help!

Help spread the word about our upcoming event. At the end of the newsletter are the three official event flyers. Print them out and post them wherever you think like-minded, intelligent, individuals like yourself might see them.



## 'A bita Irish'

**Uisce Beatha** (*ish-ka bah-ha*)  
Water of Life or Whiskey

Sean's Bar, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, Ireland is recognized by Guinness World Records as the oldest pub in Ireland. Many believe it to be the oldest operating pub globally, Sean's Pub dates back to 900 AD and is recognized as one of the 'The top '25 most incredible bars in the world' & in the 'Top 50 bars to blow your mind'.

- also -

Ireland is the only country in the world to have a musical instrument as its national symbol. As a testament to the country's love for music, Ireland's national emblem is a harp. It's use as a national symbol dates back to the 13th century.

## 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](http://www.stthom.edu) and search **Center for Irish Studies**



If you have gigs, concerts or sessions you'd like to promote, email us at [info@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:info@gulfcoastirish.org). We will publish it in our next newsletter.



## 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.

## Volunteers Needed!

**We need volunteers** on the ground for the GCC. If you are interested, please contact [info@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto: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:  
[www.youtube.com/@LIVEfromNorfolkStreet](http://www.youtube.com/@LIVEfromNorfolkStreet)

You can watch previous sessions at:  
[livefromnorfolkstreet.com/blogs/session](http://livefromnorfolkstreet.com/blogs/session)



**New home for the  
Cruinniú Sessions!**







We are thankful for the continued support of the



Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs

## Cruinniú 2025 Instructor Playlist

Are you looking forward to a great Cruinniú weekend? Getting ready for music, friends, camaraderie, learning, and all-around merriment? Here's a playlist of music from our 2025 Cruinniú faculty members for you to enjoy while you're waiting for the big event!

For the playlist without any commercial interruptions, Apple provides the best platform:



[Apple Music Playlist](#)

For those without access to Apple Music, go to Spotify:



[Spotify Playlist](#)

Or, Youtube:



[YouTube Playlist](#)

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

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

That's all for this month! Watch your email, social media feeds, and our website ([gulfcoastirish.org](http://gulfcoastirish.org)) 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](mailto:Shawn@gulfcoastirish.org)

**Registrar:** [Registrar@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:Registrar@gulfcoastirish.org)

**Newsletter:** [Info@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:Info@gulfcoastirish.org)

**Media & Marketing:** [Laura@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:Laura@gulfcoastirish.org)

**Sponsorship:** [Erica@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:Erica@gulfcoastirish.org)

**Questions:** [Info@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto: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

### **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](mailto:times@irishtradmusic.org) for more details.

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

The TIMES sessions are held 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](mailto:times@irishtradmusic.org) for more details. You can also learn more about the session on the Celt Irish Pub Session Facebook [PAGE](#).

### **J. Gilligan's in Arlington – Every Tuesday**

This public session begins 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](#).

### **Steve's Wine Bar in Denton – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays**

This public session is held 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](#).

### **Learning Sessions in Dallas Area – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays**

The Dallas Slow Sessions are held from 2-4 p.m. Please contact Jim Wells at [jimwellssr123@gmail.com](mailto:jimwellssr123@gmail.com) for more details.

### **D'Vine Wine in Granbury – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays**

This public session is held 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](#).

### **Dirty Job Brewing in Mansfield – 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays**

This public session is held 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 <https://www.dirtyjobbrewing.com/>. For directions, go to [MAP](#).

### **Hooligans Pub in Arlington – 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays**

This public session is held 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 is playing. 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](#).



## Upcoming Performances & Concerts

### Houston Area

**Friday June 6** 7 PM

Gulf Coast Cruinniú Céili

Cooker Hall at the University of St Thomas

**Saturday June 7** 7:30 PM

Gulf Coast Cruinniú All-Star Concert

Jones Hall at the University of St Thomas



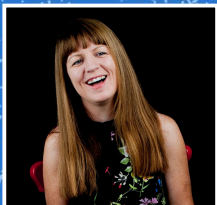


THE 6th  
ANNUAL

# THE GULF COAST CRUINNÍÚ

Irish Trad on the Third Coast

## Classes, Culture, Céili, Sessions & Craic



Brenda Castles  
Concertina



Máirtín de Cógáin  
Storytelling



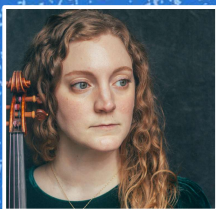
John Doyle  
Guitar



Colin Farrell  
Whistle



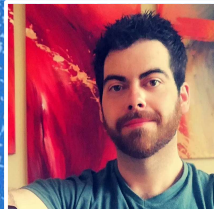
David Howley  
Banjo/Mandolin



Katie Geringer  
Fiddle



Therese Honey  
Harp



Paul McClure  
Bodhran



Michael McGoldrick  
Flute



Robert Shaddox  
Bodhran



Caitlin Warbelow  
Fiddle



Banjodilly

Sessions: June 5 – 8

Classes: June 6 – 8

Ceili: June 6

Concert: June 7

## June 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

University of St Thomas | Houston, TX

For more info visit  
[GulfCoastIrish.org](http://GulfCoastIrish.org)

or email [info@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:info@gulfcoastirish.org)







# THE GULF COAST CRUINNÍÚ

Irish Trad on the Third Coast

## Céili

A Céili (kay-lee) is a dance party featuring Irish social dancing

- Open to the public, the dances will be taught
- No prior experience is necessary, suitable for all ages
- Wear comfy shoes and come prepared for fun!
- The dance band is your Cruinniú All-Star Instructors!
- Sodas, beer and wine will be available



Watch clips of last  
Year's Céili here

**UST Students and Faculty get in free! Bring your school ID**

**Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 7 PM**

**Crooker Hall, Univ. of St. Thomas**



For more info visit  
[GulfCoastIrish.org](http://GulfCoastIrish.org) or email  
[info@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:info@gulfcoastirish.org)





THE 6th  
ANNUAL

# THE GULF COAST CRUINNÍÚ

Irish Trad on the Third Coast

## All-Star Traditional Irish Music Concert



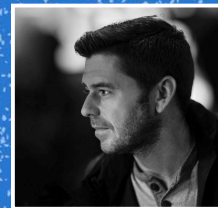
Brenda Castles  
Concertina



Máirtín de Cógáin  
Storytelling



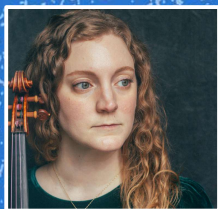
John Doyle  
Guitar



Colin Farrell  
Whistle



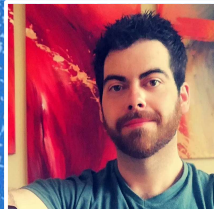
David Howley  
Banjo/Mandolin



Katie Geringer  
Fiddle



Therese Honey  
Harp



Paul McClure  
Bodhran



Michael McGoldrick  
Flute



Robert Shaddox  
Bodhran



Caitlin Warbelow  
Fiddle



Banjodilly



Concert  
Highlights Video

Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 7:30 PM  
Crooker Hall, Univ. of St. Thomas



For more info visit  
[GulfCoastIrish.org](http://GulfCoastIrish.org) or email  
[info@gulfcoastirish.org](mailto:info@gulfcoastirish.org)

