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COMHALTAS



November
2021

Winnipeg Comhaltas Newsletter

Welcome to the November newsletter!
This is a transitional month, meaning that we are compiling a new membership list, based on membership renewals. Congratulations if you're reading this, because you have renewed your membership for 2021/22, and we thank you very much for your support! It's great to have you on board for a new season. Although we're a small organization, we are united in our appreciation for the music, language and culture of Ireland. As we head into the Fall/Winter season, keep in mind that this is a Comhaltas community newsletter, intended as a forum for your ideas, thoughts or anything you wish to share with the community. Submissions are always welcomed, and as always, we love hearing hear from you. As a Comhaltas member, you are encouraged to start a project, or suggest a project such as a workshop, class, event...anything you'd like to see happen in your community. All ideas will be considered for financial or organizational support from Comhaltas Winnipeg. We are here to serve you. So thank you once again for your continued support and friendship. We're looking forward to seeing you at a session or two around town!

**AGM & Meeting 1pm
& IRISH TRAD SESSION 2-4pm
AT FT WHYTE CENTRE SUNDAY
DEC 12TH**

Hope you enjoy this short concert by Martin Hayes

<https://youtu.be/h8VrRwc7hIQ>

Meet our Members
will resume next month

The mandolin in Irish Music

The mandolin is underrated and underused in Irish music, in my opinion, which is unfortunate because it is perfectly suited to the music's ornamentation and rhythmic emphasis. The mandolin is similar in size to the fiddle, and the neck of mandolin and fiddle are almost identical. The string tuning is the same as the fiddle, so fiddle tunes can be played easily. The mandolin has a sweet, beautiful tone. But in Ireland, the banjo is more likely to be seen in sessions, because it has a louder voice, and it's an octave lower in register, thus making it more prominent in a session. Yet if you are not concerned about being "loud" then the mandolin works well. There is something pleasant about the tone of a mandolin, and I hope to hear more of it in future sessions, here in Winnipeg. Between the banjo and the mandolin, the banjo will probably continue to be the favoured instrument in Ireland, but let us also appreciate the wonderful mandolin.

A Message from Chair of Comhaltas Winnipeg : Susan Hammer

Hello fellow Comhaltas members and lovers of ITM.

This is an interesting time of year. We have All Hallows' Eve, Halloween, Samhain in the old Celtic calendar and of course on Nov 4th we change our clocks back one hour! It's a time of change.

We are all hoping that there will be many good changes in the next few months. Pandemic restrictions are starting to lift, people are gradually returning to the "new normal".

Members are organizing and/or attending activities again. The Thursday Session and the Slow Session Group meet weekly at the Irish Club, the Flatland Ceili Band meet regularly, there's a new group of members at Shannon's Irish Pub downtown and two workshops were organized by participants (mandolin and fiddle).

So, here's to a brighter future of lots of music and craic! Cold weather is coming, but there's many interesting Irish Traditional Music Videos and resources to explore. Here's just a few:

<https://www.tg4.ie/en/player/categories/irish-music-series/?series=Geantra%C3%AD&genre=Ceol>

<https://itma.ie/>

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDoTMMj8C22_SDUiMwuSxQDmpCuxFS5s5

TG4 is Ireland's Irish language TV channel. They have some of the best videos on Irish traditional music. When watching, you can add English subtitles by clicking on the link at the bottom of the video (just to the left of the little gear icon).

<https://www.tg4.ie/en/player/categories/irish-music-series/?series=An%20Fhidil%20Bheo%20-%20Ceol%20an%20Northern%20Fiddler&genre=Ceol>

<https://www.tg4.ie/en/player/categories/irish-music-series/?series=S%C3%A9%20Mo%20Laoch&genre=Ceol>

<https://www.tg4.ie/en/player/categories/irish-music-series/?series= Sruth&genre=Ceol>

REMINDER:

**MARK ON YOUR CALENDARS OUR AGM& Meeting1pm
& IRISH TRAD SESSION2-4pm
AT FT WHYTE CENTRE SUNDAY DEC 12TH**

We meet in the free-admission main building, so there's no entry fee. All members are welcome to participate in the meeting (which is only one hour) and then play in the session (2-4pm).

Hope to see you there!!!