

Merry Christmas
to one and all!



December
2021



Winnipeg Comhaltas Newsletter



COMHALTAS WINNIPEG INC

Annual General Meeting & Irish Session

Ft Whyte Alive, 1961 McCreary Road

Sunday December 12, 2021,

1pm Meeting (in Board Room)

2-4pm CCE Irish Traditional Music Session (in Restaurant)

For more information:

Email: HammersMusic@gmail.com

Cell: 204-894-4499

ALL COMHALTAS MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

Message from CCE Winnipeg Chair.

Welcome and **thank you** for renewing your membership in our local Winnipeg Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann aka Comhaltas Winnipeg. We hope you will join us on Dec 12th for a short 1hr meeting (in the Boardroom) followed by a 2hr session in the Ft Whyte Alive foyer. All the info is located elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As this is the beginning of our new fiscal year, we'll need a short AGM to vote on who will be on our Board. We are looking to fill two positions; Treasurer, Youth representative. The other Board members have agreed to remain unless anyone else wants to put their name in for consideration/vote.

(message continued on page 2)

Meet Our Members

Craig Mackenzie



Craig's bio on page 2

Message from CCE Chair (continued)

If you are interested in more info contact me, Susan – HammersMusic@gmail.com or cell: 204-8944.
Chair: Susan Hammer
Vice Chair: Valerie Kitcher
Secretary: Paul Hammer
Treasurer: Vacant
Public Relations: Traicy Robertson
Youth Representative: Vacant
Irish Language Officer: Maureen Taggart
Auditors: (2) Gord Menzies,
B.Renton Goodwyn

Remember to bring your instruments to join in the Irish Traditional Music Session after the meeting!
See you there,
Susan

Tune of the Month

<https://youtu.be/msMSvIgfFw0>

Kevin Burke and John Carty performing The Morning Star, Pigeon on the Gate, The Jolly Tinker at a house concert in Chicago at the home of Steve & Katy O'Bryan.

We thought you'd enjoy this informal concert by two of Ireland's most well known musicians, John Carty and Kevin Burke. So this month, just relax and enjoy the concert...there are no tunes to learn, there is no homework to do. You will be expected to get back to the grindstone next month. (ha ha!)

Enjoy the holiday season!

Contact: Paul Hammer
phpauleo@gmail.com

Craig's Bio

A few years back (pre-Covid) I had the good fortune and pleasure of being invited to attend a number of Irish Slow Session workshops at the Irish Club in Winnipeg. These Tuesday evening sessions were led by Daniel Neilson and were open to anyone with an interest in learning to play Irish/Celtic tunes. I found these gathering very rewarding, meeting a number of fine folks who shared a common interest. Daniel did a great job, guiding us through the tune of the day to a comfort level tempo for the group. Links to sheet music and recordings were provided on the Slow Session website. As one who was classically trained I relied on the sheet music (not the best way to learn session tunes but it worked for me). Initially I played the tin whistle or provided the occasional guitar accompaniment. During the fall of '19 I became intrigued by those participants playing the mandolin and decided to give this instrument a try. As a guitar player I found adapting to the mandolin fairly natural and there is a wealth of online resources to help with technique as well as sheet music to use as a guide. Needless to say that during the "Covid Lock Downs" learning and practicing Irish tunes was an invaluable pastime. I have also found that multi-track recording and editing with Garage Band invaluable. This application permits me to create my interpretation of a tune and layer in instruments to get the sound that I want. I have really enjoyed and appreciated the gatherings of the Irish Slow Sessions this year. These were initially held outdoors at Crescent Drive Park and now take place at the Irish Club on Thursday evenings prior to the regular session. A huge thank you to Lynn Mclean for facilitating these learning sessions and all those who have volunteered to guide us through the new tune of the week.

Craig Mackenzie – November 2021

Editor's note: Craig offered his home as a venue for the recent Irish Mandolin workshop. Thanks, Craig!