



Winnipeg Comhaltas Newsletter



Welcome to the February newsletter! As all of you know, most, if not all Irish public activities are temporarily suspended during Omicron. So we have no public events to report.

All about Sean Nos Singing!

<https://youtu.be/2zCv3XXjCY8>

How tunes evolve over time!

<https://www.itma.ie/blog/brenda-castles->

Tune of The Month

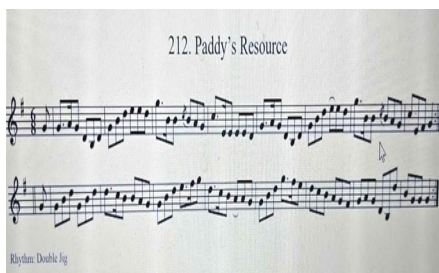
Jig: Paddy's Resource

https://youtu.be/f_HT6x4G3Rs

As played by Kyle Borley



This month's Tune Of The Month features Kyle Borley. Kyle was born and raised in Transcona, Winnipeg, and now lives in Ireland. Kyle has undertaken an epic project of recording the entire collection: All of O'Neill's 1001 Gems: Consisting of 365 double jigs 45 single jigs 45 slip jigs 350 reels, 150 hornpipes, 30 long dances & set dances. Wow that's a lot of tunes for Kyle to learn!



Meet Our Members
will resume next month



Musings from an editor:

As we wait for **Meet Our Members** to return, I thought it might be interesting to look over the Winnipeg Irish Music scene, to see how it has developed through the years, and how it looks today. Nowadays, one thing I notice is a wide range of levels of players here in Winnipeg. We have professional players, as well as those who are just starting out, and everything in between. And certainly there are many people who have dedicated a great deal of time and effort towards the cause of Irish music. Through the years, unsung heroes have selflessly given their time to promoting Irish music behind the scenes. I've seen people help organize festivals, sit on committees, run sessions, and lead music groups. The Comhaltas website, which requires countless hours of time and expertise, is a great example. Another great example is The Flatland Ceili Band, with its volunteer players and its ever-present Director. Sessions at the Irish Club are run by volunteers. Another example is the Wpg Irish Fest. For decades, The Winnipeg Irish Fest brought in professional performers who helped elevate the level of playing in Winnipeg to a great extent. And for me personally, an important part of Irish music has been getting to know many wonderful friends and students. I have a storehouse of fond memories of funny comments young students have made, and some of my adult students have become friends. I've spent countless hours in sessions, hearing lovely tunes and visiting with people, where I've learned that there is no shortage of talent in this world. I've heard lovely tunes played beautifully by players who aren't famous, or who aren't known as advanced performers. I've also seen newcomers join in on Irish music only to go on to become professionals. These days I'm so glad to see Irish music flourishing in Winnipeg, with sessions of varying levels at the Irish Club, Shannon's Pub and on Zoom! It's great to see the Flatland Ceili Band continuing to gather to play their tunes. Irish music is flourishing in Winnipeg and that's something we can all be happy about! So there you have today's musings from an editor.