



Comhaltas Winnipeg Newsletter



Welcome to the February edition of our newsletter! We are excited to announce the winners of last month's game of the month! Carin Crowe and Erin Burns-Flett are the winners, and they'll be receiving their fun prize-pac in the mail! Many thanks to everyone who participated in the game! You'll notice that the newsletter may not run the game every month, but from time we'll give readers a chance to win a great prize pac! If anything good has come as a result of the covid pandemic, it's the availability of musicians on line. Famous musicians who would otherwise be touring are offering free concerts out of their homes, plus offering lessons/workshops. One of my favourite home videos is of Caitlin Nic Gabhann in her living room, playing along with her fiddle-playing husband, Ciaran, whilst surrounded by their 2 toddlers who dance, run and sing throughout the entire video! It's a scream to watch, you'd never get a live

<https://youtu.be/ogwP1POcEGM>

concert like this! Another favourite video is the Martin Hayes (series) tune learning videos. He was featured last month, and again this month, in Tune of the Month. It's well-worth watching his videos because you get to see a great player's technique up close. You don't need to be a player yourself to enjoy these videos.

Irish Tale of the Month

While staying in Ireland a few years ago, this donkey lived in the field across the road from the cottage where I spent

my days practicing fiddle. The only living creature who would listen to me play was a little black vole that crawled out of the woodwork and kindly listened while I tried to learn.



Meet our Members

Carol-Ann Coish



Here's Carol-Ann waiting for the train to Carrickfergus, after a lesson with Connor Caldwell in Belfast. Carol-Ann plays fiddle, and she first became involved in Irish music many years ago, at a Ten Bones Music Weekend in the St. Norbert ruins. Her two children, Rebecca and Thomas, were already enrolled in the Suzuki Music program, so when there was an opportunity to expand their music with Irish music, the whole family got involved. Carol-Ann took Rebecca and Thomas to many practices and events such as Susan Israel's Children's Ceili Band, Susan Hammer's Tea and Tunes sessions, numerous Irish Fest workshops, etc.

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Carol-Ann's family moved to Northern Ireland from 2001-2003, where she participated in Irish music group classes, as well as Irish dancing. After returning to Winnipeg she teamed up with her husband, Robert, and Jeremy Hull, to start a set dancing group. The group met weekly to rehearse and learn new dances, and they performed at Folkarama, the Irish Festival, in senior's homes and at festivals.

Carol-Ann's father's family is Northern Irish, so she has had a lifelong exposure to Irish music. She has visited Ireland and Northern Ireland many times and always finds a way of getting involved in the music and set dancing in Belfast and other places.

At the present time, Carol-Ann is zooming on Tuesday evenings with the Flatland Ceili Band and she's looking forward to resuming her many musical activities once the Covid crisis is over.

Submitted by Susan Hammer

CCE Winnipeg Irish Music School

Hello everyone. Spring is on the way and we'll soon be able to hold sessions outdoors once again. We are hoping that regular classes/lessons, will be able to resume in the Fall. In the meantime, we have 25 people signed up for the CCE Wpg Irish Music School Pandemic Tune Learning project. Two challenging tunes and two "easier" tunes are sent out each month with sheets plus slow teaching recordings, and more. Folks can join us at any time— just email Susan at HammersMusic@gmail.com For those of you unfamiliar with the Online Academy of Irish Music, out of Ireland, then check them out at

<https://www.youtube.com/c/irishmusicacademy/playlists>

Bodhran players can learn a lot by listening to how tunes are composed and taught and also by playing along on your bodhran. Tune players, make sure you learn from all instruments, not just the one you play. Happy music-making everyone, and best wishes till next time, from all of us at the CCE Winnipeg Irish Music School.

Tune of the Month

The Sailor's Bonnet Reel

<https://youtu.be/-5ikTilr7Hs>



This lovely and popular tune, The Sailor's Bonnet is taught by the great fiddler, Martin Hayes. This link is worth checking out, even if you don't want to learn a new tune right now, or even if you don't play an instrument. Ireland-born and Seattle-based [Martin Hayes](#) is a master of the slow, lyrical Clare style of fiddling. His teaching style is calm, relaxed and approachable. You'll notice that the tune has been written out in its basic form, that is without ornamentation or variation. When learning a tune, it's OK to play it simply. A master player such as Martin Hayes will add interesting ornaments, based on a lifetime of musical experience. **Here's wishing everyone a great month ahead!**

North Coast of Ireland

