



Winnipeg Comhaltas Newsletter

Welcome to the June newsletter! We hope this newsletter finds you well, and we wish you the very best of health, during this latest covid lockdown. If you've been following the **tune of the month** section of the newsletter for the last few editions, you'll have noticed that Martin Hayes has been featured as the teacher of the tunes. I'd like to say a word about why Martin Hayes is one of my favorite Irish fiddle players and teachers. I like the way He draws out the melodic quality of the tunes. His playing is never rushed. His teaching style is relaxed and encouraging. So if you're not familiar with his playing, I think you'll enjoy taking a listen to the CDs he has made in collaboration with guitarist Dennis Cahill. Hayes and Cahill have released three recordings on the [Green Linnet](#) label: The Lonesome Touch (1997), Live in Seattle (1999), and Welcome Here Again (2008).

Here's an excerpt from Hayes bio:

In 1996 Martin Hayes formed an acoustic duo with Dennis Cahill, developing an "unrushed, lyrical, highly expressive interpretation" of traditional Irish music. In 1999 a New York Times reviewer described Hayes and Cahill's approach as "stripping old reels and jigs to their essence, leaving space between the notes for harmonics and whispered blue notes," resulting in "a Celtic complement to Steve Reich's quartets or Miles Davis's Sketches of Spain." Hayes and Cahill, along with singer Iarla Ó Lionáird, fiddler Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh and pianist Doveman, are the members of The Gloaming, an Irish-American group whose first album was released in 2014, winning the Meteor Choice Music Prize for Irish album of the year. Hayes also performs and records with Peadar Ó Riada and Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh as the group "Tríur". Hayes is a founding member of the Martin Hayes Quartet, with Dennis Cahill, Liz Knowles, and Doug Wiselman.

North Coast of Ireland. Meet you there when this is all over.



Meet Our Members

Traicy Robinson



We moved to Winnipeg from the UK in 1997. I have always been involved in the folk scene at home and have been singing for audiences for as long as I can remember. My grandparents on my mother's side were from County Mayo in Ireland. Sadly due to a family break up, I haven't seen my grandparents since I was 6 years old, nevertheless, in the short time I was with them they showed me the best of Irish culture with stories and songs. I remember their kitchen parties where I heard lots of singing and traditional tunes. This had a great impact on my interest in Irish culture and music. My dad also had a strong interest in folk music, and I would flick through his record collection when he was out, playing the crackly LPS, learning the tunes by heart, especially the Scottish group The Corries. I had learned to play basic classical violin in junior high school and loved traditional Irish fiddle tunes.

Traicy's Bio

The lessons in school were free and we could not afford private lessons, let alone buy a fiddle, so once I went to high school the lessons stopped. Unfortunately it was not something I was able to pursue again until later in life, when I moved to Winnipeg. One day I just decided that enough was enough! I should just do it, buy the fiddle, find a teacher and go for it! How hard could it be? Through my initial teacher, Roselyn Dennett, I learned about the Tea n Tunes sessions in St. Luke's church in Osborne village on Weds nights. Susan Hammer was the vacillator, and from the minute I walked in, I felt at home. I met such lovely people, and heard such amazing music! That was about 15 years ago. Since then, despite having the most fabulous fiddle teachers, I am still no virtuoso, but I do hear that it helps to practice, so during this pandemic I have been playing in virtual wee sessions with Erin Burns-Flett and Lynn Mclean, we were also recently joined by Andrew Galloway. As for my singing, I am hoping to release an EP sometime in the next year, of traditional UK and Irish songs. The songs on the LP will be in the original traditional format and unaccompanied. I'll be paying people to buy it so watch this space :O). Seriously though, the friends and relationships that have I have formed through Comhaltas Winnipeg are a gift in my life. They have brought such joy to me. I never imagined I would meet so many lovely people in my new Winnipeg home. Thank you, Comhaltas! from Traicy...still trying to lose her fear of the fiddle.....:O)

Tune of the Month

Taught by Martin Hayes <https://youtu.be/>

Bullock on the Bonnet



CCE Wpg IRISH MUSIC SCHOOL STUDENTS & FRIENDS:

The last 15+ months have been very challenging. We miss the Sessions, Classes and Gigs. We miss the music, but also we miss the conversations, sharing and socializing. So we, at CCE Winnipeg have come up with a fun new project. By now you will have received an email inviting submissions to a new page on our ComhaltasWinnipeg.ca website. This is an opportunity to share with other members, projects you have been involved in during the pandemic. Of course we **look forward** to hearing about your Irish Music and Culture activities (such as zoom sessions, online lessons, self-directed learning, etc), **BUT ALSO** please feel free to share any other projects or activities over the last year (such as learning a new skill, art, craft or other non-Irish, activities).

EMAIL YOU SUBMISSIONS (or questions) TO: PANDEMIC PROJECT: HammersMusic@gmail.com

And in case you have not watched enough Utube yet.... here's some ITM links that you may find interesting:

Piping & Pipers <https://youtu.be/B4gVm8PoF1U>

Common Tunes: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CenterforIrishMusic/playlists> (tune sheet music, chords and info linked below each video)

Resource For Practicing Fiddle intonation <https://fiddlerman.com/fiddle-learning-tools/drones-for-intonation-practice/>

St Louis Tionol concert 1 <https://youtu.be/DOdnYH6Ybjg>

St Louis Tionol concert 2 <https://youtu.be/HeHBTS29f8o>

Stay safe, well and remember summer is coming, along with musical gatherings and more!

SUSAN & the CCE Winnipeg Irish Music School Team.