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COMHALTAS



August
2020

Comhaltas Winnipeg Newsletter

Welcome to the August Newsletter! As Manitoba gradually re-opens it's businesses and schools, there has also been an increase in activity within our Irish musical community. For the past few weeks, many of the tune players have been meeting in the park (Crescent Park), to enjoy tunes and friendship. After all, Irish tune playing can be a very social activity, and where better to enjoy it than in a park! Another recent sign of life appeared at The Irish Club when they resumed the weekly Thursday Night Trad Sessions, starting July 23rd at 5pm. So if you're looking for Irish music, just head off to the park or the Irish Club! Here's wishing you all a great Summer!

Member of The Month

Maurice Guimond



Tunes in the park, as the sun starts to set



Good music, good friends



Barbara



Johanna

Maurice is a long standing member of our Comhaltas community, and for the past few years has spearheaded the popular session at Sam's Place, hosting it on a monthly basis. Besides being a fine bodhran player and singer, Maurice is a published author, and serves as editor of the Lake Winnipeg Writer's Group. He has been published over a dozen times in "Voices", and has published a book of poetry. Recently Maurice published "Anywhere", his first full-length novel. Here is Maurice's brief bio, written in his own inimitable style:

More than two decades ago, Maurice Guimond ran out of money two weeks into his "whirlwind tour" of Europe. Footsore and thirsty, he

Maurice Guimond Bio, continued

Submitted by Susan Hammer

spent many afternoons in Dublin, Ireland, sipping cokes very slowly while enjoying the (thankfully) free sessions at Temple Bar. One memorable night, a musician entered the establishment, and pulled out a single-skinned Irish drum to contribute to the tune.

The next day, Maurice scraped together what was left on his credit card, ventured into a music store he remembered walking past, and told the salesman something to the effect of “I don’t know how you pronounce it, but I want a ‘bod-run’. Give me the ugliest one you have so I don’t just take it home and put it on the wall.”

After five years of being self-taught, he happened to hear a certain music teacher doing a radio interview, who mentioned she taught lessons in this particular drum. Amazed that there even existed an Irish subculture in the land-locked city of Winnipeg, he sought her out and invested in her patient tutelage. It took Susan three years to beat out (pun sadly intended) the bad habits he’d taught himself, and ever since then Maurice has been less active in Comhaltas than people seem to think he is.

-Maurice Guimond

Greetings from The CCE Winnipeg Irish Music School.

ITMA—The Irish Traditional Music Archive is a Collection of thousands of recordings, videos, sheet music, etc. from the early 20th century to the present day. Here is a link to the tune archive with a video on how to find a specific tune, and/or explore:

<http://port.itma.ie/welcome>

Also, type “ITMA” into Utube for several full concerts and instructions, featuring specific instruments, multi instruments, songs and dance.

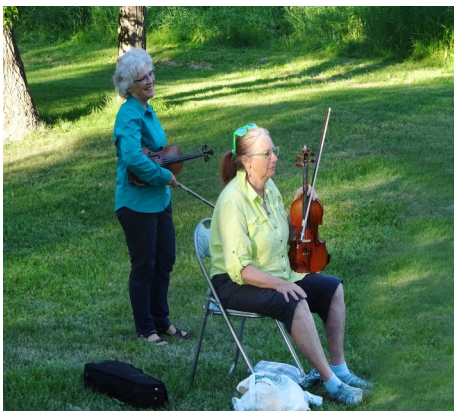
Note: Fall plans for the School are still yet to be confirmed but information will be sent out as soon as possible, as we have some to share.

—Susan

Upcoming Events

Thursday Night Trad Sessions
Irish Club, 654 Erin St.
starting July 23rd
Doors open@5pm
Bar open, delicious food avail.
Phone: 204-772-9830

Erin and Lynn in the park for some tunes



Irish thought of the day:
Life is like Irish stew, it's
as good as what you put
into it.

Randy enjoying tunes on a summer's eve

