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Beannachtaí na Nollag Christmas Blessings by Mary McSweeney

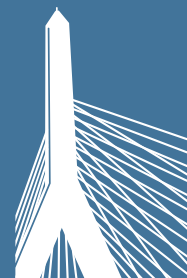


I work in Hollywood but I keep my money
in my hometown-Kevin Chapman

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Lynch feted at record-breaking Ireland Fund gala

More than 1,000 guests gathered on Thursday, November 16 for The Ireland Fund's 36th annual Boston Gala at the Westin Boston Waterfront.

A record-breaking \$2.6 million, the largest amount ever achieved at the Boston Gala, was raised to support non-profit organizations across the island of Ireland and around the world.

The 2017 Boston Gala was co-chaired by David Greaney, president and CEO of Synergy Investments and Robert E. Griffin, U.S. Head of Capital Markets and President of The New England Area at Newmark Knight Frank.

The 2017 gala honored noted business leader and philanthropist Peter S. Lynch, president of The Lynch Foundation and Vice Chairman of Fidelity Management and Research Company.

The invocation was delivered by His Eminence Cardinal Sean O'Malley. Preceding his prayer, the Cardinal thanked The Ireland Funds for its critical work in Ireland and its support of worthwhile non-profit projects in Greater Boston.

After dinner, 12-year-old Cian Michael Smith, an uilleann pipes player, accompanied by his two first cousins on the fiddle and melodeon respectively, played a lively traditional Irish music medley. The trio, all from tiny Ballymacarbry in Ireland's County Waterford, opened with a slow air which quickly turned into an up-beat jig, then a reel, at which point the crowd clapped and stomped their feet and Cian and his cousin Brid stepped danced.

Jack Connors, the 2015 Gala honoree, introduced Peter Lynch. Touching on the breadth of the Lynch Foundation's impact, Connors recounted many instances of The Lynch Foundation's social investments in the areas of education and health care, both in the US and Ireland including: Boston College's Lynch School of Education to the Catholic Schools Foundation providing scholarships to needy students to attend parochial schools which boast high graduation and college admission rates; to health care initiatives, to



Above: Bob Reynolds, Cardinal Sean O'Malley and Peter Lynch.
Right: Event co-chairmen Robert E. Griffin and David Greaney with Steve Greeley, New England director of AIF.

projects in Ireland such as the restoration of centuries old Georgian structures, and establishing new athletic fields, a community center, and others.

Vice President of Major Gifts and New England Director Steve Greeley closed the evening by expressing The Ireland Funds' deep appreciation to its donors, guests and Peter Lynch and encouraged everyone to join popular local Irish band Devri for the post-gala celebration.



Tánaiste Fitzgerald resigns amid Garda query scandal

Ireland's deputy prime minister— or Tánaiste— Frances Fitzgerald resigned her position on Nov. 28 rather than risk a vote of no confidence and the potential of new elections in the wake of a brewing controversy.

Fitzgerald, who represents Dublin Mid-West in the Dail, came under fire after news reports showed that she had been alerted to “whistleblower” allegations of alleged corruption within the Garda in July 2015, but took no action. She will also resign from her role as Minister for

Business, Enterprise and Innovation.

In a statement released to the press, Fitzgerald said she made the decision “to avoid an unwelcome and potentially destabilising general election at this historically critical time.”

According to RTE, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar confirmed Fitzgerald's offer to resign and “he has accepted it.”

Fitzgerald's resignation comes just three weeks before a crucial European Union summit on Brexit. EU leaders will decide at a Dec. 14-15 summit



Frances Fitzgerald

whether there has been enough progress to start discussions over Britain's future relations with the bloc. Ireland says the EU will block those talks if Britain does not spell out how it can keep the Ireland-Northern Ireland border free of customs posts and other barriers after Brexit.

— REPORTER STAFF

Charitable Irish Society to honor three with its Silver Key Awards

The Charitable Irish Society, the oldest Irish society in the Americas, will host its 19th Silver Key Awards Reception on Wed., Dec. 6, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston's Copley Square.

Irish Hearts organizer Winnie Henry, Irish International Immigrant Center director Ronnie Millar, and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh will be awarded the Society's Silver Keys in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Irish community.

The award is conferred annually upon individuals who have demonstrated outstanding dedication in helping new immigrants, and the proceeds from the annual reception are used to underwrite the work of the Charitable Irish Society in helping individual immigrants on an “as-needed basis.”

Since its founding in 1737, the Society has been able to provide aid and assistance to newly arrived Irish immigrants in the Boston area as they face the multiple challenges of adjusting to and assimilating into a new city and country. Consistent with the Irish traditions of hospitality and charity, the Society has expanded its focus to include immi-

grants from other countries in addition to those from Ireland.

Individual reservations are available for \$125 per person, and sponsorship are available from \$500 to \$2,500.

Advance registration is required and checks should be made payable to The Charitable Irish Society and mailed to The Charitable Irish Society, c/o Sandra Moody, 56 Thomas Park, #3 South Boston, MA 02127.

Registration is also available by credit card at charitableirishsociety.org.

Man extradited from Ireland to face condo fraud charges in Boston

By Reporter Staff

A man with dual Irish and US citizenship was arraigned in Boston last month on federal fraud and identity-theft charges that could put him in prison for four decades after he spent six years trying and failing to persuade Irish courts to let him stay in County Kildare.

Patrick Lee, 44, was extradited to the US after the Irish Supreme Court last month rejected his argument that because Irish laws also prohibit the fraud he allegedly committed in the US, he should be tried in Ireland

and await prosecution there, even though the actual properties and alleged frauds were in Dorchester, South Boston and Randolph and the real-estate appraiser whose name he allegedly forged on documents works in the Boston area.

The US Attorney's office in Boston reports that in addition to a potentially lengthy prison sentence, Lee also faces up to \$1 million in fines if convicted on 29 counts of wire fraud, six counts of unlawful monetary transactions, and 16 counts of aggravated identity theft, all

involved in his actions related to 80 Draper St. and 110 Norton St. in Dorchester, 650 E. 6 St. in South Boston and 50A Stacy St. in Randolph.

Federal prosecutors charge that Lee bought the two- or three-family properties in 2005 and 2006, converted them into condos, then “sold” them to straw buyers for whom he made up income and employment records so they could get mortgages that they then promptly defaulted on - after Lee had banked the bulk of the proceeds of their transactions.

And, prosecutors say, he forged an appraiser's signature on documents with inflated values for the properties that were used in the mortgage applications.

Lee left the Boston area for Newtown, County Kildare in Ireland in 2007. In 2008, the Secret Service filed a sealed criminal complaint against him in Boston federal court. A grand jury indicted him in 2010, although the indictment was not released until 2011, at which point prosecutors began extradition proceedings against him in Ireland. Lee fought back

by claiming he was immune from extradition because he had committed some of the alleged offenses while in Ireland and Irish law forbids extradition for crimes committed on Irish soil.

As one court rejected his argument, he appealed, until finally the Irish Supreme Court got the case earlier this year and eventually rejected his argument.

Although it is probably of little solace to Lee, he did make legal history in Ireland - the reading of the judgment against him was the first Irish Supreme Court proceeding ever televised.

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Ireland’s best pubs, restaurants take star turns

By Ed Forry

The Royal Dublin Society (RDS) is a philanthropic organization on Merrion Road, located just a few blocks from the American Embassy in Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Established in 1731 as “the Dublin Society” with a mission to support cultural and economic affairs in the country, the society is housed on 40 acres, with a 7,000 seat arena, meeting rooms, bars and restaurants and an exhibition hall that is a major venue for concerts and other events.



The RDS has seen Bruce Springsteen perform 11 concerts and it’s been the venue for concerts by rockers like Bon Jovi, Michael Jackson and U2, among many others. One week each year, its stables house the jumping horses during the Dublin Horse Show and it has seen wrestling matches, rugby games and Shamrock Rovers FC matches.

This year on November 8 the RDS hosted the inaugural “Irish Pub Awards” and Ireland’s food and beverage industry promoters set out to name the best of the best.

With more than 500 applications in nine categories. Here are the winners, as reported by hospitalityireland.com: “The inaugural Irish Pub Awards were originally launched in late April at an event in Doheny and Nesbitt’s on Baggot Street, Dublin, organised by the Licensed Vintners Association (LVA) and Vintners Federation Ireland (VFI). Commenting on the award ceremony, LVA Chairman John Gleeson said, ‘We are very pleased with the success of our first awards programme. These awards will now be recognised as the definitive awards programme within the industry as it is set up to reward all pub sectors right throughout the country.

“ ‘There is great value for pubs entering the awards in terms of excellent national and local media coverage along with the in-depth management training our 56 regional winners receive. We are delighted to have come together with the VFI on this great initiative.’ “The Porter House of Castlebridge, Co. Wexford, took home the trophy for ‘National Irish Pub of the Year’, while The Stag’s Head in Dublin was named ‘Best Tourist Pub’ and Johnny Quilty of The Goat Bar & Grill, located in the Dublin suburb of Clonskeagh, was presented with the accolade for ‘Pub Personality of the Year’. The full list of winners includes: Innovative Pub of the Year, The Roadside Tavern, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare; Best Music Pub, Matt The Millers, Kilkenny City; Best Outdoor Space, The Terrace at Dinn Rí, Co. Carlow; Outstanding Customer Service, The Bog Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois; Best Tourist Pub, The Stag’s Head, Dublin; Pub Personality of the Year, Johnny Quilty, The Goat Bar & Grill, Clonskeagh, Dublin; Best Local Pub, The Porter House, Castlebridge, Co. Wexford; Best Food Pub, Mickey Finn’s, Redcross, Co. Wicklow.

Meanwhile The Irish Times reported a pub in Co Clare has become the first-ever pub in Ireland to win a Michelin star rating. The Wild Honey Inn in Lisdoonvara, Co Clare, run by chef Aidan McGrath and his wife, Kate McGrath have been running the pub for nine years, the newspaper reported.

“The Michelin judges say McGrath’s cooking ‘has a classical French base that delivers on flavour’. McGrath said at the ceremony that the win was down to his classical training while also ‘fine-tuning things over the year’,” the newspaper reported.

“The inclusion of Wild Honey Inn brings to 13 the number of Michelin starred restaurants and pubs on the island of Ireland, two in the north and 11 in the south. All of the 12 Michelin-starred restaurants retained their awards. In Dublin, Chapter One, L’Ecrivain, The Greenhouse and Heron & Grey held on to their single-star status, while Restaurant Patrick Guilbaud continues to hold two stars.

“One star was also retained by Galway restaurants Aniar, run by Irish Times columnist JP McMahon and Enda McEvoy’s Loam. Kilkenny also held on to two stars, with Gareth Byrne retaining his award for Campagne – which he has held since 2014 – and a star remaining at the Lady Helen restaurant at Mount Juliet Hotel in Thomastown, Co Kilkenny. Further south, House Restaurant at Cliff House Hotel, in Ardmore, Waterford also keeps its star.”

’Tis The Season, sadly, of groping, and thankfully, of giving where it counts

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

Good Tidings from a president who wrestles badly with morality

As the Donald Trump era bumps and grinds toward its first Christmas and New Year’s, the season of giving has degenerated into the season of groping. For all intents and purposes, Trump – an alleged, as well as self-described, sexual predator – just endorsed Judge Roy Moore, an alleged child molester, in the Alabama special election for the US Senate. No one should be surprised. On Fox & Friends, that great and grand Irish-American Kelly Ann Conway telegraphed the early Yuletide gift coming from her boss to the embattled Moore. “I’m telling you that we want the votes in the Senate to get this tax bill through,” she asserted. “And if the media were really concerned about all these allegations [against Moore] and that’s what this was truly about ... Al Franken would be on the ash heap of bygone, half-funny comedians. He wouldn’t be here on Capitol Hill.”

First and foremost, sexual harassment is, or should always be, apolitical and nonpartisan. Whether it’s Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Louis C.K., or *any* member of the Senate, the House, or legislative body or workplace in the nation, sexual harassment and worse should be eradicated. It should matter not one whit whether one’s name is followed by a “D” or an “R.” Unfortunately, Trump has no more standing than did Bill Clinton. So what are we to make of a president and his allies who urge voters to ignore a credible accusation that Moore sexually assaulted a 14-year-old? Thanks to Trump and Conway and their ilk, we have an answer: It’s better to support an alleged Republican child molester than a Democrat. In this case that means Roy Moore, an attorney who is said to have lured teenage Alabama girls to go out on “dates” with him when he was in his early 30s, against Doug Jones, who successfully prosecuted Klansmen who killed four young girls in a church bombing.

Speaking for Trump a week or so earlier than her Fox & Friends appearance, Conway pontificated about the Moore story: “Whatever the facts end up being, the premises, of course, the principle, the incontrovertible principle, is that there is no Senate seat worth more than a child. And we all want to put that forward.

In his defense of the British soldiers on trial for the infamous Boston Massacre (1770), John Adams argued, “Facts are stubborn things.” Even though those words appeared long before he used them with telling effect, they remain stubborn. The fact is that the current president believes that an accused child molester “trumps” a Democrat.

Again, when it comes to sexual predators, all that should matter is the letter “S.” That, not “D” or “R,” should be the scarlet letter label for both parties. Given his own accuser coterie, Trump would have been well advised simply to say nothing about Moore. Of course, he seems to have no control over what comes out of

his mouth or his Twitter feed. That’s not partisan; it’s simply fact. As the saying goes, those who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones. That message has not reached the white house on Pennsylvania Avenue.

“Bah, Humbug” – Christmas for the early Boston Irish

From 1800 to 1850, Irish immigrants could scarcely have picked a worse place than Boston to celebrate Christmas. The Puritans had loathed “Popish” Yuletide rituals so much that, in 1659, the Massachusetts General Court enacted laws against honoring the day. Anyone caught toasting the occasion suffered a five-shilling fine. Above all, for the Mathers and other Puritan luminaries, Christmas celebrations symbolized “Papists” and their church. So entrenched did Bostonians’ antipathy toward Catholicism become that the city’s public schools were open on Christmas Day until 1870.

In such a climate, Boston’s Irish celebrated the holiday in muted fashion until their political clout swelled in the late 1800s. On the “old sod,” the holiday had largely revolved around Mass and family, not the raucous celebrations of any feverish Puritan and Yankee imaginations, so the early Irish of Boston noted the holiday simply, with many families keeping children home from schools later in the century.

Christmas Masses were held in the opening decades of the 19th century at St. Augustine’s in South Boston, and later at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in the South End, under the watch of suspicious local Yankees. As German Catholic immigrants arrived and began attending the local “Irish churches,” the newcomers introduced their hosts to Christmas trees and greeting cards as a thaw in the region’s traditional, Puritan-steeped antipathy to the holy day was slowly emerging.

By the 1880s, Boston’s Irish were a genuine community, slowly amassing clout at the ballot box and bucking Yankee strangleholds on business and the courts. As the 19th century drew to a close, Boston’s Irish could celebrate Christmas as openly as they wanted, with family parties and dinners, church socials and midnight Mass in the process turning the Yuletide season into a genuine holiday.

As the historian Thomas H. O’Connor writes in “Boston Catholics,” they “participated in a perpetual calendar of familiar religious devotions that...bound them more firmly together as members of their own distinctive parishes.

“During the period of Advent in late November and early December, for example, persons of all ages prepared for the coming of the Christmas season by attending daily Mass. They then enjoyed the celebration of midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, often followed by festive and early morning breakfasts with friends and relatives.”

Those scenes would have been unthinkable for Boston’s earliest Irish immigrants. But through religion, reflection, and revelry, their children and grandchildren finally came to celebrate Christmas in the city in “grand fashion.”

Joe Leary is not writing this month.

Trump is putting us in reverse gear

By JAMES W. DOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

It’s all about winning. President Trump sees the world divided between winners and losers. He’s the winner-in-chief and opponents are losers incapable of recognizing his unique skills or displaying the deference to which he is entitled. He views himself more as a king than as a public servant. He sees former President Obama as an adversary. Having failed to disqualify his predecessor by challenging his citizenship, he has chosen to undo his accomplishments.



James W. Dolan

One of the original “birththers,” Trump was unable to defeat Obama by using the false charge that he was a Muslim from Africa. He now misses no opportunity to denigrate the 44th president. From climate change, civil rights, trade policy, health care, consumer protection to nuclear arms proliferation and use of public lands, Trump is systematically undoing the Obama legacy. It’s as if he’s trying to retroactively nullify the election of our first black president. Trump is the anti-Obama, resenting everything a man so unlike himself has achieved. How much of this is policy differences and how much is personal?

The two are so different. One is dignified, prudent, engaged, intelligent, articulate, humble, and disciplined. The other is impulsive, immature, erratic, egocentric, ill-informed, and insecure. Is it any wonder that Trump is jealous of a reputation so far beyond his understanding or capacity? Knowing he will never achieve that level of respect motivates his destructive impulses.

Uncomfortable in the formulation of policy, Trump instead relies on his instinctive reaction to people. Whether or not he likes or trusts them usually depends not on their ability but on the deference they display. Craving adulation and lacking the capacity for self-deprecation, he resents criticism and attempts to mask

his obvious weaknesses by demeaning others. He’s always the victim; nothing is ever his fault.

To what degree does Obama being black affect Trump’s judgment? Racism is obviously a factor motivating a portion of his base. Trump’s narcissism is a compulsion he cannot control, manifesting itself as a superiority complex. It’s natural for him to conclude that others are inferior, lacking his intelligence and intuitive skills. Does that explain why he is so intent upon dismantling virtually everything Obama did? Is he motivated by a belief that a black man could not have been a successful president? Does he think that by attacking Obama he elevates himself?

It must be disheartening for the former president to watch the undoing of so much of what he accomplished, particularly by someone who appears to have no idea what he is doing. That history is likely to view Trump as a failed president offers small consolation. Silently, Obama watches as his policies are undermined, wisely choosing not to debate his successor. To engage with Trump is to sink to his level. Incapable of coherent dialogue, he revels in the bullying, name-calling, pettiness, and lies that for him have been so preposterously successful.

Whether or not one agreed with his policies, Obama was presidential. He possessed the character, dignity, integrity, compassion, and decency one should expect in that office. He looked, spoke, and acted like a president and he earned the respect of world leaders. Trump cannot abide comparisons that make him look bad. His so far futile attempt to replace and repeal Obamacare with almost anything, regardless of how destructive, is an example of his compulsive need to “win” at any cost. Since branding is his business, the very name “Obamacare” must irritate him. Not one to acknowledge or build on the record of a predecessor, the only way to defeat him is to invalidate it.

By carpet bombing the Obama legacy, Trump somehow believes he will be triumphant. Most believed Obama’s election was a sign that the country was moving forward. To erase that achievement places us in reverse and makes America less great.

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Recalling our Yuletide treks to Granny’s house

By Tom Mulvoy
MANAGING EDITOR

It’s hard to tell exactly why my memory drifts into overdrive at Christmastime, but I suspect that it’s due to a yearning for the emotional warmth that enveloped me and my family and all its extensions at the year-end holidays during World War II and the 15 years or so that followed.

My mother and father kicked off the baby parade in August 1941 when my brother Mark was born, and the march rolled on until the last of a troupe of 48 first cousins (two of whom died at young ages) crossed the finish line two decades later.

The back-and-forth from both sides of the family as births and birthdays crossed with holidays year after year defined the term hurly-burly. You never knew who might drop by at Christmastime, or where you might be going the day after Thanksgiving, but everything revolved around relatives.

With all that, one thing was clear: There was an undeniable affection for each other by the adults in our lives – my parents and my 17 aunts and uncles – that pervaded every paternal and maternal family gathering. It was edifying to see this up close and regularly, and for me, the deepest memory I retain is the bustle involved in leaving our house in Dorchester to visit Granny Mulvoy, my last surviving grandparent, in Somerville during Yuletide some 65 years ago.

Barbara Mulvoy, aka Granny, was a courageous and stout-hearted woman who, after being widowed in 1915 at age 37 when she was in early pregnancy with her fourth child, planned during the following years of murderous evolutionary strife in Ireland to emigrate from her village of Oughterard, Co. Galway, and make a new home in Massachusetts close to her sister, Mary Mulloy McAuley, and her husband Pete of Somerville, Massachusetts, who vouched for her welfare by putting their property on the line with the city.

And so she did, arriving in Boston in June 1921 with her 12-year-old son and two of his sisters, Celia and Catherine, in tow. Within ten years, Granny had purchased a two-family house, 69 and 71 Garrison Avenue, in Somerville just down from Teele Square and a few miles away from her sister’s home on Highland Avenue.

During those years and thereafter, she worked as a domestic helper for a wealthy Back Bay family, the Sigourneys, a position that required her to be in Nahant for the summers when they were.

My namesake father was for the most part reticent about his growing-up days in the old country and his immigrant experiences. From very early on, though, his total reverence for his mother was obvious, deep, and abiding.

There were the daily phone calls to our house from Somerville throughout the ‘40s and ‘50s, and they came



Barbara Mulvoy with 19 of her 23 grandchildren on a Christmas afternoon in the late 1950s. Author is at top left.

with a twist. A call from Somerville to Dorchester carried an extra charge in those days, while calls from Dorchester to Somerville didn’t. So Granny would call us and we would let the phone ring twice. If it stopped after the two rings, Dad would call his mother back.

There was, not surprisingly, given what she had done with her life, a touch of the martinet in my grandmother. She did not abide slackness over duty. During the times when my mother was in the hospital giving birth to my three younger siblings, Granny would come over to stay with us and keep the house in order, and we would try to stay out of her way. I remember her as someone who seemed to enjoy ironing. But we learned to move quickly when she told us to do something, and stifle any grumbles about the orders.

The stretch of road between Aunt Mary’s and Uncle Peter’s home and Granny’s was the gauntlet we children had to run those many years ago to get to Garrison Avenue and fun with our Leary and Ford cousins and their Christmas presents. I learned about our Irish heritage in the stops in between. Each passing year offered a little bit more, but rarely directly, as in, “This happened and then that happened.” It was history by inference as I

listened to a large cadre of generation-before relatives – my parents and Bridey Ryan and Mary and Mike Beatty and Tom and Agnes Melia and a number of McAuleys, to name a few – talk things up as they trooped into and out of Aunt Mary’s house or dropped in on Bridey Ryan a block or so down the avenue.

The last stop was always Granny’s house, which, by the early ‘50s, she was sharing with her daughters Celia and Catherine, their husbands, Bill Leary and Billy Ford, and, as time went by, their 13 children. We felt comfortable and welcome there.

It could be rough and tumble if the weather allowed play outside, but inside it was all play, even with the food and the stretch of pancake-eating contests over the years when up to 15 kids would sit at and around the kitchen table as the uncles served up the flapjacks platter after platter and the children served up laughs, squeals, burps, and moans.

This scene, presided over by a grand lady who had not only survived a hard life but endured, is etched in my memory, another reminder of how rich I was in the right stuff when I was a boy.

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*A special congratulations to
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The IIC's Learning Exchange Team is ready with relief for J-1 students running in the recent New York Marathon.

Our Learning Exchange Team goes the extra mile to prepare

Our Learning Exchange team supports more than 500 young Irish men and women every year as a J-1 visa sponsor, assisting them prior to and upon arrival in the US and directly helping them find and secure internships. This program is managed in partnership with the US Department of State, and with generous support from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Emigrant Support Programme and the Ireland Funds America.

Following is an account of some of the recent activities of our LEP team

whose members have been "going the extra mile" over the past month in order to meet with program partners and Irish graduates!

Our operations manager, Cherisse Woolard, recently took a trip to Washington where she met and trained with our Department of State liaisons to best prepare for our J-1 Intern program in 2018. Cherisse also visited with Irish graduates who are interning in D.C. through our visa program, and had a great time learning about the tremendous things these women and men are up

to in our nation's capital. Two weeks ago, Cherisse and program associate Lisa-Marie Nathan headed to New York city to volunteer with our J-1 students at the NYC Marathon. The team spent 9 hours at Mile 19 passing out water and Gatorade to the 50,000 people who ran! The team also met with local organizations, and J-1 visa sponsors who work with graduates from countries around the globe. This was a great opportunity for the team to spend time with our J-1 students, meet with local organizations, and cheer

on runners from across the country and the world!

Finally, IIC's Jude Clarke, Deirdre Kerins, and Ann-Marie Byrne are preparing to host the inaugural J-1 Alumni Network event in partnership with the Irish government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at Iveagh House in Dublin. We expect to welcome 100 guests, a unique way for the IIC to support the professional development of young Irish men and women after they have finished their internship year in the US.

IIC Wellness director attends Alcohol Forum in Co. Donegal

IIC's Director of Wellness Services, Rachel Reisman, LICSW, was invited to attend the Alcohol Forum's 4th Annual National Conference in Done-

gal in early November. The conference focused on "Ireland, Irishness, and Alcohol: Changing the Relationship."

A licensed independent

clinical social worker, Rachel regularly sees clients in the Boston area for issues related to harmful drinking, depression, and anxiety. She shares that

"many clients talk about the role of alcohol use in their Irish identity, the lack of choice they feel about using alcohol, or the shame they feel about stereotypes relating to Irishness and alcoholism".

She had worked with Paula Leonard of the Alcohol Forum from early this year to coordinate the conference's opening event: a discussion of the Irish film "Emerald City" by Colin Broderick. Following the screening, Rachel participated in a panel discussion, and presented her work with the Irish community entitled, "Clinical themes, challenges and cultural factors in work with the Irish Diaspora".



Rachel Reisman

The two-day conference was an opportunity for her to reflect on public health data, historical themes, the role of marketing, and clinical reflections related to the issue of alcohol and the Irish community. Rachel notes that, "the Alcohol Forum

did such a wonderful job with the conference; it was dynamic, honest, broad conversation, and an honor to be a part of."

We deeply appreciate the invitation to take part, and are delighted to bring home key learnings from the conference to our community in Greater Boston.

The IIC's door is always open if you need to talk, problem solve, or figure out the next step. We offer free and confidential support to all Irish and Irish Americans, whether you are a newcomer or a long-time resident of the US. Contact Rachel Reisman at 617-542-7654, Ext. 14, or at rreisman@iiicenter.org.

Immigration Q&A

Of permanent residence through marriage to a United States citizen

Q. *I'm a US citizen who is engaged to a man from Ireland. He is there now and we want to live in the US after we're married. Can he just come here as a visitor on the 90-day visa waiver, get married, and apply for a green card? Or can we get married in Ireland, after which he comes to the US on the visa waiver and then files his application?*

A. The answer is "No" – in both cases. This is a fundamental mistake that is not obvious to people who don't know the ins and outs of immigration law, and the confusion happens quite frequently. The problem is that the visa waiver (as well as travel on most temporary visas) is granted on the basis of what the law calls "non-immigrant intent," that is, the person traveling honestly intends to stay in the US for no longer than the period allowed by US Customs and Border Protection at the port of entry.

On the other hand, someone entering with temporary permission but who actually intends to stay in the US – to apply for a green card or for some other reason – has "immigrant intent." So the immigration authorities would conclude that the person had committed "visa fraud," which, generally speaking, renders him ineligible for benefits such as permanent residence and, indeed, subjects him to removal from the US and a bar to entering this country from abroad in the future.

There, are however, two basic ways to get legal permanent residence for your future husband without legal problems. In general terms, they are:

- The fiancé visa. You, the US citizen, file a petition with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for your future husband. This process includes providing proof that the two of you have met personally during the last two years and intend to marry in the US. Once USCIS grants the petition, the US State Department takes over the case. Ultimately your fiancé has an interview at the US Consulate in Dublin. He receives the visa and travels to the US, after which he has 90 days to marry you. As soon as the marriage has taken place, he can immediately file for permanent residence with USCIS and remain here while the application is being processed.

- Consular processing for an immigrant (permanent resident) visa. With this option, you get married abroad. Then you file a petition with USCIS and, again, once it is granted, the case is transferred to the US State Department. Your future husband then files an application for an immigrant visa, has an interview at the US Consulate, receives the visa, and travels to the US – only this time he enters with permanent residence already granted and no further applications need to be filed in the US.

Which option is preferable for a particular couple depends on the details of individual cases. You can visit one of our weekly legal clinics for a free, confidential discussion of the options.

Disclaimer: *These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. Immigration law is always subject to change. US Citizenship and Immigration Services and the US Department of State frequently amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of IIC immigration legal staff at 617-542-7654.*



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The Irish International Immigrant Center's immigration attorneys and social workers are available for all immigrants during this time of uncertainty and concern in our community. We are closely following the changes in immigration policies, and are available for confidential, legal consultations, and case representation. At weekly legal clinics, you can receive a free and confidential consultation with staff and volunteer attorneys. For information, or if you or anyone you know would like to speak to an immigration attorney, please call us at (617) 542-7654.

Upcoming Clinic Schedule
Clinics are in the evening – please do not arrive more than 30 minutes before the clinic begins.

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IIC, One State Street, 8th Floor, Boston MA 02109
Tuesdays, December 5th and December 19th at 4:00pm

Brighton
The Green Briar Pub, 304 Washington Street, Brighton MA 02135
Monday, December 11th at 6:30pm

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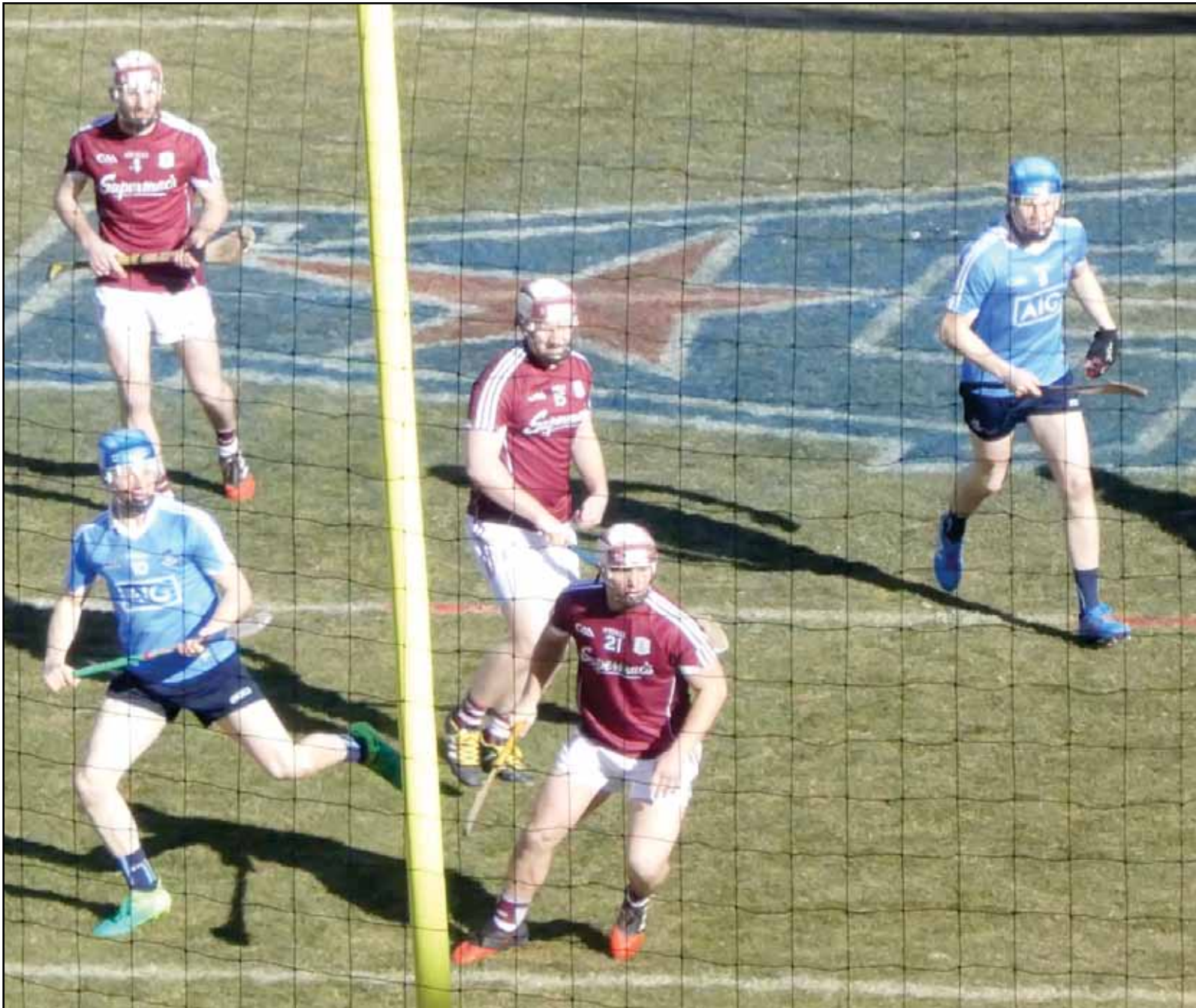
to the Boston Irish Reporter

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The scene at Fenway Park on Sunday, Nov. 19 for the 2017 Hurling Classic & Irish Festival.

Hurling, festivities lure 28,000 to Fenway Park



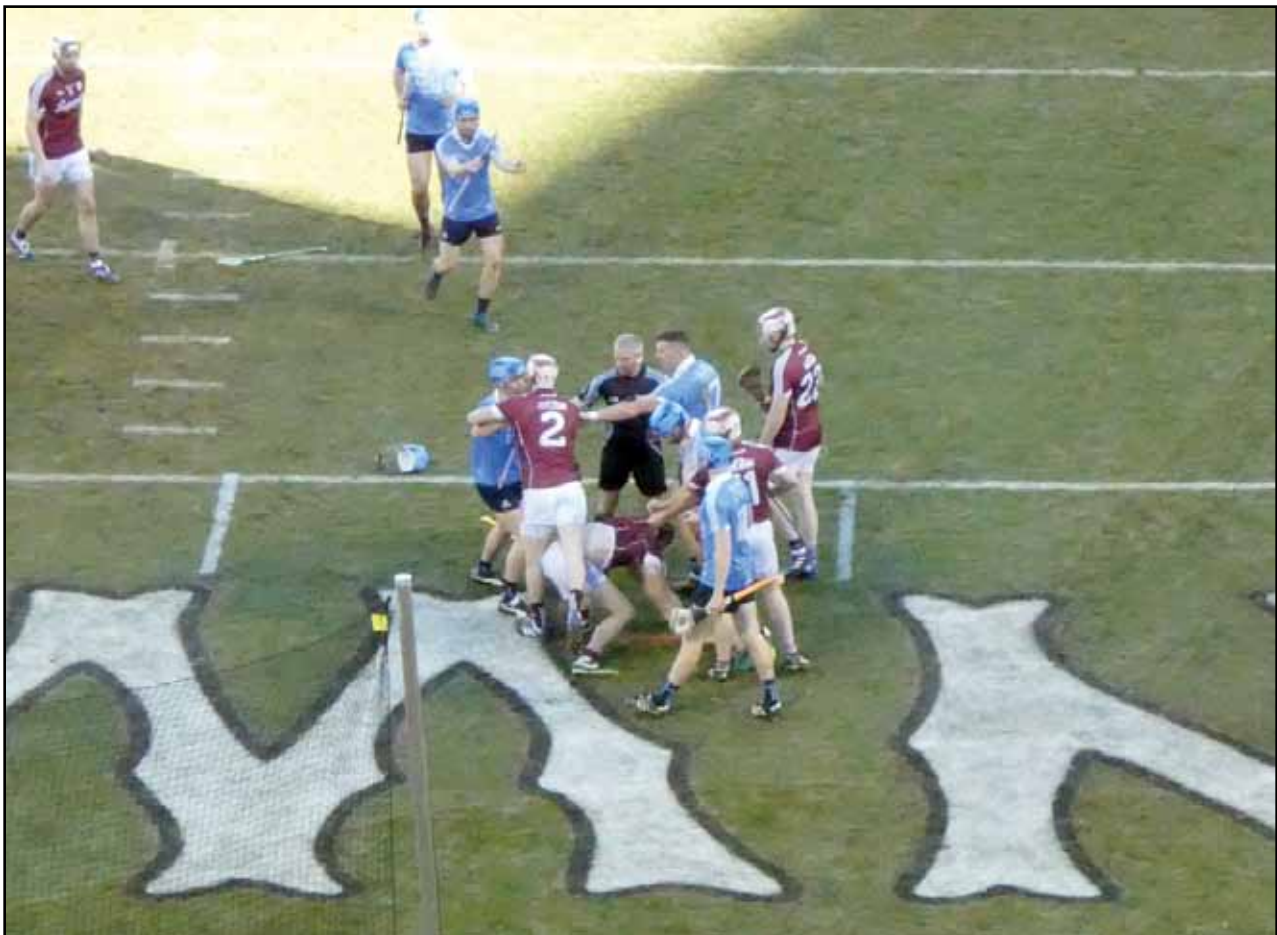
Four celebrated Irish hurling teams — Tipperary, Dublin, Clare, and Galway — were the featured attractions at Fenway Park on Sun. Nov. 11, when they competed before some 28,000 fans for the Players Champions Cup in the 2017 Hurling Classic and Irish Festival.

The event, which was sponsored by the Gaelic Players Association (GPA), the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), Aer Lingus, and Fenway Sports Management, also included Irish music, food and dancing.

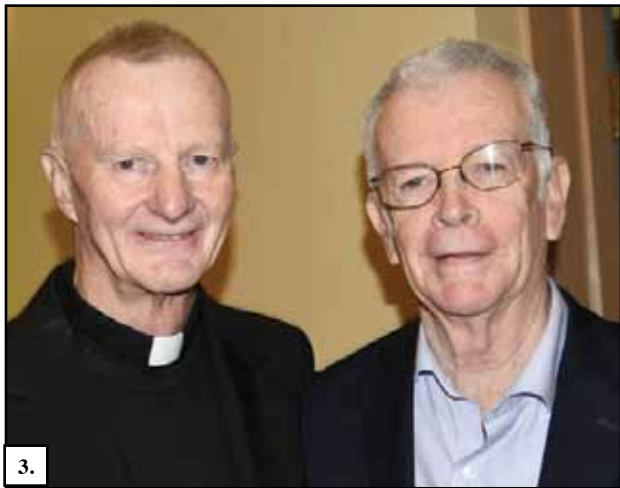
David Burke, the 27-year-old Galway hurling captain, told the Globe that the game is all about hand-eye coordination. “It’s a real intuitive reaction kind of game,” said Burke, whose team was 2017’s All-Ireland hurling champion. “You have to decide in split seconds.”

There were three matches in the day’s competition, with Clare emerging as champion after defeating Galway in the final match, 50-33.

Youth teams learn Gaelic sports in Dorchester, Canton. Page 17.



Scenes from the AIG Fenway Hurling Classic at Fenway Park on Nov. 19. Above, the Players Champions Cup was presented to the winning side, Clare.
Ed Forry photos



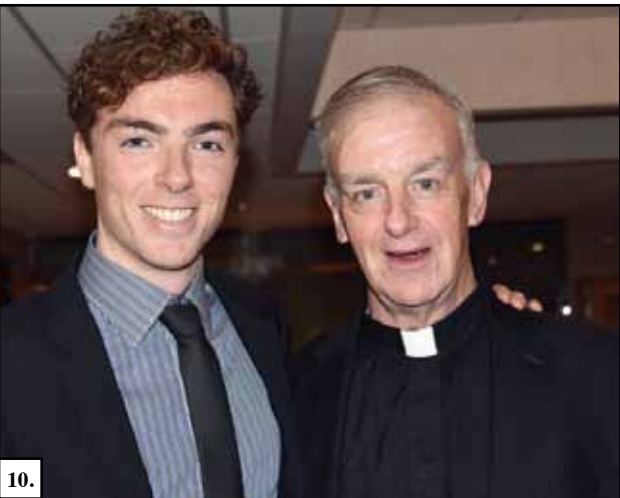
BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The 30th anniversary of the founding of the Irish Pastoral Centre (IPC) was celebrated last month with a week of events culminating in a Mass at St. Brendan's Church on Nov. 18 followed by a gala at Florian Hall where the honoree was Ray Flynn, former mayor of Boston and onetime US Ambassador to the Vatican. The IPC was founded in 1987 as a response to the needs of a growing Irish immigrant population. At the celebration, the Reverends John Ronaghan, Michael Drea, and Daniel Finn welcomed Irish Bishop John Kirby of Clonfert, Co Galway, the chairperson of the Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants.

1.) Brian Hanley, Sligo; Ambassador Ray Flynn, So. Boston; Bishop John Kirby; Rich Gormley, Lord Mayor of West Roxbury; 2.) Fr. Brendan McBride, Pastoral Centre, San Francisco, CA; Michael McCarron 3.) Fr. Dan Finn, Irish Pastoral Centre; Neil Hurley, Somerville; 4.) Cheryl Calvy, Woburn; Brian Hanley, Sligo; Joseph and Mary Dunne, Sligo; 5.) Jamie and Joan McNally Rush, Milton; Edel McNally, Quincy; 6.) Kathy Sullivan, Dedham; Angela Durkin, Quincy; Peg O'Connor, Quincy; 7.) Ellen and Fergal Woods, Melrose, Dan Harrington, West Roxbury; 8.) Teresa Brady, Hingham; Vincent Crotty, Dorchester; Maureen Connolly, Hingham; 9.) Mary Ann Hickey, Quincy; Pat Kelly, Braintree; 10.) Robert Somerville, Dorchester; Fr. John Ronaghan, St. Jerome and Immaculate Conception, Weymouth; 11.) Margaret Dalton, Milton; Erin's Melody; 12.) Peggy McDonough, Quincy; Kathy Flynn, So. Boston; Kathy McDonough, Braintree.





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‘Nutcracker’s’ Snow Queen has a love affair with dancing



Kathleen Breen Combes, Principal Dancer with Boston Ballet.

Liza Voll photo

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Boston Ballet’s “The Nutcracker” stands as a “must see” family-friendly holiday tradition. And in the midst of glistening snowflakes, dancing mice, and battling tin soldiers stands principal dancer Kathleen Breen Combes.

In artistic director Mikko Nissinen’s acclaimed adaptation of the classic Tchaikovsky Christmas ballet, Kathleen plays The Snow Queen, The Sugar Plum Fairy, and performs an Arabian dance.

The holiday ballet follows the journey of young Clara, who receives a nutcracker – in folklore, nutcrackers were given as keepsakes to bring good luck to families and protect their homes – at her family’s Christmas Eve party. Later that evening, the nutcracker magically comes to life and leads Clara through an enchanted forest and on to the Nutcracker Prince’s Kingdom.

Featuring the full company of 56 dancers, 10 Boston Ballet II dancers and 250 Boston Ballet School students, the 44-performance engagement runs through Dec. 31 at the Boston Opera House.

This year marks Kathleen’s 15th season with Boston Ballet. One of six children, she is the only one with a career in the arts.

From their native Long Island, her family moved to Florida where she trained with Northwest Florida Ballet, The HARID Conservatory and Fort Lauderdale Ballet Classique (where she studied with her mentor, Magda Aunon). She danced with The Washington Ballet before coming to Boston.

She had previously visited Boston at the age of 12 when her parents sent her to Boston Ballet’s summer dance program. She returned to the program twice, when she was 16 and 17.



Patrick Yocum and Delia Wada-Gilin in Mikko Nissinen’s “The Nutcracker.” Liza Voll photo

While dancing in Washington, she remained intrigued with Boston and Mikko Nissinen’s diverse artistic repertoire. She was eventually invited to a three-day audition at The Wang and was delighted when Mikko hired her after her first day, telling her to “go find an apartment.”

Hailed by *The New York Times* as a “ballerina of colossal scale and boldness,” Kathleen met her husband, Yury Yanowsky, when he, too, was dancing with Boston Ballet. He has since moved on to a career as a choreographer. They have a baby daughter.

Kathleen traces her heritage to Tempo Village in County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland. One of her father’s cousins still lives on the family farm, once home to her grandfather and his nine brothers and sisters.

She currently trains with an intensity and focus equal to that of any major athlete, working seven hours a day, five to six days a week. We spoke between rehearsals.

Q. You’ve become an integral part of so many holiday memories for families here in Boston. What’s it like being part of “The Nutcracker?”

A. There is this joy surrounding it, and I can’t imagine Christmas without it . . . There’s this incredible feeling when you leave the theater between shows, you know, on a two-show Saturday or a two-show Sunday. You see the kids on the street who have just seen it, with their paper crowns and their wands. And they’re dancing down the street, and you say, that’s because of what we just did. That’s so special, to see that you are having an impact on these kids.

Q. For many people, “The Nutcracker” carries a strong emotional memory from their first time attending a ballet.

A. Absolutely. I think for most people in America, it really is their introduction. I had a baby a year ago and I was in recovery and the doctor came in and said “Were you in ‘The Nutcracker?’?” “So my husband and I became known as “The Nutcracker” couple! Every nurse who came in had to talk about it. And it was so incredible because you realize what a vast audience we have. Everybody goes to it.

Q. How did you begin dancing?

A. When I was very little, I didn’t walk for 18 months. My Mom noticed that I wasn’t walking properly. She took me to a doctor who said my leg muscles weren’t fully developed and it would be a good idea to put me in some sort of a creative movement class, just to get the muscles moving. She was huge fan of ballet, so she started me in ballet. I fell in love with it. I always say I never remember deciding that I wanted to be a dancer – it was there.

Q. Do you have memories of your first time on stage?

A. I do, actually. I danced at City Center. Forth Worth Ballet, which was in Texas, came to New York and they were doing a production of “Cinderella” and they needed children for the production . . . I got chosen. I was one of the fairy attendants. I was maybe seven. My only role was to walk on holding the ballerina’s cape behind her, stand on stage while she danced, and then hold her cape as we walked off. That was it. It was my debut at City Center and from then on it was like, “This is it!”

Q. Dancers have a very specific time window for their careers. Where do you see yourself in the future? Joining your husband as a choreographer?

A. I just got my bachelor’s degree from Northeastern University in communications and management. And I just started on my master’s in nonprofit management.

Q. Between rehearsals, performances and being a Mom, where do you find the time?

A. I don’t know! It’s a lot . . . There are so few artists who take the time to get educated in the administrative side of the arts. To have both of those qualities and go into running a nonprofit is very valuable. So that’s what I’m hoping to do.

Q. Last question. Is there a special moment in “The Nutcracker” for you?

A. There is. There’s this moment when The Sugar Plum gives the crown to Clara. It’s kind of like this passing it on, you know? You’re passing it on to the next generation. All the young dancers are staring

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Kathleen Breen Combes and Paulo Arrais in Mikko Nissinen’s “The Nutcracker.”
Photo by Gene Schiavone, courtesy Boston Ballet

at you at that moment and it’s really special to be on stage with them.
R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of onstageboston.com.

Boston Ballet’s “The Nutcracker,” through Dec. 31, Boston Opera House, 539 Washington Street. Info: bostonballet.org/nutcracker, or 617-695-6955.

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Photo credit: Vic Dvorak

Checking out one of Ireland’s marvels – Harry Clarke’s stained glass windows

BY JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR
If you’re heading over to Dublin and have never seen the magnificent work of Ireland’s stained glass artist Harry Clarke, you’re in luck – especially if you have an overwhelming hunger for coffee and a snack.

BEWLEY’S CAFE
A Grafton Street landmark, Bewley’s café reopened last month after being closed for several years of top-to-bottom renovations that reportedly cost about 12 million euro (\$14 million US dollars). The café, which opened in 1927 and was completed in 1928, has six stained glass windows designed by Clarke that are now visible from the entrance, thanks to the renovation that opened up the space. The main wall of the café features Clarke windows that are decorated with butterflies, flowers, exotic birds and sea creatures.

For those familiar with Bewley’s, service is now “table service” only – there are no more self-service trays. And, while wait staff still wear the traditional black and white uniform, they now take orders on tablets.

Clarke’s brilliant windows can also be found in many places around Ireland – primarily churches – and you won’t be sorry if you spend time looking for them. The windows are beautiful and well worth seeking out.

STAINED GLASS GENIUS

Focusing attention on Clarke and his work is especially relevant at this tranquil time of year because so many travelers visit Ireland without knowing anything about him or his work.

A true Irishman, he was born on St. Patrick’s Day in 1889. He joined his father’s stained glass and ecclesiastical decorating business when he was 14 and later won scholarships to study stained-glass making in London and France. He died in 1931, but the Harry Clarke Studios in Dublin continued to create stained glass windows until they closed in 1973.

I got hooked on Clarke’s work after seeing his windows in St. Patrick’s Church in Newport, Co. Mayo. “The Last Judgment” window there took four years to complete and

has often been described as his most magnificent work. He died at age 41 while en route home to Ireland a month before his studio installed the final window in Newport.

The story goes that the-then St. Patrick’s pastor, Canon Michael MacDonald, sold his life insurance policy to pay for the Newport windows that he had commissioned in 1926. This hilltop church is worth a visit if you’re in Co. Mayo.

Clarke was commissioned to create more than 160 windows during his short lifetime, and one of Ireland’s largest collections is near Newport at St. Mary’s Church in Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo.

When you’re touring the Dingle peninsula, be sure to stop by the Discart Center of Irish Spirituality and Culture in the former Presentation Sisters’ convent on Green Street to see the 12 magnificent Clarke windows there that were commissioned in 1922.

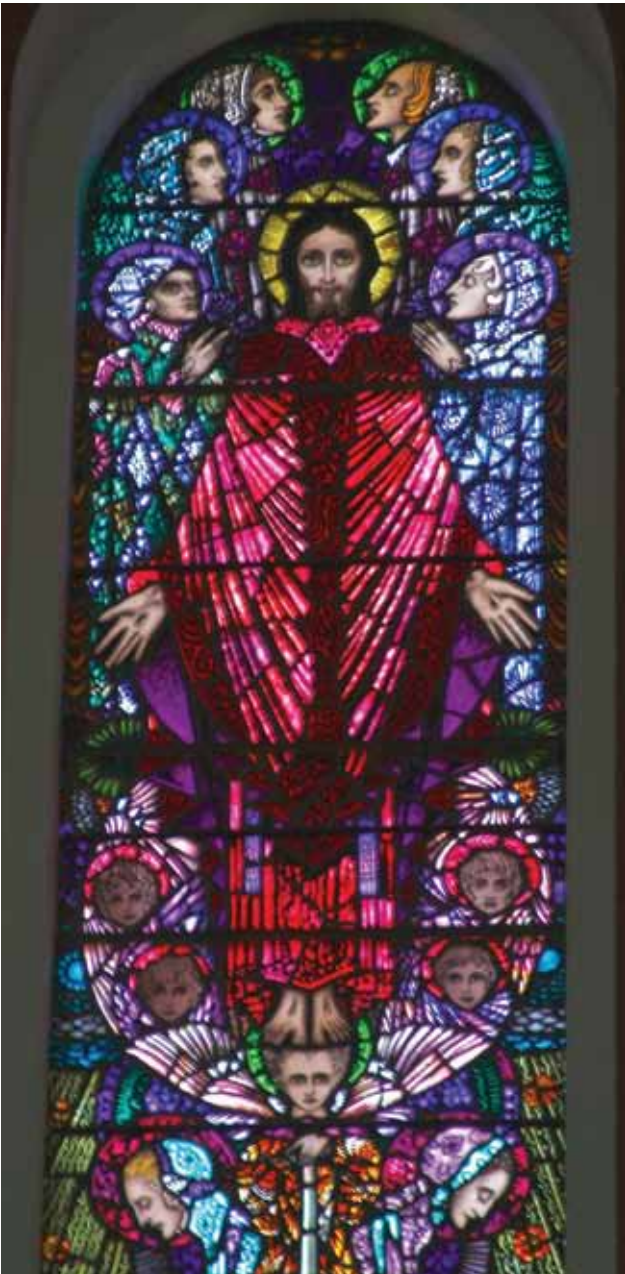
If you aren’t planning to visit Ireland anytime soon, you can see Clarke’s windows here – in the Basilica of St. Vincent de Paul in Bayonne, N.J., and in the Wolfsonian–Florida International University design museum in Miami. You can also find his windows in Australia, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

IRISH PUBS

Who says you can’t get a great meal in an Irish pub? Certainly not me, nor, for that matter, the Michelin Guide writers who included 30 Irish pubs in the recently published “Eating Out in Pubs Guide for 2018.” Twenty-two of these pubs are in the Republic and eight are in the North.

One new entry to the guide this year was the Bull & Ram in the town of Ballynahinch, Co. Down. Others include: Billy Andy’s (Mounthill, near Larne) in Antrim; the Wild Honey Inn in Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare; Morrissey’s Bar and Restaurant in Doonbeg; Linnane’s Lobster Bar in New Quay, and Vaughan’s Anchor Inn in Liscannor.

Also, Co. Cork: Poacher’s Inn (Bandon), Deasy’s (Clonakilty), Cronin’s (Crosshaven); Toddies at The Bulman (Kinsale); Co. Down: Pheasant (Anahilt); Poacher’s Pocket (Comber); Parson’s Nose



Harry Clarke stained glass window.

(Hillsborough); Plough Inn (Hillsborough); Pier 36 (Donaghadee) and Balloo House (Killinchy); Co. Dublin: Old Spot (Ballsbridge) and Chop House (Ballsbridge).

Co. Galway: Moran’s Oyster Cottage (Kilcolgan) and O’Dowd’s (Roundstone); Co. Kildare: Harte’s (Kildare); Ballymore Inn (Ballymore Eustace) and Fallon’s (Kilcullen); Co. Leitrim: Oarsman (Carrick-on-Shannon); Co. Louth: Fitzpatrick’s (Jenkinson); Co. Mayo: The Tavern (Murrisk) and The Shebeen (Westport); Co. Sligo: Hargadons (Sligo Town); Co. Tipperary: Larkins (Garrykennedy); and Co. Wexford: Lobster Pot in Carne.

To read about these pubs and why Michelin chose them, see travel.michelin.co.uk.

As with every recommendation, you really should take these with a

grain of salt and form your own opinions. I’ve been to a number of excellent pubs in Ireland that didn’t even get a nod from Michelin – and I’ve been to some of those listed that were definitely a whole lot less than great. So, apparently it all depends on when you visit and when the reviewer was there, as well as whether the chef is having a good or bad day and so many other factors.

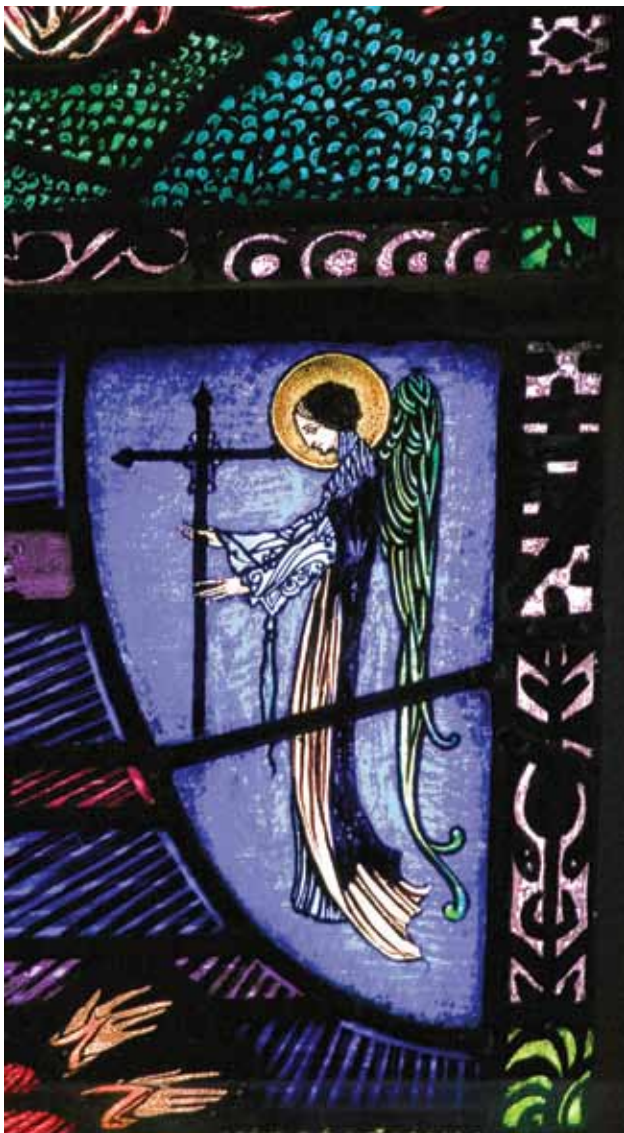
In short, make your own decisions and you will be sure to find some very good pubs and pub food not mentioned in the Michelin Guide or other guides. It’s always fun, though, to read through the listings to see what the reviewers think is great.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Want to do something fun while you’re in Ireland this month? If so, look for all the Christmas markets around the country from Armagh to Dublin. These seasonal markets offer great food and drink as well as different and interesting gifts and sometimes entertainment as well.

Some of the markets include: Galway, in Eyre Square (until Dec. 22); Belfast’s Continental Market at City Hall until Dec. 23; Waterford’s Winterval Festival until Dec. 23; Cork’s Christmas market, during the city’s Glow festival at the Grand Parade, and Dublin in the George’s Street Arcade.

And don’t miss a chance to visit Dublin’s unique and funky Christmas Market in the 12th Century crypt at Christ Church



Detail from a Harry Clarke stained glass window in Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo.



Madonna and child in a Harry Clarke stained glass window.

Judy Enright photos

Cathedral. The market will operate on Saturdays Dec. 7, 14, and 21, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The crypt, under the cathedral, is also filled with unusual artifacts from Dublin City. What fun!

See Ireland.com for information on other Christmas markets and events in Dublin and throughout Ireland.

LIVING NATIVITY

Here’s a fun activity if you’re in Donegal at the beginning of the month: On Fri., Dec. 1, from 7 to 9 p.m., and Sat., Dec. 2, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m., the Donegal Methodist Church will welcome visitors to a living nativity at the church on Meetinghouse Street beside the River Eske in Donegal Town.

Members from Donegal, Ballintra, and Inver Methodist churches are

taking part in all aspects of the event from acting to set design to serving hot chocolate. The living nativity will include six scenes with ten actors, sheep and a donkey. Donegal Methodist Church will be transformed into a walk-through theatre for guests to visit scenes that retell the Christmas story in a fun, creative way.

The event is free and open to the public. Donations taken during the event will benefit a cancer bus that provides free transport for patients and relatives from Donegal to Galway every Monday and Friday.

HOLIDAYS

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'A Christmas Celtic Sojourn' is in a different place these days

No Solas presence means a jump into 'uncharted waters' for O'Donovan et al.

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

It'll be 15 years – and the start of a new era – for "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn" when the curtain for the annual holiday show goes up on Dec. 12 at the Shalin Liu Performance Center in Rockport.

"Sojourn" makes its customary stop at the Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College in Boston from Dec. 14-17, then heads to Worcester's Hanover Theatre (Dec. 18), the Zeiterion Theatre in New Bedford (Dec. 19) and Providence's Veterans Memorial Auditorium (Dec. 20) before returning to the Cutler to close out its run on Dec. 21 and 22.

The production will be hosted as usual by its creator and guiding spirit, WGBH-FM broadcaster Brian O'Donovan, who serves as narrator, interlocutor, and, occasionally, as a performer himself amidst music, song, dance, and storytelling from Irish, Scottish, and other Celtic – even non-Celtic – traditions.

While there will certainly be plenty of familiar elements in this year's "Sojourn," 2017 definitely marks a sea change. Perhaps the most significant one is the absence of super-group Solas, which for many years was the definitive "house band" for the show. But with Solas now on hiatus for an undetermined length of time, new faces – and new sounds – will take its place.

"We're in uncharted territory," agrees O'Donovan. "Anyone who's come to the show in previous years, or seen or heard Solas anywhere else, knows how extraordinary they are. So yes, it's quite a challenge to fill the void, but it's also an opportunity to create something new and exciting."

Fortunately, he notes, Solas co-founder and multi-instrumentalist Seamus Egan remains with "Sojourn" not only as a performer but also as music director, a role he's filled for more than a decade. In addition, harpist/keyboardist/vocalist Maeve Gilchrist, a frequent "Sojourn" guest, has now become assistant music director.

"We knew that when Solas split, some serious re-assembling would be required," he says. "Seamus is absolutely brilliant as a director and arranger, but we thought an extra set of eyes, ears and heart would be a good idea. Maeve's done this sort of thing before for us on an informal basis, anyway, writing parts or leading rehearsals. And she and Seamus have a great respect for one another, so this promises to be a wonderful partnership."

A centerpiece of the musical "re-assembling" will be the presence of three dynamic fiddlers, Liz Knowles, Jenna Moynihan and Haley Richardson, all making their debuts with the show. Knowles, a member of the trio Open the Door for Three and the String Sisters fiddle ensemble, balances classical technique and tonality with the verve and drive of traditional music; an upstate New York native living in Boston, Moynihan has a solid background in Scottish fiddle to which she adds Appalachian stylings and other variations; Richardson – at 15 the same age as "Christmas Celtic Sojourn" – has firmly established herself as a first-rate performer, with an appearance at the 2016 "St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn" among her credits.

"This is just a fascinating blend of fiddlers, individually and collectively," says O'Donovan. "Whether playing solo, as a trio, or in other combinations, I think they'll add a strong component."

Also debuting this year is uilleann piper Joey Abarta, regarded as among the best at playing that iconic Irish instrument. Although often on tour, Abarta has nonetheless become a fixture in Boston's Celtic music scene,



Haley Richardson will make her "Christmas Celtic Sojourn" debut this year.



Mairi Campbell is the featured vocalist for 2017 "Christmas Celtic Sojourn."

performing at The Burren, BCMFest, and the Irish Cultural Centre of New England and helping anchor many area sessions. He'll be joined by his frequent accompanist, guitar and bouzouki player Owen Marshall, a member of the Maine quartet The Press Gang.

"We're so fortunate in Boston to have musicians like Joey, who knows the piping tradition inside and out," says O'Donovan.

Rounding out the musicians' roster are three frequent contributors to "Christmas Celtic Sojourn": Natalie Haas, one of the foremost pioneers of folk-style cello; bassist Chico Huff; and percussionist Ben Wittman.

"You can't overlook what Natalie, Chico, and Ben have brought to the show," says O'Donovan. "They add such exquisite touches to the music, and make the overall vibe that much better as a result. And they're consummate professionals who are a pleasure to be around."

The show's vocal selections have attained equal prominence during its 15 years, and O'Donovan feels Gilchrist's work as assistant music director will provide further enhancement. Gilchrist also will join O'Donovan and his wife, Lindsay, in singing lead and harmony.

Special guests this year are Mairi Campbell, who has received equal acclaim for her talents as a singer as well as a musician, winning honors in both categories at the Scots Trad Music Awards; and four-part vocal harmony group Windborne, whose members grew up in the traditional song and dance communities around New England [see separate story].

"Mairi is familiar to many for her very fine version of 'Auld Lang Syne,' which was used in an episode of the 'Sex and the City' TV series," says O'Donovan, "but she has a lengthy and impressive career resume that makes her an ideal addition to the 'Christmas Celtic Sojourn' cast."

"It's a pleasure to welcome Windborne: They are part of a generation that grew up in the wellspring of folk music found in New England through events and activities like Revels, Village Harmony and 'Nowell Sing We Clear.' Their energy and spirit, as well as a repertoire that ranges across many cultures, are perfect for the show."

Kevin Doyle, another popular "Sojourn" veteran and a National Heritage Fellowship winner, will be dance director for 2017, joined by Maryland-based Teelin Irish Dance Company director and choreographer Maureen Berry, who has produced feature-length stage shows such as "StepDance," "Sláinte" and last year's "Celtic Storm." As always, the Harney Academy of Irish Dance from Walpole will make appearances during the show.

"Kevin has that real sense of showmanship to go with his excellent dancing," says O'Donovan. "Maureen is used to the big-production atmosphere, and is working diligently with Kevin to present masterful dance routines. As for the Harney Academy, we've expanded their part to include some of their alumni, who are now young adults. It goes to show you what happens over 15 years."

"All in all, this will be a special 'Christmas Celtic Sojourn,' certainly because it's the 15th one and because of the new direction we've taken," says O'Donovan. "Lots of moving parts, to be sure. At the same time, we try to make the show as a kind of oasis in a crazy world full of negativity and strife. We want people to feel the warmth of being together and reconnecting with humanity during the holiday season."

For ticket information, show times and other details for "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn," see wghb.org/celtic.

CCE celebrates three new Hall of Famers

Boston's Reynolds-Hanafin-Cooley branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann celebrated the induction of three new members into the CCE Northeast Region Hall of Fame at a reception held last month at the Irish Cultural Centre of New England in Canton: broadcaster, producer and concert organizer Brian O'Donovan, and musicians Seán Clohessy and Patrick Hutchinson, all of whom have been active in the Greater Boston Irish music scene for years.

The CCE Northeast Region Hall of Fame was established almost two decades ago to recognize individuals who have been "outstanding contributors to music, song, dance, and language of Ireland."

The organization hailed Cork native O'Donovan for the pioneering radio

show, "A Celtic Sojourn," that he launched more than 30 years ago on WGBH-FM. Through the program, O'Donovan "explores traditional and contemporary music around the Celtic world while connecting emerging artists to their deep musical roots." "A Celtic Sojourn" also has served as a springboard for numerous other radio and TV programs, concerts and other live events, tours, and CD releases – among these are "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn," which will mark its 15th anniversary this month [see separate story in this edition].

"He has brought traditional music to thousands, many of whom had little or no previous exposure," the CCE citation reads. "He has recognized the importance of developing and promoting the young

musicians who will carry forward traditional music for future generations."

Clohessy, raised in a musical household, has been playing fiddle for the past 20 years, with early influences from musicians in his native Limerick and nearby Clare. In the past decade since he has lived in Boston, Clohessy has been a mainstay as a session musician, performer and teacher.

"Seán incorporates special insight into his music, playing with particular sensitivity and feeling," according to the CCE, noting his work on the CD "Cover the Buckle," a collection of Irish set dances.

The citation also touched on his involvement in the Comhaltas Boston Music School, where he has helped teach and mentor the Realta Geala (Bright Stars) ensemble of young



Seán Clohessy



Brian O'Donovan



Patrick Hutchinson

musicians. The group has won national competitions and qualified for the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann (Ireland's national competition), while appearing on radio and at venues in Boston.

Hutchinson, raised in Liverpool, England, has become an internationally recognized performer and teacher on the uilleann pipes "with more than 30 years' experience and an eclectic repertoire that encompasses both the traditional and the

experimental," read the CCE citation, which noted his doctorate in ethnomusicology from Brown University – his dissertation was on piper Chris Langan, another eminent musician and teacher.

The winner of two All-Ireland titles, Hutchinson has performed on "A Celtic Sojourn" and as part of the annual Revels show in Cambridge, and provided music for numerous theatrical productions, including Brian Friel's "Translations." His pip-

ing also is featured in the "Highlander" movies.

Hutchinson has taught pipes at the Comhaltas Boston Music School, and two of his students have won All-Ireland titles.

"It is a special honor to recognize these 2017 inductees who have dedicated their talents and made the commitment over many years to preserving and promoting our traditions," the CCE Hall of Fame announced.

CD Reviews

By Sean Smith
Special to the BIR

John and Maggie Carty, “Settle Out of Court”

• There’s no guarantee, you know, that traditional music gets passed down to the next generation, no matter how strong the legacy in a family. Maybe the younger ones just don’t take to it – or even if they do, the quality, the commitment, the verve may not follow.



Fortunately, that isn’t the case with fiddle and banjo whiz John Carty, whose daughter Maggie has wholly embraced the family heritage. John is an accomplished soloist and former TG4 “Traditional Musician of the Year” who also

has performed and recorded with the band Patrick Street, Matt Molloy, and Artie McGlynn, and guest starred with The Chieftains and De Dannan – and, for good measure, his father was a member of London’s famed Glenside Ceili Band in the 1960s.

Maggie’s instrument of choice is banjo, and she shows a deft touch on keyboards as well, as she and her father collaborate on several tune sets, with contributions from the inimitable Donal Lunny on bouzouki, bodhran, and guitar and guitarist Shane McGowan (whose name inevitably necessitates a “Not the Pogues Vocalist” – i.e. Shane MacGowan – qualifier).

Highlights of the album include a hornpipe/slides combination (“The Turn/Carrigkerry/Con Cassidy’s”); a pair of barn dances (“The Old Timer/Grandmother She”), the latter collected in Boston; a set of reels (“Blessings of Silver/Seanin McDonagh”) that features a crisp John-Lunny duet at the outset; and a concluding pair of Sligo polkas (“Memories of Ballymote/Gurteen Cross”). You can glean John and Maggie’s individual talents while savoring the chemistry they have together.

Maggie also shows herself to be an engaging singer on four of the tracks, sounding bright and girlish on “The Nightingale” (of Dubliners and Clancy Brothers vintage, and long a Carty family favorite), suitably reflective and somber on “Down by the Salley Gardens,” and with a Cathy Jordan-like glint to her voice for the modal, slightly mystical “Lough Erne Shore.” She has a grand time with “The Breakers Go Back on Full Time,” a comic-Irish bit of whimsy written by Con Carbon, one of the “Minstrels of the Mine Patch” troupe that entertained Pennsylvania miners in the 19th and 20th centuries. Additionally, Maggie demonstrates the tenor banjo’s capability to

accompany songs, especially the muted thumb-picking she employs on “Lough Erne Shore.”

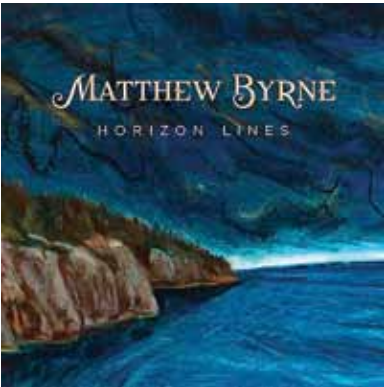
Perhaps best of all is a father-daughter banjo duet on the jig-reels medley “The Frost Is All Over/Tomas Clancy’s 1 & 2” – it evokes images of the many hours John must’ve spent showing Maggie the work that goes into being an Irish musician, and the satisfaction it can bring. [johncarty.com]

Matthew Byrne, “Horizon Lines” • Lost lives, lost loves, failure, disappointment, spirit-crushing hard work – “Horizon Lines” is full of such narratives. So this album must be incredibly depressing, right? Not when the singer is Newfoundland’s Byrne, he of the clear, resonant tenor voice, innate sense of pacing and delivery, and outstanding repertoire. Byrne attracted a wide following on the strength of his second album, “Hearts & Heroes,” which among other things demonstrated his keen empathy for – and ability to build on – the song tradition of his homeland and its people, not least his own family.

On “Horizon Lines,” Byrne once again gives the songs plenty of space for maximum impact, notably on two he sings unaccompanied: “The Woods of Truagh” – a love-in-the-time-of-war story dating back to 17th-century Ireland – and Newfoundlander Peter Leonard’s vividly told nautical misadventure “Jim Harris.” Elsewhere, a small acoustic ensemble (primarily Billy Sutton, Aaron Colis, Josh Ward, and Paul Kinsman) gives Byrne – who plays guitar and octave mandolin – able support, with tightly executed instrumental passages and rich fills underneath, particularly “Long Years Ago,” which also includes Teresa Ennis’s exquisite harmony vocals; “The River Driver,” a lumber camp ballad; and a cover of the Irish Descendants’ “Go to Sea No More.” Byrne also does a fine solo take on “Sarah Jane,” a traditional Irish song of superb lyrical quality – associated with the immortal Dublin singer Frank Harte – about unattainable love.

A feature of Byrne’s work is his family’s musical legacy. “Long Years Ago” came from his grandmother’s singing, “Farewell to Tarwathie” from his uncle (many listeners might associate it with Judy Collins), and “Jim Harris” from his father, Joe, a veteran performer himself who is given the lead on the wistful “Kitty Bawn O’Brien” (written by Cape Bretoner Allister MacGillivray).

But nowhere is this connection more compelling than on “Adelaide,” a Byrne original that recounts a former sailor’s attempt to find out what happened to his long-ago love – none other than Byrne’s late aunt. Byrne does a masterful job, in both his writing



and singing, of telling the tale in all its poignancy while avoiding mawkishness; the song ends not on a note of regret or despair, but rather a blessed state of closure.

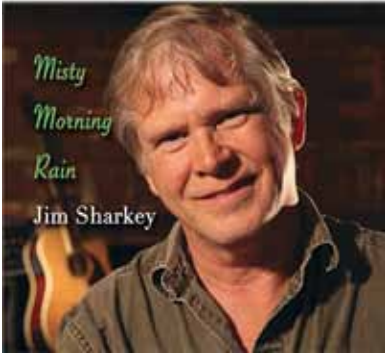
Whether traditional or contemporary, the songs on “Horizon Lines” say much about the times and events that test us, as well as the ways in which we respond – for better or worse – and it is this aspect of our humanity Byrne so effectively mines. [matthewbyrne.net]

Jim Sharkey, “Misty Morning Rain” • Sharkey, a Roscommon native now living in North Carolina, came late to the music biz after a number of years working as a US Navy photographer and special needs teacher, among other things. Since then, he’s become a fixture in the Mid-Atlantic and South, offering a mix of Irish folk and Americana, both traditional and original. “Misty Morning Rain,” his third album, is all-Sharkey material, some of it co-written with his accompanists (he plays guitar, harmonica, and bodhran).

Sharkey’s compositions are much like the voice with which he sings them: gentle, often introspective, a little melancholy, and attuned to the quieter, slower-paced rhythms of small-town life. He extols the virtues of seeking comfort and fellowship, away from the madding crowd and other sources of tension, such as in “Hot Chocolate,” “The Bar on the Square,” and “Nothing in Particular,” a therapeutic travelogue of sorts (“Carolina coast is where I go, to be alone, to think things through/In the morning, to the corner, I go down for coffee and a bagel too/and the news in the local publication, doesn’t bother me I’m on vacation”).

He muses on separation and the prospect of reunion in “The Blue Stars Above,” “Misty Morning Rain” and – in a retelling of the selkie legend – “The Enchanted Cap,” and on the promise and challenge of courtship in the comic, cheeky “Walk Her Home” (“I’d be up for walking her home/Recreating the romantic poems/she’s always reading/She’ll find me appealin’/If I walk her home”). There are also meditations on tragedy, both global (“Plight of the Yazidis”) and personal (“Song for Conor”), and a moving portrait of parental love and mortality in “Fiona,” conveyed through a father’s words of reassurance over the years.

Cumulatively, “Misty Morning Rain” doesn’t have a lot of variation in tone or pace, so you may find yourself checking out from time to time. But it’s hard to find much fault with a guy who’s telling you to, for goodness sake, take it easy, stop, and think a little. [jimsharkeymusic.com]



THE BIR’S ARTS CALENDAR OF IRISH/CELTIC EVENTS

Naturally enough, holiday-themed events – like “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn” (see story elsewhere in this issue) – are plentiful in this month’s Irish/Celtic calendar.

• At Club Passim in Harvard Square, festivities include “A Fine Winter’s Night” on Dec. 8 at 8 p.m., a concert by popular local duo **Matt and Shannon Heaton** based on their 2007 album of the same name: traditional Irish songs and tunes as well as Heaton originals, all featuring their flute/whistle/guitar/bouzouki mastery and exquisite vocal harmonies.

A bevy of local folk/acoustic musicians and singers will unite on Dec. 19 for “**Wintery Songs in Eleventy Part Harmony**.” Organized by singer/songwriter Jennifer Kimball, this now-annual event features sacred, secular, and contemporary/pop music for the holidays, arranged for fiddles, cellos, guitars, and other instruments, as well as for numerous voices. Among the participants will be Hannah Read, Mariel Vandersteel, Val Thompson, Laura Cortese, Natalie and Brittany Haas, Lauren Rioux, and Aoife O’Donovan. Shows will take place at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Harpist-vocalist **Aine Minogue** will perform her yearly holiday show on Dec. 23, at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. A native of Tipperary, Minogue is widely recognized as a premier Irish harpist and singer who conveys the lyricism and richness of Irish music, mythology, and poetry, and is attuned to the traditions, rituals, and celebrations associated with the ancient Celtic world. She will present music of the winter solstice and Christmas, with tunes and carols that have roots in ancient traditions of the British Isles.

For tickets and other information about Club Passim events, go to passim.org.

• On Dec. 2, the Cabot Theatre in Beverly will host “A Celtic Family Christmas” with award-winning fiddle stars **Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy**. Representing the union of two legendary family music traditions, MacMaster and Leahy have now started one of their very own: Their children will be among the array of musicians joining the pair for a concert of powerful, uptempo instrumentals as well as intimate, heartfelt melodies. The concert begins at 8 p.m. See thecabot.org for details.

• Some of Berklee College of Music’s finest singers will be on hand when the **Berklee Celtic Vocal Ensemble** presents “The Holly Bears the Crown” on Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m., a holiday concert of traditional



Tony McManus comes to The Burren Backroom series on December 15.

and contemporary songs from Ireland and the British Isles. The event, which is free, takes place at the David Friend Recital Hall, 921 Boylston St., Boston. Information is available at berklee.edu/events.

• Singer and musician **Nóirín Ní Riain** and her sons **Owen and Mícheál Moley Ó Súilleabháin** will perform “A Celtic Christmas” on Dec. 7 as part of the Boston College Gaelic Roots series. Ní Riain – who has appeared with artists such as Sinéad O’Connor, John Cage, and Paul Winter – is an authority on Celtic music as well as sacred and spiritual songs from across the ages. “A Celtic Christmas” will feature song and story, celebrating the wisdom, charm, and wit of the Celtic tradition. The concert takes place at 6:30 p.m. in the Cadigan Alumni Center on BC’s Brighton Campus; admission is free, but registration is required – go to bc.edu/gaelicroots for the link.

• Not a holiday concert per se, but certainly a gift for guitar enthusiasts: **Tony McManus** will make an all-too-rare Boston-area appearance at The Burren Backroom series on Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Scots native McManus is able to convey the complex ornamentation of Celtic music normally associated with fiddle or pipes through his virtuosic finger-style guitar-playing. His long list of collaborations includes Alasdair Fraser, Seamus Tansey, Kate Rusby, Catriona MacDonald, as well as a stint with Johnny Cunningham, Kevin Burke, and Christian Lemaitre in the band Celtic Fiddle Festival.

Go to burren.com/Backroom-Series.html.
• The accordionist **John Whelan** and the guitarist **Flynn Cohen** will come to the Irish Cultural Center of New England in Canton on Dec. 4 for a workshop (6 p.m.-7 p.m.) followed by an open session at 9 p.m. A seven-time All-Ireland champion, Whelan is thoroughly ensconced in the Irish music tradition yet also active in numerous projects that put the tradition in new, exciting contexts, playing with the likes of fiddler Eileen Ivers, with Nashville stalwarts Tim O’Brien and Jerry Douglas, and African and Latino musicians. He has also appeared often with Cohen, a former Boston-area resident now in Vermont, who is a founding member of the trad/roots band Low Lily (formerly Annalivia) and a frequent accompanist who has toured with Aoife Clancy and Cathie Ryan, among others.

Details at irishculture.org.

The News in Brief

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Settlement in balcony collapse case
BERKELEY, Calif. – Relatives of six college students who died when a balcony collapsed in Berkeley have reached a settlement with the owners of the apartment building and the company that managed it.

Attorney Joseph R. Lucia said in a statement last month that terms of the settlement with owner Black-Rock and management firm Greystar were confidential.

The students, most of them from Ireland, were at a June 2015 birthday party when the balcony collapsed and sent them 50 feet down to the street. Seven others were injured. Previous tenants reported seeing mushrooms on the balcony, indicating rotting wood.

The dead included cousins Olivia Burke of Ireland and Ashley Donohoe of California.

Attorneys for the Donohoe family say they'll continue pushing for changes to building codes and reporting requirements for shoddy construction work.

Adams to quit Sinn Fein leadership post
LONDON – Gerry Adams, the divisive politician known around the world as the face of the Irish republican movement as it shifted from violence to peace, announced last month that he was stepping down as leader of Sinn Fein next year after heading the party for over 30 years.

The 69-year-old veteran politician, who has been president of Northern Ireland's second-largest party since 1983, told the party's annual conference in Dublin he would not run in the next Irish parliamentary elections. "Leadership means knowing when it is time for change and that time is now," he said, adding the move was part of an ongoing process of leadership transition within the party.

A divisive figure, Adams has long been denounced by some Adams as a terrorist while others hail him as a peacemaker.

He was a key figure in Ireland's republican movement, which seeks to take Northern Ireland out of the U.K. and unite it with the Republic of Ireland.

The dominant faction of the movement's armed wing, the Provisional IRA, killed nearly 1,800 people during a failed 1970-1997 campaign to force Northern Ireland out of the U.K. It renounced violence and surrendered its weapons in 2005.

Although many identify Adams as a member of the IRA since 1966 and a commander for decades, he has always insisted he was never a member.

He was key in the peace process that saw the signing of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and the formation of the power-sharing government in Northern Ireland that is now having a difficult time.

Many believe Sinn Fein's popularity among voters is

hampered by the presence of leaders from Ireland's era of Troubles. The party is expected to elect a successor next year. Current deputy leader Mary Lou McDonald was seen as a favorite to succeed Adams.

More back and forth on Brexit
LONDON – Britain is reportedly planning to offer more money to settle its bill with the European Union in a bid to unblock stalled Brexit negotiations – but only if the EU agrees to start discussing a future free-trade deal. The size of the bill, covering commitments Britain has made while an EU member, is a key sticking point in divorce talks. Britain has previously offered about 20 billion euros (\$23 billion), but the EU wants at least 60 billion euros (\$70 billion).

British media said late last month that the Cabinet's Brexit committee had agreed to increase the offer to about 40 billion euros (\$46 billion).

Prime Minister Theresa May's office declined to confirm the amount, but said that "the U.K. and the EU should step forward together" to unblock the negotiations. "It remains our position that nothing's agreed until everything's agreed in negotiations with the EU," Downing Street said.

The 27 other EU leaders are due to decide at a Dec. 14-15 summit whether there has been sufficient progress on the divorce terms for talks to move on to future relations and trade.

With Britain due to leave the EU in March 2019, U.K. leaders are keen to start work on a free-trade deal with the bloc. EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier said that if that is to happen, Britain must come up with solutions on the key issues: the Brexit bill, the status of the U.K. border with EU member Ireland and the rights of citizens affected by Britain's exit.

Britain, however, says those issues can't be settled without also discussing future relations.

Brexit Secretary David Davis said that "the Brexit talks have been tough" but had made good progress. "We now must start talking about our future relationship," he said at a conference in London.

Meanwhile, political instability on both sides of the English Channel is fueling Brexit uncertainty. In Germany, talks on a potential coalition between Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and two smaller parties have collapsed, raising the prospect of new elections at a crunch time for Brexit talks.

The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill is designed to prevent a legal vacuum by converting some 12,000 EU laws into British statute on the day the U.K. leaves the bloc in March 2019. But many lawmakers claim the bill gives the government too much power to amend legislation without parliamentary scrutiny.

Insurance and Investments

A good financial strategy is not just about "making money;" it is also about protection.

Provided by Brian W. O'Sullivan, CFP, ChFC, CLU



Some people mistake investing for financial planning. Their "financial strategy" is an investing strategy, in which they chase the return and focus on the yield of their portfolio. As they do so, they miss the big picture. Investing represents but one facet of long-term financial planning. Trying to build wealth is one thing; trying to protect it is another. An effort must be made to manage risk.

Insurance can play a central role in wealth protection. That role is underappreciated - partly because some of the greatest risks to wealth go unnoticed in daily life. Five days a week, investors notice what happens on Wall Street; the market is constantly "top of mind." What about those "back of mind" things investors may not readily acknowledge?

What if an individual suddenly cannot work? Without disability insurance, a seriously injured or ill person out of the workforce may have to dip into savings to replace income. As the Council for Disability Awareness notes, the average length of a long-term disability claim is nearly three years. Workers' compensation insurance will only pay out if a disability directly relates to an incident that occurs at work, and most long-term disabilities are not workplace related.

What if an individual suddenly dies? If a household relies on that person's income, how does it cope financially with that income abruptly disappearing? Does it spend down its savings or its invested assets? In such a crisis, life insurance can offer relief. The payout from a policy with a six-figure benefit can provide the equivalent of years of income.

Why do people underinsure themselves as they strive to build wealth? Partly, it is because death and disability are uncomfortable conversation topics. Many people neglect estate planning due to this same discomfort and because they lack knowledge of just how insurance can be used to promote wealth preservation.

The bottom line? Insurance is a vital, necessary aspect of a long-term financial plan. Insurance may not be as exciting to the average person as investments, but it can certainly help a household maintain some financial equilibrium in a crisis, and it also can become a crucial part of estate planning.

Brian W. O'Sullivan is a registered representative of and offers securities, investment advisory and financial planning services through MML Investors Services, LLC, Member SIPC (www.sipc.org). Supervisory Address: 101 Federal Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02110. He may be reached at 617-479-0075 x331 or bosullivan@financialguide.com.

Seattle-Dublin flights via Aer Lingus due next spring

SEATTLE – Nonstop flights from Seattle to Dublin will start next spring.

The Seattle Times reports Irish carrier Aer Lingus as saying the service will begin May 18, 2018. It will be provided four times a week.

Because Dublin airport has its own US Customs and Border Protection facility, passengers and their luggage will be pre-cleared in Ireland before departure, with no need to go through passport control on arrival in Seattle.

This will be the first pre-cleared trans-Atlantic flight to fly into Seattle.

Aer Lingus also will provide Seattle passengers connections through Dublin to 24 U.K. and European cities.

Aer Lingus will fly a 265-seat Airbus A330-200 with 23 flat-bed business class seats and 243 economy class seats.

18 months for Irish man in rhino horn smuggling

MIAMI – An Irish man has been sentenced to 18 months in US prison for the international smuggling of a cup carved from the horn of an endangered rhinoceros.

Court records show a Miami judge imposed the sentence last month on 40-year-old Michael Hegarty, who had pleaded guilty earlier this year to illegally trafficking the rhino horn cup.

Hegarty was arrested in Belgium in January and extradited to the US in July.

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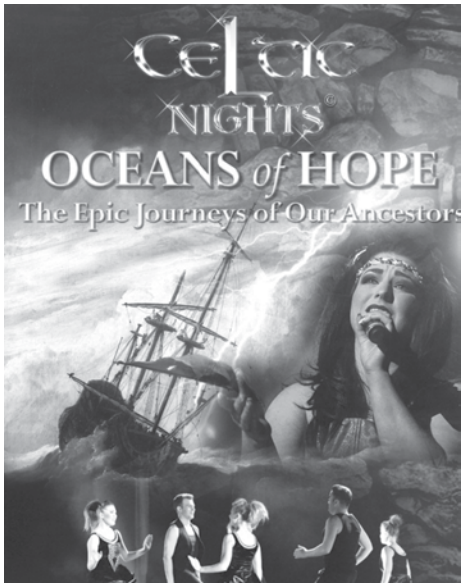
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A Celtic Family Christmas



Saturday, March 24, 8pm

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Youth teams learn Gaelic sports in Dorchester, Canton



Players from the St. Brendan Gaelic Athletics Club in Dorchester huddle up.

By BERNADETTE DARCY
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

For nearly a decade, Saint Brendan's Gaelic Athletics Club in Dorchester has brought the fast-paced fun of Irish sports to the youth of Boston's neighborhoods. With more than 100 members, the organization keeps busy teaching players the skills and techniques needed to play and enjoy Gaelic football, hurling, and camogie matches.

The Saint Brendan's club supports a wide range of athletes by age, starting with teams in the Under-6 Division, and finishing with teams in the Under-18 Division. The players compete in the North East Minor Board division against teams from Springfield, Canton, and Milton, MA, Hartford, CT, and Portland, ME. Programs run year-round, with an indoor set from January until March, and an outdoor set from

April on. Dorchester's Adrienne Munroe has three sons—Brendan, 14, Ryan 12, and Liam, 10—who play both hurling and Gaelic football for Saint Brendan's. During the winter, the boys practice with their teams for two hours on Sundays, with an hour devoted to hurling, and an hour to Gaelic football. When Pope John Paul II Park reopens in the spring, the boys and their teams will practice on hurling

and football pitches twice a week, developing plays and refining their skills in preparation for a competitive season.

"The boys love it, beyond love it," Munroe said. "They stopped playing baseball and soccer just to concentrate on the Irish sports."

In addition to playing games throughout the year, Saint Brendan's teams take an annual trip to a designated state to participate in the Continental Youth Championship (CYC). The CYC is the largest Gaelic games tournament held outside of Ireland.

Next summer, Massachusetts will host the CYC at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton. Up to 2,500 participants are expected to compete in hundreds of Gaelic football, hurling, and camogie games over the course of the four-day tournament.

Munroe is helping to fundraise to make sure all teams are equipped to attend the tournament. "There's a huge commu-

nity now," Munroe said. "I've met so many people

that I never would have met otherwise. We're like family."



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Holiday Events at the Irish Cultural Centre

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AT 6 P.M.
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Winner of the \$30,000
Christmas Draw announced.
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The Irish Language

by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Nollag Shona Duibh agus Bliana Mhaith Ur! “Christmas Happy to-You-all and Year Good New!” is “Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year” in Irish or we can say, “Blessed Christmas”.

Ochan, ochan! “Alas, alas!” **Gabh mo leithcéalt.** “I’m sorry”. **Gabhaim pardon agaibh** /GOH pahr-uhn AH-keev/ “I beg your pardon”. When sent to *The Reporter* from my home electronically the answers to the little test in September’s Irish column on selecting the verb to be pronounced was both *italicized* and *underlined*. When the “Answers” appeared in *The Reporter* for November they were still the same as the “Questions”. They had not been corrected. Here are the “Answers” again – hopefully corrected this time.

- Answers:
- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. agamsa | 7. maith | 13. gasur |
| 2. gardaí | 8. inniu | 14. siopa |
| 3. bhfuil | 9. buaichail | 15. gealach |
| 4. pionta | 10. raibh | 16. geata |
| 5. múinteoir | 11. leapa | 17. Sasana |
| 6. máda | 12. ceart | 18. anachain |

In all of this there is one good outcome – at least you can now say, **Gabh mo leithscéalt** /GOH moh LETH-skelt/ “I’m sorry” and **Gabhaim pardón agaibh** /GOH-uhm pahr-duhm AH-keev/ “I beg your pardon”. Just be sure to change the last word to reflect the number of people. **Agaibh** /AH-kehv/ is the plural “you”. When speaking to one person use **agat**, **Gabhaim pardón agat** /GOH-uhm pahr-don AH-kuht/. **Gabh** /goh/ means “go” or “come” but here is used idiomatically. “Excuse me” can be simply **Pardón** from English.

Do you remember how to say, “Thanks”? Here one says in Irish, “Thanks by/ from God”, **Buíochas le Día.** “You’re welcome” is **Go raibh maith agat** /GOH roh mah AH-kuht/.

Continuing our review of the pronunciation of the consonants, we are ready for “c”.

“c” in Irish always has the sound of /k/, there is no “soft” –c- /sh/in Irish. Some examples are **carr** /kahr/ and **ceol** /kyohl/ “music”, **stoca** /STOHK-uh/ “stocking” and **uisce** /ISH-kuh/ “water”.

When **lenited**, adding an **h** before or following a “Broad Vowel” (**a, o, u**), **-ch** sounds like a guttural /k/ as in German /ahwk/ or the Scots dialects of English such as **loch** /lahwk/ “lake” or “arm of the sea” (Irish spells it “**lough**”). The International Phonetic symbol for this sound is /X/ but in our simplified system we will use “**hwk**” in contact with “Broad Vowels” (**a, o, u**) at the end of words.

In Irish this sound can occur not only on the ends of words but also on the beginning of words. Here I will spell the sound /X/ as “**hwk**”. In other words not just in Irish words like **ach** /awk/ “but” and **och!** /ohwk/ “alas!” but also **chúig** /hwk/ “five” and **chomh** /hwuh/.

In contact with “Slender Vowels” (**e, ao, i**) “ch” has the sound /x/ as in German **Ich**, “I”, or the beginning of the English name “Hugh”. Be careful how you pronounce “Hugh”, Pronounce it like an Englishman, vocal chords don’t vibrate. I will spell this “**hw**” as in Irish **chéad** /hwehd/ “first”. Sometimes the “-ch-” is silent as in **oíche** /ee/ “night”. “**ch**” will never appear in contact with a slender vowel on the end of a word in this course.

The correct pronunciation of the letter **d** presents a problem. In contact with a “Broad Vowel” it sounds like an English /d/ but differs in that your tongue must touch the back of the upper front teeth. In American English the **d** only touches the ridge behind the teeth, not forward enough. Try **donn** /down/ “brown” or **dona** /DOH-nuh/ “bad”, touching your front teeth.

In contact with a “Slender Vowel” (**e,ao,i**) **d** has the sound of /j/ as in the English man’s pronunciation of “duty” as /JOO-tee/. Say **dearg** /JEER-uhg/ “red” and **Dia** /JEE-uh/ “God”.

When **lenited**, adding an **h** to the front of a word, **dh-** in contact with a “Broad Vowel” (**a, o, u**) **d** has the sound of a “gargled /g/” – **a dha** /uh gah/ “two”when counting, **léine dhonn** /LEHY-nuh gown/ “brown shirt”.

In contact with a “Slender Vowel” (**e, ao, i**) **dh** has the sound of /y/ as in English “you”. – **A Dhia** /uh YEE-uh/ “Oh God” in prayer, **léine dhearg** /LEH-nyuh YEER-ugh/ “red shirt”. When a person sneezes the appropriate response is **Dia leat** /JEE-uh let/ “God with you.”

f with a “Broad Vowel (**a, o, u**) is as in English “fad” – **fada** /FAHD-uh/ “long” in Irish and. with “Slender Vowels” as English “few”. English speakers really don’t hear the difference between the /f/ sounds in “fad” and “few” but pronounce each slowly and you can note the difference in your lip positions. The mouth is spread with “**fad**” but narrower with “**few**”. This is important in Irish but since English follows the same pronunciation rules there is no need to worry.

Fh- is always “silent”. The sound /f/ is so weak that it simply disappears when **lenited**. **Bhuil**, the “Dependent Form” of **Bí**, is /wheel/.

Practice your pronunciation of these Irish words. If you read the English as you repeat them several times it will help you memorize them, too.

fada	“long”	dhonn	“brown” Feminine form.
dearg	“red”	dhearg	“red” Feminine
buí	“yellow”	bhuí	“yellow” Feminine
gorm	“blue”	ghorm	“blue” Feminine
Fhag	Verb “left”	donn	“brown”



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Saturday Night Live telecast on Dec. 2 will have a decidedly Irish flavor

NBC has announced that Academy Award-nominated Irish actress Saoirse Ronan will be the host on Saturday Night Live on Dec. 2. The program will also feature U2 as the musical guest. “The show is famed for its irreverent sketches of well-known politicians and celebrities,” the *Irish Times* reported. “It has featured comedy performers like Tina Fey, Jimmy Fallon, Kate McKinnon, and Molly Shannon. Ronan joins



Saoirse Ronan

a long list of previous hosts – such as Candice Bergen, Tom Hanks, Emma Stone, Cameron Diaz, Melissa McCarthy, John Goodman, and Alec Baldwin.” Ronan, who lives in Co. Carlow, Ireland, drew great acclaim for her lead performance in the 2015 film “Brooklyn.” She currently is starring in the movie “Lady Bird,” a role which is drawing buzz for a potential second Oscar nomination for her. Ronan was born in The

Bronx to Irish parents, and when she was three, the family moved to Carlow. She made her first TV appearance in 2003 with a small role in a few

episodes of “The Clinic” TV series. Moving to film, she earned international fame for her role in 2007’s “Atonement.” Between 2008 to 2011,

she starred in a number of successful movies, including, “City of Ember,” “The Lovely Bones,” and “The Way Back.”

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