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Feeling a bit Irish

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations at Landmark Center, March 17 and 20

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (Feb. 16, 2016)—An authentic, family oriented St. Patrick's Day celebration is easy to find if you're looking in St. Paul. Presented in partnership with the Irish Music and Dance Association, Landmark Center hosts two days filled with fun for the whole family. March 17, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., is the St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration, and March 20, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., is the Day of Irish Dance.

“As we celebrate the 35th year of this home town celebration, we have gotten a bit nostalgic, and our focus this year is on being authentic to our roots in traditional Irish music and dance,” said Julia Rogers, IMDA President. “We are blessed with a lively, thriving Irish music community here in St. Paul, and we are delighted that so many of the musicians have been with us through the years.”

St. Patrick's Day

The St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration, March 17, brings many favorites from years past, including Locklin Road, Clairseach, Legacy, The HiBs, Dunquin, The Eddies, Hounds of Finn, The Bellows Brothers with Tom Klein on uilleann (Irish) pipes, and the wonderful young musicians from the Center for Irish Music's Advanced Youth Ensemble. There will also be a special performance by Northern Gael as it brings its special combination of wind powered music, guitar, vocals, and dance to the celebration.

In addition to the Main Stage and F. K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium performances, there will be workshops and seminars in Courtroom 326, and an Irish Tea Room offering refreshments for sale and traditional music, such as 2015 grant recipient Hannah Flowers on harp; Rúpálaí, an ensemble of harp, whistle, guitar, and vocals; SisterTree, a female duo of strings and voices; and InishMohr, an ensemble of strings, flutes, and pipes.

Finally, for the little ones, stop by the always popular Children's Craft area for a free St. Patrick's Day themed activity during the St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Then, on the Children's Stage, kids can join in the stories told by Sir Gustav Doc'Tai; dance with the Mooncoin Ceili Dancers; and play along to music and musical games with Common Chord, a group of five Early Childhood Music educators that delight both children and parents.

Day of Irish Dance

After the fun of St. Patrick's Day, everyone can come back to Landmark Center for Day of Irish Dance, March 20. With the focus squarely on Irish step dancing, more than 700 dancers, from 10 Irish dance schools and performance groups from around the Twin Cities, perform over the course of the day. Performers on the Main Stage include the littlest dancers who are just beginning, to adults who

continue to enjoy learning and performing Irish dance. This year, Day of Irish Dance will feature a special showcase of adult Irish dance students from five schools.

In addition to dancing, IMDA will present “Decade of Dance Awards” to more than 20 students who have studied Irish dance for at least 10 years. Also, the Celtic Collaborative will read from its new anthology “The Harp and the Loon,” and the Tea Room will sell refreshments and showcase more musicians. Performers include, students from the Center for Irish Music, Tipper Road, Kindred, Bundle & Go, and the day would not be complete without music on uilleann (Irish) pipes from the Great Northern Irish Pipers Club.

The 1916 Easter Rising

Woven in to the two days of celebration are two special offerings that honor the 100th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising - the Irish rebellion that paved the way for Irish independence:

St. Patrick's Day - The traditional music group Legacy will present a seminar on the songs of the 1916 Irish Rebellion. These songs highlight the extraordinary people and the sacrifices made to bring about separation from Great Britain.

Day of Irish Dance - The Celtic Collaborative, the Twin Cities’ local Irish theatre and literary troupe, will present "The Ghosts of 1916 Speak," introducing the audience to some of the important figures in that event and their writings.

Day of Irish Dance is part of the “Sundays at Landmark” series, presented by Minnesota Landmarks and proudly sponsored in part by Ecolab, Travelers, and Ramsey County. Both days of the Irish Celebrations are produced by the Irish Music and Dance Association and are presented in partnership with Minnesota Landmarks / Landmark Center. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for kids 5-12, each day. A portion of the proceed from the St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Day of Irish Day go to grants that support local Irish music, dance, and other arts of cultural significance. For more information, visit www.landmarkcenter.org/Irish.html .

About Landmark Center

Landmark Center is a dynamic, historic cultural center and central gathering place in downtown Saint Paul. It is owned and sponsored by Ramsey County and managed by Minnesota Landmarks, the nonprofit programming and management agency for the building. Landmark Center is located at 75 5th Street West, on Rice Park and is accessible to those with impaired mobility. Parking is available on street and in nearby Lawson, Science Museum and RiverCentre Ramps. For more information call 651.292.3063 or visit www.landmarkcenter.org.

About the Irish Music and Dance Association

The Irish Music and Dance Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit cultural and educational organization. With the help of an enthusiastic group of dedicated volunteers, IMDA supports, coordinates, encourages and promotes high quality activities and programs in Irish music and dance in the Twin Cities community. For more information, visit www.irishmusicanddanceassociation.org.

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