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**New features and classic favorites bring Irish fun to Landmark Center**

*St. Patrick's Day Celebrations, March 17 and 19*

**SAINT PAUL, Minn. (Feb. 15, 2017)**—An authentic, family friendly St. Patrick's Day celebration is easy to find if you look 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 19, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., is the Day of Irish Dance.

“We have new features and performers with us this year, in all performance areas – musicians, seminars, two new dance schools, and a craft sponsor,” said Julia Rogers, IMDA President. “The crafts this year are very exciting. They are a designed by Kids Create Studio, and will be items kids can use right away to help them celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Plus, they're free as always, so they are a great option for families.”

**New for 2017:**

- Two new groups of young musicians – Sona, featuring Hannah Flowers on harp and Mattie Ernst on fiddle and concertina; and Ryan Behnke on uilleann pipes with Buddy Ferrari on vocals and bouzouki. Behnke is a recent graduate of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance in Limerick, Ireland.
- Legacy will present a musical workshop, "New Kids On The Block: Songs about the Irish in America, 1860-1920."
- The Celtic Collaborative presents "Danny Who? Forty Years in Irish Music" with skits and music that illuminates Musician Tom Dahill's raucous new memoir.
- Gaeltacht Minnesota seminar, "Irish for Tourists," a fun introduction to the language for anyone contemplating a trip to the Emerald Isle.
- Brian Miller will lead a seminar on Irish songs once famous in Minnesota Lumber camps during Day of Dance, March 19.
- [Kid's Create Studio](#) is sponsoring the Kid's Craft Area with craft projects designed especially for the Irish Celebrations.
- Day of Dance, March 19, will feature two new Irish dance groups - Casey Academy of Irish Dance from St. Paul; and the Loring Irish Dance Team, a group of 4th and 5th graders from Loring Community School in Minneapolis.
- IMDA membership promotion - anyone who becomes an IMDA member by March 31 will be entered to win a \$250 gift certificate to R.F. Moeller Jewelers. More information can be found at [www.imda-mn.org](http://www.imda-mn.org).

## **St. Patrick's Day**

This year's St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration, March 17, features a Main Stage lineup with Irish entertainment for everyone, including Locklin Road; Claireseach, with Ann Heymann; Legacy; Tom Dahill with Ginny Johnson; Norah Rendell, three time, including 2016, Chicago American News "Best Female Vocalist," and the Lost Forty; Brian Miller; Barra, with John McCormick; Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band; The Dregs, Renaissance Festival favorites offering music and comedic stage antics; SisterTree, a female duo of strings and voices and musicians from the Center for Irish Music's Advanced Youth Ensemble and the Young Adult Ensemble; Northern Gael, with Bush Foundation Artist Fellow and McKnight Foundation Performing Artist Fellow Laura MacKenzie on wind instruments and vocals, Ross Sutter on vocals and guitar, and fiddler/dancer Danielle Enblom; and of course, a lot of Irish dance - including performance groups Biddies Galore, Green Fire, Mooncoin Ceili Dancers, and Knocknagow, as well as dancers from five Irish dance schools.

Courtroom 326 offers Tom Dahill reading from his new book "Danny Who? Forty Years in Irish Music"

Legacy presenting a musical workshop "The New Kids on the Block: Songs about the Irish in America, 1860-1920"; and Gaeltacht Minnesota with a seminar on the Irish language.

Irish Tea Room serves up refreshments and music from The Bellows Brothers with Tom Klein on uilleann (Irish) pipes; Dunquin, exuberant reels and jigs and heart-melting Irish airs on fiddle, wooden flute, and piano; Sona, a new performance group for 2017; Rúpálaí, an ensemble of harp, whistle, guitar, and vocals; Ryan Behnke on uilleann pipes with Buddy Ferrari; and The Giggin' Siles, beautiful vocal harmonies in Irish and English.

The Children's Stage will entertain the little ones with songs performed by Ross Sutter; stories told by Sir Gustav Doc'Tai; dance with the Mooncoin Ceili Dancers; and "Jigs for kids with Danielle Enblom" - dance, song and storytelling. In addition to the performances, the Children's Craft Area, sponsored by Kid's Create Studio, will have free St. Patrick's Day themed activities during the St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

## **Day of Irish Dance**

After the fun of St. Patrick's Day, everyone is invited back to Landmark Center for Day of Irish Dance, Sunday, March 19. With the focus squarely on Irish step dancing, watch performances by 700 dancers, from 11 Irish dance schools, including two new groups—St. Paul's Casey Academy of Irish Dance, and the Loring Irish Dance Team, a group of spirited 4th and 5th graders from Loring Community School in Minneapolis—and a

special showcase of adult Irish dance students from five schools. Additionally, IMDA will present “Decade of Dance Awards” to 16 students.

Between dance performances, stop into Courtroom 326 for a seminar with Brian Miller, "Sing Along with Traditional Irish Songs Once Popular in Minnesota Lumber Camps," based on his extensive research into the traditional songs brought to the North Woods with the lumberjacks; and Irish Theater from the Celtic Collaborative, bringing Irish literature to life. For more Irish music and refreshments, The Tea Room in Courtroom 317 will feature performances by student ensembles from the Center for Irish Music; Tipper Road; Bundle & Go; Dorian; Beth Engelking; and the Murie-Wenstrom Family Singers.

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 \$7 for adults, \$5 for kids 5-12, each day. A portion of the proceed from the St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Day of Irish Dance go to grants that support local Irish music, dance, and other arts of cultural significance. For more information, visit [www.landmarkcenter.org/Irish.html](http://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](http://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](http://www.irishmusicanddanceassociation.org).

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