



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Year two of virtual Day of Irish Dance and St. Patrick's Day Celebration
Virtual Irish fun for the whole family

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (March 1, 2021)– The Irish Music and Dance Association has been offering a family friendly St. Patrick's Day celebration at Landmark Center every year since the first concert in 1983!

This year's virtual celebrations bring back many performers who delight audiences each year at historic Landmark Center in St. Paul. In other years, Landmark Center is filled with guests enjoying Irish music, Irish dance, a bit of Irish theatre and special children's entertainment. This year, the Irish Music and Dance Association and Landmark Center will welcome everyone virtually – on the IMDA website, the new IMDA YouTube Channel, IMDA's Facebook Page, and on Landmark Center's website and Facebook pages – for Day of Irish Dance, March 14, and the St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration, March 17.

March 14 - The Sundays at Landmark event, "Day of Irish Dance," will have two components. The first, all things Irish dance—history, costumes, music, lessons, etc—on Landmark Center's website (www.landmarkcenter.org/irish-celebrations). The second component is the only in-person element of either day, a concert with Todd Menton from Landmark Center's Market Street porch. The outdoor concert will still observe COVID-19 protocols (masks, social distancing), and will be live-streamed for those unable to attend in person. Visit the Landmark Center or IMDA website in the event of inclement weather for concert location info.

Todd Menton is a multi-instrumentalist and the lead singer in Boiled in Lead, a Twin Cities-based punk/folk/world-music band. He is also a solo recording artist for New Folk Records. His music is a combination of original and traditional Irish tunes and songs, rendered in a unique, edgy style. The bodhrán and mandolin are featured prominently on his recordings, and are his two favorite instruments. Menton teaches bodhrán (Irish drum), mandolin and pub songs with the Center for Irish Music in St. Paul, and is a regular favorite performer in the local pubs.

March 17 - The virtual annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration will present three sets of performances at 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. Each set will include Irish music, Irish dance and Irish theatre.

In addition to great Irish music and dance, IMDA will include some special new things only made possible by technology:

An Irish Dance "Dance Along." Like a "Sing Along" but with dancers! Dancers from many of the wonderful local Irish dance schools and performance groups are dancing the traditional set dance "St. Patrick's Day" – each safely in their home or studio, mashed together to showcase

the dance. Dance along at home if you like! (Thanks so much to Cormac O'Se and Brian Sullivan of FeisTunes for sharing the music!)

Pub Sing with The Eddies. Join The Eddies for a song fest. With concern about singing causing spread of the Coronavirus, the lads made use of COVID rules to create their performance. Sing along!

Showcase of IMDA Decade of Dance recipients from both 2020 and 2021. IMDA's Day of Irish Dance includes presentation of IMDA's Decade of Dance Award, given to dancers who devote 10 years to their study of Irish dance. While the dancers will not be on stage at Landmark Center this year, IMDA will present the dancers via photographs, favorite dance memories and some video.

The virtual St. Patrick's Day Irish Celebration will offer a great variety of Irish music from these wonderful local musicians:

- **Tom Dahill and Ginny Johnson** – Performing tunes learned from the old masters, they delight audiences with passionate reels and playful songs not heard anywhere else.
- **Student Ensembles from the Center for Irish Music** – Enjoy the spirited music on a wide range of traditional instruments.
- **The Eddies** – Three voices, with occasional guitar/accordion accompaniment, and a playlist of songs of work, love and death in three-part harmony.
- **Clairseach** – Award-winning Gaelic harp with cittern, Gaelic and English song, lively dance music with button accordion and wooden flute.
- **Rupalai** – An uncommon trio with a trove of traditional dance tunes, songs in Irish Gaelic, English, Breton and more.
- **Dórain** - Vocal harmonies and carefully arranged sets abound in this 4-piece band including fiddle, bouzouki, flute, guitar, concertina and harp.
- **The Two Tap Trio** – Traditional Irish music, vocals, fiddle, flute, and guitar.
- **Dunquin** – traditional Irish music - exuberant reels and jigs and heart-melting Irish airs on fiddle, wooden flute, low pipes and piano.
- **The Hounds of Finn** – a primarily acoustic group performing Irish folk-rock and roots music from around the world, along with original material — topped off with traditional Irish and Scottish tunes.

And plenty of Irish Dance - including

Hudson Academy of Irish Dance

Rince na Greine Irish Dance (Dance of the Sun)

Green Fire Irish Dancers

The Shamrock School of Irish Step Dance

Eilis Academy

O'Shea Irish Dance

North Star Irish Dance

Onórach Mulhern Geraghty School of Irish Dance (OMG)

Rince na Chroi (Dance of the Heart)

Rince Nua



A bit of Irish theatre from **Out of the Mist Celtic Theatre** - With a focus on sharing stories from the Celtic Lands or from a Celtic cultural perspective, the Out of the Mist Celtic Theatre strives to share a genuine experience through theatrical storytelling and poetry.

The day will also include a special offering of entertainment for the little ones. The special “Children’s Set,” is all interactive offerings, designed to have the wee ones up on their feet and singing and dancing! These performances will be available “On Demand” throughout the day on the IMDA website (www.imda-mn.org), IMDA YouTube Channel and on the IMDA Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/IMDA.MN).

Celtic Cuties. A great way to introduce the little ones to Irish music and movement. This is a sample of the classes offered for little ones 0 to 4 through the Center for Irish Music.

Music and Dance with Danielle Enblom (dancer, fiddler and ethnochoreologist). Enblom has taught, performed, and studied with artists and via institutions around the world. Kids will love getting up on their feet to learn some new songs and dances.

Celtic Music Party with Laura MacKenzie and Ross Sutter. An interactive session inviting kids to experience musical performances, get involved through creative activities and movement, and learn about the people, cultures, and sounds behind the music. Kids are encouraged to make their own pizza box bodhran (drum) beforehand and play along. This presentation is one of the KidsJam workshops offered by the Schubert Club.

Day of Irish Dance is part of the “Sundays at Landmark” series, presented by Minnesota Landmarks and proudly sponsored in part by Ecolab, Travelers, the Xcel Energy Foundation, 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. For more information, visit www.landmarkcenter.org/irish-celebrations.

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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