



CENTRAL MISSOURI CELTIC ARTS ASSOCIATION

Board of directors: Kate Akers, Becky Forbes, Christine Harker, Terry Phillips, Tom Schultz, Linda Shumate

February 14, 2008

Dear Friends of CMCAA,

Thank you for your past support of Celtic arts programs in Central Missouri.

Following is a brief look behind and ahead, to keep you apprised of all that's going on with our wee organization.

It's also a reminder that every February we ask folks to pay their membership dues. Membership dues make up a significant portion of our annual budget and provide a financial base for all our programs and operating expenses. We are an all-volunteer organization, making every effort to keep our expenses to an absolute minimum. Annual dues and donations are tax deductible, as we are a 501(c)3 nonprofit, registered in Missouri.

2007 was a great year for CMCAA!

We held 10 excellent concerts, 11 céilí dances (December céilí was canceled due to weather) and had a very successful Summer Arts Program with our guest artist-in-residence, Brian Hart. The weekly kids classes were particularly fun! The kids learned a little bit about a lot of different aspects of Irish music, language and culture, and even tried their hands at the game of hurling.

The St. Patrick's Day concert with Connie Dover and Glen Road definitely a highlight of the year, as was the cozy night at The Chez with singer Mairtin de Cogain, and playing the Lambeg drum after the concert with Different Drums of Ireland was certainly memorable.



My personal favorite concert memory of 2007, and truthfully, it will probably go down as my favorite concert-presenting memory ever -- is the Paddy Keenan concert on Dec. 1. Paddy Keenan and Patsy O'Brien were fantastic, but the thing that made it so special was all of YOU! My heart sank when I heard Mizzou would play for the Big 12 championship that night, kicking off at the same time as our concert. Paddy offered to reschedule, but we talked and decided to go ahead. I was worried, but when the doors opened, you all came in. We had great attendance and it was a very memorable evening of music and community.

In August 2007 **Stoney Creek Inn** generously agreed to be the hotel sponsor for our entire 2007-2008 concert series, providing lodging for all our guest artists. This is a huge cost-saving donation for our series, and one which we truly, truly appreciate. If you have an opportunity, please thank the management of Stoney Creek Inn for their community-minded generosity in supporting CMCAA.



What's in store for 2008?

Participation - could that mean you?

CMCAA is all about music and dance and YOU! If there were no participation, there would be no organization. CMCAA is growing right now and needs more hands to help it along.

Where do your talents and interests lie? **We need them!** Publicity and promotion, event planning and financial management are the areas where we most need some volunteer energy. We are in critical need of a reliable, fiscally sensible person to take on the role of **treasurer**. On the enclosed membership form is a list of "committees" (minimal meetings!) you can join to get involved and contribute to the success of CMCAA.

We have a terrific board of energetic people, but for 7 years a small, passionate cadre of people have been doing all the work to make cool Celtic stuff happen. It's my goal to make our volunteer pool a little deeper in 2008. Can you help?

The board has started meeting monthly at **Kayotea on the first Thursday, at 5:30 p.m.** It's an informal gathering and chat before the monthly jam session, so come find out what we're up to and bring your ideas and enthusiasm.

Music and Dancing



The second-Friday céilí dances are a lot of fun, though attendance has been inconsistent. We are working on incorporating a bit of Scottish country dancing into our céilís, broadening the dance scope a bit. The dance group that meets weekly started learning a few Scottish dances for the recent Burns Supper, launching us along this path, so dust off your kilt and come dance!

Both times we've held concerts before the dances were quite successful – the concerts got everyone really primed for dancing -- so we've got more in the works.

On Friday, April 11 we'll have a concert/dance featuring the return of Cork singer **Máirtín de Cógáin (of The Fuchsia Band)** with another great cork singer and musician, **Jimmy Crowley**. They'll play a 1-hour concert, then Máirtín will be our dance caller while Jimmy and local musicians play for the dancing. Great fun!

Step dancing classes! This spring Monica Stoneking, local Irish step dance alumni and teacher, will be offering step dance classes for children, ages five and up on Thursday evenings, and possibly Saturdays. Look for an announcement of the schedule in an upcoming newsletter.

Concerts... you betcha!

We've got three really excellent concerts coming right up (see details enclosed. I'm very excited about these next shows; **The Brock-McGuire Band** is playing at KU the night before us, and UMSL the night after, so it's really an honor to have them on our wee stage Friday night!

It will be a treat to have **Andy and Gerry** here again with their feel-good evening of songs and humor. Their show in 2001 was our first big concert, and marked the first time I met a lot of you, so it's a circle completed. We've already sold a lot of tickets for this show, so I am confident that we will have a full house. Advance tickets are recommended (and two bucks less than at the door).

I can't adequately describe to you how pleased I am to have singer and folklorist **Len Graham** coming to Columbia. I've been a devotee since I first saw him perform at a small venue in Mullaghbawn, Co. Armagh in June 2000. Every song from Len is a jewel nestled in a velvet box of memories and stories, woven from the turf and smoke of Ulster's glens and firesides.

Len will perform a full concert for CMCAA at **Unity Center** on **Thursday, April 3**, then do a 25-min segment at **The Big Muddy Folk Festival** on **Friday, April 4**. He will be teaching a traditional singing workshop all day Saturday at the **St. Louis Tionól** (www.tionol.org), and perform in the Tionól concert that evening at the Sheldon Concert Hall.

We're just starting to work on booking concerts for fall, so if you have suggestions or requests, please speak up. I will listen and see what I can do. If you have ideas for other events, we're totally open to trying new things, so talk to us!

The Summer Arts Program

Great news! Just this week we were awarded a **\$1500 grant from the Milwaukee Irish Fest Foundation** to assist with our summer arts program. The poor currency exchange rate and economy have affected every expense related to this program, so we were unsure if we would be able to continue. This grant gives us the boost we need to insure it can go on this year by covering the travel expenses for an artist-in-residence. We hope to select someone by the end of March and get a schedule out for adult and children's classes, so stay tuned!

We're in the news!

Midwest Irish Focus newspaper is published in Kansas City and distributed to communities in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois. Editor Pete Maher is really making an effort to include Columbia events in the paper. We've been distributing copies at our events and to local businesses including Café Berlin, Lakota, B&B Bagel Co., Rendezvous coffee shop, Common Ground Coffee and It's A Grind coffee shop. Please support this publication -- pick up a copy and consider ordering a subscription, it's only \$25/year.

We need a couple volunteers to help distribute papers around town at the beginning of each month. Give me a shout if you have time to help.

Finally... (yes, dear reader, the end is near!)

As you can see, there's a lot going on with our wee organization that started as a "big idea" back in early 2001. We've grown a terrific community around the music and dance -- this group is so much more than just a concert series! Thank you for being a part of it, whether you come to every event, or just an occasional concert.

You can renew your membership by mail using the attached form, pay online with a credit card at our Web site, OR bring the form with you to the Brock-McGuire Band concert coming up Friday, February 22, and renew in person. **There is a \$2 discount on tickets for dues-paid members.**

Thank you for supporting excellent live music and this all-volunteer, grass roots community arts organization.

Thank you for your support and enthusiasm,
Kate Akers, CMCAA Board President



The Brock McGuire Band

Friday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.

The pure drop... the rare auld stuff....

The finest traditional music from County Clare.

Paul Brock (accordion), Manus McGuire (fiddle), Enda Scahill (banjo and mandolin), Denis Carey (piano)

Sound clips are posted at www.moceltic.org/

Unity Center of Columbia, 1600 W. Broadway, Columbia MO

Advance: \$14 adults / \$12 CMCAA member / \$8 students and seniors

At the door: \$2 more for all prices / Kids 16 & under admitted free.

(cash or check accepted at the door)



Celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

Andy M Stewart & Gerry O'Beirne

Saturday, March 15 7:00 p.m.

Unity Center of Columbia, 1600 W. Broadway, Columbia MO

Advance: \$14 adults / \$12 CMCAA member / \$8 students and seniors

At the door: \$2 more for all prices / Kids 16 & under admitted free.

(cash or check accepted at the door)

It might seem a bit odd to have a Scottish singer coming for St. Patrick's Day, but not so! Andy is a Scottish singer whose repertoire includes both Scottish and Irish songs, particularly ones that have traveled back and forth between Ireland and Scotland over the centuries. Besides his singing, though, he's a singular entertainer who always has a few great stories to go with the songs, and some keenly amusing observations of American culture. Gerry's guitar-playing is a treat all on it's own, and he sings the most lovely version of Danny Boy that I've ever heard. Don't miss them!



Len Graham

Thursday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.

Unity Center of Columbia, 1600 W. Broadway

\$12 adults / \$10 CMCAA member / \$8 students and seniors

Traditional singer **Len Graham** is a wellspring of songs from Ulster; he is as well known for his career as a collector and folklorist as he is for his wonderful singing. In 1971 he came to the fore as a singer by winning the "All Ireland" ballad competition, and in 2002 was honored for his career as a singer and song collector by being selected as the inaugural recipient of the TG4 Traditional Singer of the Year award. Throughout the 1970s and 80s he traveled the northern counties and made recordings of the older generation of Ulster singers, preserving their songs and singing styles for future generations. Len is semi-retired now from performing professionally, so this is a rare treat to have him visit Missouri. He's a true national treasure of Ireland and a torch-bearer for the Irish folk song tradition.