

Galway Days virtual Irish Festival Workshops



11 AM **John Walsh** Irish Guitar Accompaniment and Finger-style DADGAD Tuning

Learn how to accompany Irish jigs, reels and hornpipes, and practice finger-picking tunes using the alternative tuning DADGAD

John is an Irish-American guitarist with 40 years performing, recording, teaching and healing with sound who has worked with, Jameson's Revenge, Brian Conway, Paddy Keenan, Pat Kilbride, Frankie Gavin, Leo O'Kelly and many others.

Fee: \$20.00

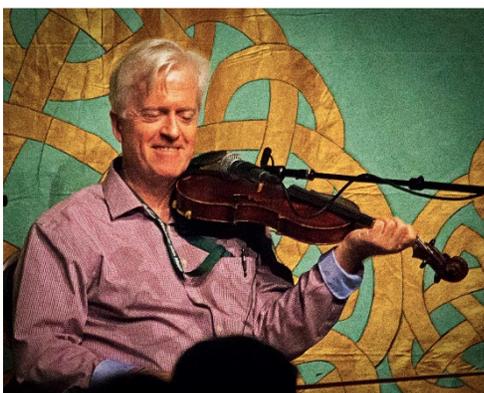


11 AM **Dixine Schiavi** Beginner Clog Dance Workshop

Learn a few easy-simple-basic clog dance steps, then learn a fun beginner-level clog dance to Irish music (of course!).

Dixine has over 40 years of performance & competitive clog dance history. She is the founder, instructor, and choreographer of the all-female clog & percussive dance team in Anchorage, the Midnight Sun Cloggers. Dixine does not teach regular clog dance classes to the public, but only the occasional beginner workshop; this one for Galway Days will be the only one she plans to teach in 2020.

Fee: Free



12:00 Noon **Brian Conway** Intermediate and Advanced Fiddle

Brian's class will focus on the relationship between bowing, phrasing and ornamentation in traditional Irish fiddling. Repertoire will mostly consist of traditional tunes rather than recent compositions with a particular focus on classic traditional tunes. Brian will teach one tune from each of the three main dance forms, jig, hornpipe and reel. This will be an interactive format in which questions from the students will be encouraged.

Brian Conway, premier Irish-American fiddler, performs with a skill, grace and force that are steeped in tradition but distinctively his own. Well known in the Irish/Celtic community, Conway has won numerous All-Ireland fiddling competitions, and has been called one of the best fiddlers of his generation. Nothing is missed or missing in Brian Conway's Sligo-style fiddling.

Dirty Linen Magazine - "Certainly one of the finest Irish-American musician fiddlers"

Fee: \$25.00



1:00 PM **Kevin Hall** **Ogham Writing – An Introduction**

Learn about the ancient Celtic alphabet from the 4th – 7th centuries AD. A worksheet will be provided via email with historical notes and a chart of the letter forms. As time permits, we will go over the history, some modern day uses and how you can write out your own name using your newly learned information.

Kevin Hall is a graphic artist from Anchorage. His artwork has been a feature of Irish and Scottish history exhibits and at the Alaska Scottish Highland Games. He and his wife Anne Freitag, own Ancient Celtic Scribes and provide custom Ogham names written out while you wait at various Celtic events throughout Alaska.

Fee: Free



2:00 PM **Clare Horgan** **Traditional Irish Song**

The workshop will begin with a short performance by Clár, of a verse or two of a song from each of the five main Gaeltachtaí, (Irish speaking areas of Ireland), embracing songs in both English and Irish, from the celebration of Hunting in South-West Kerry to the rousing rhythmic love songs of West Cork, from the haunting ballads of Waterford to the political satire of Donegal. Two of these songs will be then be chosen as the focus for the workshop, which will be learned and sung together, with copies of words and some background information supplied. All levels and ages welcome.

As a bi-lingual child steeped in the Irish language, song and dance of her native Uíbh Ráthach (South Kerry), the first songs Clare heard were sean-nós. She later took a Post-Graduate Diploma in Jazz in Leeds, West Yorkshire, leading her to live and perform in Belfast, London, Paris and Beirut. But it was always the songs and stories of her childhood to which she returned.

Fee: \$20.00



3:00 PM Sean McGrane History of the Irish in Alaska

This workshop will cover prominent Irish and Irish-Americans who had an impact on Alaska. This will also cover locations and landmarks in Alaska.

Sean McGrane grew up mining for gold in Alaska's Fortymile Country and is a board member of the Irish Club of Alaska. He's the founder of the Irish-Alaska Project (irishalaskaproject.com), a preservation project collecting the history of the Irish and Irish Americans in Alaska from 1867-1917.

Fee: Free



4:00 Hunter Woofler Remote Bodhran for Lockdown Drummers

This bodhran workshop is for drummers of all skill. Students will need to provide their own drum or substitute (pizza boxes work well for this). Class will include a brief introduction to the anatomy of the drum and tipper, and a variety of playing techniques.

Hunter Woofler has played bodhran for 17 years as part of Rogues and Wenches, an Irish Alaskan pub band based in Anchorage. He plays a variety of percussion instruments, but likes his bodhran the most, wandering Ireland with his drum in his back, chasing sessions when travel budget allows.

Fee: \$10.00



5:00 **Caoimhín De Barra** **The Irish Language**

In this workshop, we will learn about the most distinctive feature of Irish culture: the Irish or Gaelic language. Participants will learn about the history of the language, its position in contemporary Irish society, and how to speak a little bit of the language for themselves!

Caoimhín De Barra is a native of Blarney in Co. Cork and is an associate professor of history at Gonzaga University. He is a passionate supporter of the Irish language and advocate for its revival. He is the author of *Gaeilge: A Radical Revolution*, a book which

explores many of the contemporary issues surrounding the Irish language and in which Dr. De Barra outlines how the language could be revived.

Fee: Free