



# Connecticut Academy of Irish Music

## Spring 2017 Class Descriptions and Schedule

- *Welcome! Classes will meet on the following Sundays (431 Hartford Avenue, Wethersfield) unless otherwise indicated: **Jan. 22, Jan. 29; Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 26; March 5, March 26; April 2, April 9, April 23.** There is also a make-up day scheduled for **April 30**, in the event a class is cancelled due to weather or teacher unavailability. **Class times are listed on the last page.***
- ***Classes are taught primarily in the traditional method, by ear, so students should remember to bring a recording device!***

### **Fiddle - Jeanne Freeman (all dates except April 2 -see below for Dylan Foley workshops)**

**Absolute beginner fiddle I** - For those with no prior experience on fiddle, this class will emphasize the skills needed to learn the basics of how to hold and play the fiddle, and begin to play simple tunes.

**Beginner fiddle II** - For those who have completed the Absolute Beginner I class, but are not yet ready to move up to the intermediate class. Emphasis will be on continuing to strengthen skills covered in the prior class, and building a repertoire of tunes.

**Beginner Irish fiddle** - For students who have played the violin/fiddle for at least a year but wish to develop Irish fiddling style and technique. Emphasis will be on building a repertoire of session tunes and introducing bowings and ornamentations.

**Intermediate Irish fiddle** - For those who know some Irish fiddle but are working on expanding their repertoire, ornamentation, and developing their bowing style.

**Fiddle workshops with Dylan Foley** - on April 2, 4-time All-Ireland fiddle champion Dylan Foley will present two 90 minute workshops in Studio A, one for adults and one for young people. Dylan will explore presenting a tune in a way that is both fun and enjoyable for the fiddler, and conveys the feel the fiddler wants to pass on - with emphasis on good bowing, phrasing, and timing. For young people, Dylan will also touch on preparing for and competing in competitions. Adult workshop: 11:15 -12:45 p.m.; Youth workshop: 1:00-2:30 p.m.



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## **Whistle and Flute - Ellen Redman**

**Beginner whistle** - For those who have never before played the whistle or flute. The class will focus on learning all the notes on the instrument in preparation to learning some basic tunes. This is also a good beginner class for those who have never played but who are interested in eventually moving on to Irish flute or uilleann pipes.

**Intermediate whistle and flute (Irish or silver)** - For those who have at least a year of experience playing the whistle or flute (either silver or Irish). Common session tunes will be taught, along with ornamentation and tone production and breathing.

## **Button Accordion - John Whelan**

**(8 weeks only:** Classes meet **Jan. 22; Feb. 12, Feb. 26, Mar. 5, Mar. 26, April 2, April 9, and April 23).**

**Beginner/intermediate button accordion** — Students will become familiar with the instrument and learn basic technique. Depending on enrollment, some private lessons times may be available, so contact us if you are interested.

## **Mandolin/Tenor Banjo/Guitar - Claudine Langille and Flynn Cohen**

**(9 weeks only:** Classes meet **Jan. 22, Jan. 29; Feb. 5, Feb. 26; March 5, March 26; April 2, April 9, April 23).** (Flynn will teach the first few weeks, and Claudine will teach the remainder)

**Beginner and Intermediate** — We will create the specific programming (classes or possibly some private lessons) once we see who we have and what each student's needs are - so please contact us if you are interested and we will arrange the schedule. Beginners will learn the basics of the instruments, including basic chords and melody structures; you'll be playing away in no time! For Intermediates, the emphasis will be on growing your repertoire, improving your ear, and spicing up your ornamentation.

## **Youth ceili band – John Whelan**

For young people who are intermediate or beyond in skills and wish to work on their skills with a goal of developing a group to compete in regional and All-Ireland fleadh competitions. Emphasis is on playing tunes as a group with attention to phrasing, rhythm, and good musicality.



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## **Intermediate slow session for mixed instruments – Claudine Langille and Flynn Cohen**

Some experience on your instrument is required; emphasis will be on developing skills and confidence to play in a session (learning tunes by ear, familiarity with keys and modes, tunes types, building sets, and basic “session etiquette”). This class will literally function as a slow-paced session with a number of new tunes being played each week and past tunes being revisited.

## **Give Us a Song! - Dan Ringrose**

**(6 one-hour workshops: Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 26, March 26, April 2)**

Dan Ringrose will host song seminars covering some of the most sung about topics in Irish music. The class will feature both one-on-one and group singing, and is open to singers of all levels, including those wishing to discover their comfortable range, expand their repertoire or perhaps gain some confidence. No experience or instruments are needed, however a recorder of some type (most have used their I-phones) is recommended given that song lyrics will be provided but no sheet music or tablature. Bring your guitar or instrument if you play, but whether you play an instrument or not don't worry, we'll make it work!

**Jan. 22** - “With your pike upon your shoulders” - Ireland to this day is a nation not yet completely free. This class will focus on songs of rebellion.

**Jan. 29** - Sadly, migration has been a major part of Ireland's history. Whether by choice or circumstance, leaving home is hard on both those leaving and those left behind.

**Feb. 5** - Raise a Glass! – whether sinking sorrows or raising your joys, a pint or two always seems to help.

**Feb. 26** - The most mysterious and wonderful four letter word in the world.....LOVE! Songs of and from the heart.

**Mar. 26** - Kilts, Brigadoon and Auld Lang Syne - Some of my favorite “Irish” songs are from Scotland!

**April 2** - Children at Heart - It's amazing what comes out of the mouth of babes. This class will focus on children's songs.



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## Bodhran - Mary Gardner

**(3 workshops on Saturdays, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, April 1.)**

**Beginner** - For absolute beginners as well as those with limited experience. This class will focus on learning basic rhythms and patterns for jigs, reels, polkas, and slip jigs, and well as proper tipper technique. (Meets 2:00-2:45 p.m)

**Intermediate** Students with previous experience will focus on incorporating the left hand to explore the tonal aspects of the bodhran. We will also learn how to accompany tunes in sessions with a focus on playing musically. (Meets 2:45-3:30 p.m.).

### **Probable Course Times (all Sundays except Bodhran class)\*:**

Time	Studio A (on right)	Studio B (on left)	Atelier (Upstairs)	Saturdays
11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Absolute beginner fiddle I			
12:15-1:00 p.m.	Beginner fiddle II	Beginner whistle	Mandolin/tenor banjo/guitar, TBD**	
1:00-1:45 p.m.	Intermediate fiddle	Intermediate flute and whistle	Mandolin/tenor banjo/guitar, TBD**	
1:45-2:30 p.m.	Beginner Irish fiddle	Beginner/intermediate button accordion	Mixed instrument slow session	
2:30-3:15 p.m.	Youth ceili band		Mandolin/tenor banjo/guitar, TBD**	
2:30-3:30		Give Us A Song!		
2:00-2:45 2:45-3:30				Beg. Bodhran Int. Bodhran

**\*Times may be subject to some adjustments based on final enrollment; students will be notified of any changes if this occurs.**

\*\*We will create the programming based on students' levels and needs.

A class may be subject to cancellation if fewer than 3 students enroll. Thanks for your cooperation and flexibility.

**Questions?** Contact Jeanne: (860) 810-4852 or [info@ctirishmusic.com](mailto:info@ctirishmusic.com).