

News from Comhaltas

## Sarah McQuaid @ The Bowery

On the longest day of the year, with summer skies still threatening rain we headed down to The Bowery to listen to the ever youthful looking traditional guitarist + singer Sarah McQuaid. She didn't disappoint us. A small but attentive crowd soaked in her smoky atmospheric singing complemented by her tight restrained fingerwork on her 1965 vintage Martin D-28 guitar (English folk singer Martin Carthy also plays an old Martin guitar). The audience included singer/songwriter Liam Merriman who had interviewed Sarah earlier in the week on the Secret Chord on wlrfm. Some time back she took a sabbatical from touring to have a family, and four years + 2 children later she is back, better than ever, and on her way to play next week at the Sidmouth Festival across the water. She kicked off with a traditional Scottish song Johnny Lad which she learned at an Irish festival in Philadelphia and then into the Bobby Gentry classic, Ode to Billie Jo. An Old Timey song followed called Wondrous Love which originally came from the hymn singing tradition on the East Coast of the US and is known as a Shape Note song from the notation system devised to record such hymns using diamonds, squares etc. Another US song followed written by Dan Emmet (of Irish parents) who also wrote Dixie, Old Dan Tucker, Polly Wolly Doodle and many more. When she was growing up in Chicago, her mother used to sing and play them to sleep and Sarah sang a self composed a song called the Last Song in memory

of her. Again she went back in time to a Peggy Seeger ballad the Chickens They Are a-Crowing and straight into The Tempest, a reel from Co Limerick that Sarah has re-arranged as a march. In her fingering technique she uses a thumb plectrum and three fingers to pluck unlike the traditional plectrum wedged between thumb and index finger. She finished with Mr Bojangles by Jerry Jeff Walker, again in her own tight held back style. A great night. We wish her well on her resurgent singing career.

### Concert reminder

A reminder that East Clare fiddler Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill play at Coolnasmeah hall, Dungarvan on Friday July 6th @ 8:30pm sharp.

### The Willie Week

Now that July is upon us, it is time to be getting ready to hit the road for Miltown Malbay for the Willie Clancy Summer School. Of all the Summer Schools that are on offer around the country and even overseas, this is the real deal: a return to the source, water from the deep well of tradition drawing Irish musicians from the furthest flung outposts of the planet. So if you have never tasted the pure water from this still, then cancel everything and take the road less travelled. The US guitarist Ry Cooder said: "Irish music has always been intensely pictorial, constantly throwing up images to the listener". Head down to Miltown on the 7th July for a week of tradition.



## Set Dancing Notes

All roads lead to Mooncoin: An Afternoon ceili will take place in the Parochial Hall, Mooncoin on Sunday 1st July 2007 3pm-6pm. Music will be provided by the wonderful Ger Murphy of the Abbey Ceili Band and Ken Cotter. Tea and Cakes will be served. Contact Mary Murphy on 051-873851. A great afternoon guaranteed!

Ceili at Rathgormack: A ceili will take place in the Community Centre Rathgormack on Thursday 16th August at 9:30pm. Music by MI Sexton and Pat Walsh.

Kilmore Quay, Co Wexford 8th July 2007: An outdoor ceili will take place on Sunday 8th July at 3pm. Music will be provided by Waterford Comhaltas.

Live Music every Monday night in Dooleys Hotel with the Waterford Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann Ceili band. A great venue for visitors in the area.

Willie Clancy Week Miltown Malbay Co Clare, 7th-15th July 2007: The Willie Clancy programme includes 19 ceilis this year. The main venue this year is the Mill Marquee, with a newly revamped dance floor. The other venue is the Quilty Tavern in the sea front village of Quilty. Top ceilis of the week are with the Tulla Ceili Band on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Making a welcome return to the ceili scene are the Dublin Band the Templehouse, there will also be ceilis with the Brian Boru Ceili Band.

Armada International Week of Set Dancing, Spanish Point Miltown Malbay Co Clare, 6th-15th July: It doesn't get any better than this. A set Dancers paradise with approximately 20 ceilis to choose from. Held in the Armada Hotel, standing barely 50 metres from the Atlantic Ocean. The atmosphere at any one of these ceilis is unlike anything you've ever experienced and once out on the floor the feet move without any conscious control of the brain. With the boundless energy and excitement, attending one of these ceilis is enough to make the whole trip worthwhile. The Line up this year includes The Abbey Ceili Band, Johnny Reidy, MI Sexton and Pat Walsh, the Allow Ceili Band, Swallows Tail, Brian Boru Ceili Band and Tim Joe and Anne. A week every set dancer must experience at some point.

Traditional Step Dances for Seniors: Bronagh has now commenced teaching traditional step dances for senior dancers. eg. traditional horn-pipe, St Patrick's day, blackbird and many more. Classes take place on Monday and Tuesday evenings. The present class are progressing extremely well. Anyone interested Contact Bronagh on 087-6891497

Get Well wishes to Brid Usher, a very popular member of the Rathgormack class who injured her wrist in a fall.

Traditional sessions will take place in Hayes Bar Bonmahon every Wednesday night commencing on July 18th. All are welcome. Opening night will include Bachelors in Trouble.

Notes for inclusion in the above should reach Mary Murphy on 051-873851 or e-mail marysetdancing@hotmail.com

## Winner of 10th Annual Molly Keane Memorial Creative Writing Award

The Arts Office of Waterford County Council is pleased to announce Billy O'Callaghan from Douglas, Co. Cork as the winner of the Molly Keane Memorial Creative Writing Award 2007 with his short story 'The Wedding Day'. A special ceremony was held during the IMMRAMA Festival of Travel Writing & Literature in Lismore, Co. Waterford. International travel writer Alexandra Tolstoy announced the winner and he was presented with a commemorative certificate and prize money

of €650 by County Mayor Mary Greene.

Mayor of Lismore Helen O'Sullivan welcomed everyone to Lismore, especially members of the Keane family who have lent their late mothers name to this award.

County Arts Officer, Margaret Organ thanked the hundreds of people who took the time to submit stories and said that Waterford Co. Council were delighted to support new Irish writing through this award. Billy

O'Callaghan has previously won the George A. Birmingham Short story award & the Lunch House Stories Award. He has had work published in the Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine, The Bellevue Literary review, Elysian Fields Quarterly, Ireland's Own and Versal amongst others.

"Winning this particular award, in memory of one of Ireland's most notable literary figures is a great honour for me", Billy O'Callaghan said at the presentation.

## TG4 wants to make you a star

Are you the next big thing in entertainment? Are you just waiting to be discovered and launched into the limelight? Well, this could be your chance to showcase your talent to the nation and to some of the biggest movers and shakers in the world of showbiz!

TG4 wants to send one 1 lucky person off to Las Vegas to perform in front of America's top talent searchers. So whether you have the voice of an angel, more magic tricks than Merlin, or some other hidden talent that will wow the world, get

in touch now. From belly dancers to fire eaters, comedians to street performers, from the weird to the wonderful, this competition is open to all.

Auditions will take place around the country in July. Successful candidates will be invited to battle it out on TV for the right to travel to Vegas, enjoy the holiday of a lifetime, and take centre stage in front of people that can make it happen for you. Contact Fiona Ni Cheirín on 01-2843877.

## WINNERS

### Manchester

Caroline McGuire (Waterford) won two-night B&B break for two at the Princess on Portland, return flights to Manchester with Aer Lingus, plus a 3-course pre-theatre meal for two at the Brasserie on Portland and tickets to **The Producers** featuring Peter Kay at the Palace Theatre.

### Toronto

Mary O'Donohoe (Glenmore) won return flights from Dublin or Shannon to Toronto, all airport taxes and fees, all coach transfers and 6 nights accommodations - 4 nights B&B in the 4 star Delta Chelsea Hotel Toronto and 2 nights B&B in the 4 star Brock Plaza, Niagara.

### Riverdance & Brehon Hotel

Monica Hogan (Waterford) won a two-night break for two, staying at the 4\* Brehon Hotel with tickets to see Riverdance at the INEC.

### Slatterys - Faro flights

Ed O'Sullivan (Waterford) won 2 return tickets from Waterford to Faro.

### Slatterys - Malaga flights

Anne Dempsey (New Ross) won 2 return tickets from Waterford to Malaga.

### Slatterys - Bordeaux flights

Margaret Lenihan (Waterford) won 2 return tickets from Waterford to Bordeaux

### Copenhagen

Anne Dilleen (Waterford) has won two-night B&B break for two at the Copenhagen Admiral Hotel, and return flights to from Dublin to Copenhagen with SAS Scandinavian Airlines.

### Educogym

Bernie Ivory (Dunmore East) won a 12 day Transformational Programme from Educogym

WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY POST



Enjoying the presentation of the Molly Keane Memorial Creative Writing Award at the IMMRAMA Festival in Lismore, Co. Waterford were back - Sally Phipps and Virginia Brownlow (Molly's daughters), John O'Flynn/DOS & County Engineer, Mona Manahan/judging panel, Margaret Organ/Arts Officer, front- Mayor of Lismore Helen O'Sullivan, Billy O'Callaghan/Award Winner, County Mayor Mary Greene and Alexandra Tolstoy/ special guest.

## Declan Grant gets Directorship for The World Championships of Performing Arts



Pictured above is well known Waterford based artist Declan Grant.

Declan has been honoured with the national directorship of Ireland for the World Championships Of Performing Arts that takes place in the Home to the Hollywood's Stars, Los Angeles each year.

The W.C.O.P.A. has created a performing arts competition for actors, dancers, singers, models, instrumentalists and in the past few years, variety acts. Invited contestants are screened and only a select few get to travel to this amazing event. The prize is to be a world champion performer and compete against the elite from all around the world.

During the duration of the championships, the judges of the competition, who are Hollywood talent scouts, are available to make contact with and promote yourself. Scholarships are offered every year and there is also an opportunity to network for advice and contacts in the entertainment industry. The biggest prize is the proud aspect of representing your country at the highest level and if selected, to perform on the grand champions stage at universal studios and be recorded for American television.

Declan took part in 1999 and became a world champion, offers came to him and he spent some time working in America on various projects including penning songs for artists and establishing himself with a catalogue of songs for the music industry. Declan's affiliation to the music industry sees him well deserving of his role and he expressed his joy in the prospect of promoting such a high class event. "Ireland has proven itself at the Championships over the years and I will take the best performers to Los Angeles in 2008 and the coming years to give new raw talent the opportunity of a life time". Twice a champion at the W.C.O.P.A., Declan went on to release an album, set up his own photography and production/management company with his first signing the talented band 'The Appeal' who are now well on their way to becoming a very successful act.

For further information contact Heavens Edge Productions on 087 6436701, email info@heavensedgeproductions.com You can also send a video/DVD performance to Heavens Edge productions, 39 Rockenham, Ferrybank, Waterford. Log on to www.heavensedgeproductions.com for more information.

## NOAH Stars appear in IWW

Joining the Japanese contingent of CIMA and Dragon Kid on Friday July 6th for IWW Global Impact at the Forum, Waterford will be a trifeacta of athletes from Japan's leading puorusu company Pro Wrestling NOAH.

The first is a rookie who having made his debut in 2005 comes under the recommendation of the legendary Mitsuharu Misawa and has been dubbed the future of NOAH's jr. heavyweight division, Ippei Ota.

Secondly is one half of the current GHC World Tag Team Cham-

pions, Takeshi Rikio. Standing at 6 feet 2 inches and weighing in at an unbelievable 337 pounds, Rikio is a monster who has carved out a path of destruction in NOAH and will see fit to do so also at the Forum on July 6th.

Finally, the greatest British export of the last decade and top NOAH gaijin, 'The Anarchist' Doug Williams returns to Waterford for the first time since autumn 2004 as he leads the NOAH forces into battle against the worlds finest.

Tickets for IWW Global Impact are available at the door on the night and cost only €15.

Doors open at 6:30pm - Bell Time 7pm.

