



**milwaukee  
irish fest**

## MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST FACT SHEET 2008

### EVENT INFORMATION

- **Thursday, August 14**  
5:00 -10:00 p.m.  
Admission \$5.00  
Free admission with donation of school supplies for children served by Hope House.
- **Friday, August 15**  
4:00 p.m. to midnight  
*Free admission at all gates from 4 – 5 p.m.*  
Admission \$15 Adults; \$10 seniors 60+ [gate only]  
Free for Children 12 and under.
- **Saturday, August 16**  
Noon to midnight  
Admission \$15 Adults; \$10 seniors 60+ [gate only]  
Free for Children 12 and under.
- **Sunday, August 17**  
11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
*The Scattering* at 9:30 p.m., firework display to follow.  
Admission \$15 Adults; \$10 seniors 60+ [gate only]  
Free for Children 12 and under.  
Free admission to the festival with food donation prior to the 9:30 a.m. Liturgy for Peace and Justice; College Day: \$2 discount off admission, 3 – 9 p.m. with valid college student I.D., Main Gate only.

*Tickets are available at participating Milwaukee area Pick'n Save locations.*

### WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR

- **Galway** is the theme of this year's festival and one of the biggest cultural and entertainment showcases brought to Irish Fest to date. Irish Fest is honored to feature renowned musicians from Ireland's west coast, including Furry Village, The Saw Doctors, Trad on the Prom, The Kane Sisters, the Maimin Cajun Band and Marc Roberts.
- The **Cultural Village** will also focus on Galway with several exhibits: The 14 Tribes of Galway that led the city to a golden age of prosperity and international recognition; and the story of Galway's legendary Claddagh ring.
- Irish Fest is honored to welcome Bishop Drennan of Galway who will concelebrate the **Liturgy for Peace & Justice** with Milwaukee's newly appointed Bishop Callahan.
- Milwaukee Irish fest is also proud to announce more than **20 new artists**, many of which are making their U.S. debut. See celebrated fiddler Jenna Reid; folk artist Anna Massie; traditional Celtic trio Lau; Celtic rockers Peatbog Faeries; and the young trad band Bodega perform as part of a Scottish Sampler. The Screaming Orphans from Donegal, Ireland and Troy McGillivray from Nova Scotia will perform for the first time at Irish Fest as well as Monto, a new folk and trad band from Ireland.
- Located in the Cultural Village of the festival, **Dr. Tim Campbell** returns with his exhibit on the St. Patrick Centre in Northern Ireland and will host a panel discussion in the Hedge School with the new Young Ambassadors.
- Guests can look for a new exhibit on the history of the **Ulster-Scots**, artist and writer Cindy Matyi and Celtic Revival's Joseph Keane who brings a series of miniature Irish landscapes and historic sites.

- **Tony Hearty**, who has appeared on England's *Antique Road Show*, will return with his rare antique Belleek collection. Festival-goers are encouraged to bring their Belleek collectibles for an appraisal to the *Auld Belleek Road Show* on Thursday evening located near the Main Gate. Look for Hearty's Belleek collectibles throughout the weekend in the Moore Street Marketplace.
- The **Irish Fest Summer School** is now located in the heart of downtown Milwaukee on the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) campus. To register, visit [irishfest.com](http://irishfest.com) or call Barb Breed-Heidt at (262) 227-6538.

### **WHAT IS MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST?**

Milwaukee's Irish Fest is the world's largest celebration of Irish music and culture, showcasing more than 100 entertainment acts annually at the four-day, 16-stage event at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Lake Michigan. Passionately committed to igniting a love of Irish culture in all people, Irish Fest teaches Ireland's music, dance, drama, sports, culture, children's activities and genealogy at the festival and through yearlong programming. For more information, visit [irishfest.com](http://irishfest.com).

### **MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST'S MISSION**

To promote and celebrate all aspects of Irish culture, and to instill in future generations an appreciation of Irish heritage.

### **A BRIEF HISTORY**

Milwaukee Irish Fest was founded in 1980 by members of Milwaukee's Irish Community. The purpose of the festival was to incorporate a celebration of Irish heritage into a city known for its German roots. Irish Fest began as a three-day event and now spans over a four-day festival of music, dance, cultural exhibits, drama and sports. Irish Fest has been called, by the Smithsonian Institution's National Folk Life Program, "the largest and best Irish cultural event in North America."

### **ABOUT THE VOLUNTEERS**

Milwaukee Irish Fest depends on nearly 4,000 volunteers annually. Volunteers of all ages are an important part of the success and future of Irish Fest.

### **PROGRAM REACH**

Milwaukee Irish Fest hosts thousands of festival-goers from around the globe annually.

### **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

- **Ward Irish Music Archives:** A collection of over 40,000 Irish music archives, sound recordings and references. The Irish Music Archives is the largest collection of Irish-American music in the U.S.
- **Irish Fest Foundation:** Founded in 1994, the foundation was established to give back to the community and provide charitable donations to local organizations.
- **Milwaukee Irish Fest School of Music:** Opened in 1994, the school of music offers instruction in traditional song and instrument styles for all levels of musical ability throughout the year.
- **Irish Fest Center:** The Irish Fest Center serves as the headquarters for the festival and is dedicated to the year-round promotion and education of Irish-related activities, such as concerts, workshops, rehearsals, the Irish Fest Music School and Gaelic language lessons.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS CONTINUED**

- Irish Fest Summer School held the week prior to Irish Fest, offers classes in art, dance, music and other Irish cultural activities for children and adults.
- Irish Fest Choir: Founded in 1988 to promote interest in Irish song among young people.
- Music, Cultural and Scholastic Scholarships: The Irish Cultural and Educational Grant was established in 1998 to accommodate individual Irish cultural and educational projects. The Edward J. Ward Irish Music Scholarship was established in 1989 for the study of Irish instrumental music or song. Volunteer scholarships were established to thank our young volunteers for their hard work and to encourage them as they pursue their education.
- Irish Fest's Bridging the Gap program encourages young people to become leaders while volunteering at Irish Fest. The program focuses on young people ages 14 - 21, who embrace the opportunity to develop their leadership skills at Irish Fest and in other aspects of their lives.
- Youth Volunteer Program fosters and mentors the festival coordinators of the future. The Program will celebrate its 20th year at Irish Fest 2008.

**LEADERSHIP OF MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST**

- Joe King, President
- Chuck Ward, Vice President
- Bob Mikush, Treasurer
- Donna Brady, Secretary
- Jane Anderson, Executive Director
- Barry Stapleton, Director of the Ward Irish Music Archives

**FUTURE FESTIVALS**

- August 13-16, 2009
- August 19-22, 2010

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