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## **IRISH FEST SUMMER SCHOOL MOVES TO NEW LOCATION**

*Adults and Children Alike Can Explore Irish Traditions, Music and More*

MILWAUKEE – June 11, 2008 – If you’re Irish—or if you’ve ever wanted to learn more about the Irish culture—an unforgettable experience awaits you at the Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School, which runs August 11 – 15. From this year’s new location at Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE), all who crave the luck of the Irish can learn Irish proverbs and blessings in a beginning language class, discover traditional carving in a hands-on workshop or practice music and dance skills in a selection of courses as rich as Ireland’s history.

Now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, these Summer School classes are a complement to the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Irish Fest, which will take place August 14 -17 at Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Milwaukee’s Lakefront. The classes present world-renowned Irish musicians, artists, writers and officials who bring to life the rich cultural traditions of Ireland.

“We’re proud to now host our classes at MSOE. It’s a perfect downtown location for our students, whether they are Summer School alumni or attending for the first time, these courses allow a glimpse into the authentic Irish culture that guests can find through enrolling in Summer School classes and by attending the festival,” said Jane Walrath, coordinator of the Irish Fest Summer School.

Irish Fest Summer School courses include:

- **Basket Weaving** taught by Vincent McCarron from the Aran Islands, County Galway, Ireland.
- **Irish Country Life** taught by Dr. Seamus MacPhilib of the Country Life Museum in County Mayo, Ireland.
- **The Legacy of the Scots Irish** with Alister McReynolds. A course taught in two parts that will cover the history and music of the Ulster Scots from Henry VIII to present day Scots Irish.
- **Songs in the Ballad Tradition** will be the North American debut of Tom Sweeney’s set of eight ballads to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Flight of the Earls*. Sweeney, nephew of Irish music legend Tommy Makem, will also teach the course, **The Love Songs of Ireland**.
- Music courses offered include beginning, intermediate and advanced classes in **Fiddle, Bodhran, Banjo, 5 Button Accordion, Guitar, Tin Whistle, and Flute**.
- Many dance classes are also available, including **Irish Social Dances: Ceilis, Sets, Figures and Country Dances of Ireland; Sean Nós Dance; Set Dance;** and adult and beginning **Step Dance**.

- **Beginning Irish and Irish Anthology, Sult**, taught by Ray Mac Mánaís, the principal of Gael Scoil in the Dublin area and speech writer and Irish language advisor to Mary McAleese, Ireland's president.
- **Born in Belfast: A Study of Four Ulster Painters** will explore the varied work of famous painters William Conor, John Luke, and Coln Middleton.
- **Recordings and Radio Broadcasts** tells the fascinating story of the survival of early 20<sup>th</sup> century music and how it was brought to an international audience.

In past years, Irish Fest Summer School's guest lecturers have included Eamon O Cuiv, Ireland's Minister of the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs; Tommy Graham, editor of *History Ireland* magazine; author/actor, Malachy McCourt; Sean Farrell, Consul General of Ireland at the Chicago Consulate; and acclaimed *Riverdance* performer, Jean Butler.

To register, visit [irishfest.com](http://irishfest.com) or call Barb Breed-Heidt at (262) 227-6538.

Milwaukee 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 year-long programming. For more information, visit [irishfest.com](http://irishfest.com).

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