

HIGHLIGHTS 2001-2009

- Produced and released two studio albums
- One of only four student music groups invited to perform at the 2006 National Music Student Leadership Conference
- Presented workshop at 2006 Music Educators National Conference; have also twice presented workshops at the Eastman School of Music and the New York State Music Education Conference
- Hosted concerts by—and performed with—Lúnasa, Gráda, Téada, Karan Casey, and Brian Conway, some of the top Irish bands and musicians in the world.
- Performances at the Eastman School of Music, the University of Rochester, Nazareth College, and St. John Fisher College
- Performance at Irish Cultural Centre of New England (Boston/NYC trip)
- Hosted seven Irish music workshops by All-Ireland Champion Musicians

www.celticmusicsociety.org

CELTIC MUSIC SOCIETY

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JOINING Celtic Music Society





CELTIC MUSIC SOCIETY is a unique program comprised of student musicians from East Rochester Senior and Junior High Schools in East Rochester, New York. Founded in the fall of 2001, this group of young musicians performs the traditional music of Ireland in authentic traditional and contemporary styles. In our first six years, we performed more than 125

times, hosted seven workshops by All-Ireland Champion musicians, and shared the stage with some of the top Irish musicians from our region and the world.

Celtic Music Society has presented teacher workshops at Nazareth College and the Eastman School of Music, as well as the 2003 and 2004 New York State School Music Association annual teacher conferences.

We were one of only four student ensembles invited from the United States to perform at the 2006 National Music Student Leadership Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. In addition, our director, Mark Gowman, presented a workshop for more than 100 teachers from across North America at the corresponding Music Educators National Conference. Celtic Music Society is believed to be the only public school Irish music program in the United States.

Students in Celtic Music Society participate in many of the same ways traditional Irish musicians participate. Skills and style are taught not from books, but are learned by ear. Tunes are also learned by ear, without written notation. Students have input into the music that is selected, taught, rehearsed, and performed.

For six years, Celtic Music Society has introduced Irish traditional music to students in the East Rochester Schools, to audiences in the Rochester area, and to music educators across the United States. We have also set a standard of excellence for the other instrumental ensembles that we continue to increase. We are beginning to plan the next album for Celtic Music Society, and we look forward to surpassing the success of our first studio album, *Color Blind*.

In order to build and maintain a standard of excellence in performance and instruction, standards of musicianship and participation must exist and must be met by all participating students. Please carefully read the expectations on the next page. You will be asked to sign a membership contract before beginning instruction and participation, and you will be required to meet these expectations throughout the time of your membership.

MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

1. **Membership in this ensemble is by audition only.** You must meet the minimum standard of technique, style, and repertoire on the traditional instrument to begin meeting with the ensemble, and then a second (higher) standard to begin performing with the ensemble.
2. **You are expected to make this group's rehearsals your first priority after school,** and consider this your regularly scheduled 10th period class. That means you don't make up tests or do other activities when a rehearsal is scheduled. Rehearsals are regularly scheduled two days a week from 2:30 to 3:30.
3. **All members attend all performances.** This ensemble provides unique opportunities and requires responsibility. Each member of the group plays an essential part in the arrangements and balance of the group. Our music is arranged for the specific musicians in the group—not just for their instruments, but their individual strengths and weaknesses as well. If any musician is missing, it leaves a tremendous hole in the sound. If there is a situation where you have an existing conflict in your schedule, Mr. Gowman must be notified as soon as you find out about the performance. Members are expected to immediately check performance dates both with parents and their own schedules. As soon as a performance is scheduled, notice is sent out with students and directly to those parents that have e-mail. *Any member with an unexcused absence will be suspended from the group.*
4. **You must be in good academic standing.** As an extra-curricular activity, academic eligibility applies. Poor behavior or other violations of the student code will not be tolerated from members of this group.
5. **You are expected to quickly master new music.** Here's what that means: When we learn a new tune, you are expected to have a good understanding of it by the next rehearsal, and be able to play it as well as any of our other tunes, at performance speed, by the second or third rehearsal.
6. **You are expected to be a positive contributor at all rehearsals.** That means listening to instructions, following and learning from instruction, collaborating with others, and not being a distraction to what we are trying to do.
7. **Members are expected to immediately make up all missed schoolwork from school day performances.** This affects not only your academic standing, but the group's (and Mr. Gowman's) reputation within the school.
8. To really understand what it means to be an Irish musician, **you need to play with other Irish musicians.** The Irish Musicians Association of Rochester holds at least two Irish music "jam sessions" each month. I think it's important (and really, really fun) to go to those as often as possible. Visit WWW.IRISHROCHESTER.ORG for more information.