

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 four years, we performed more than one hundred 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 have been selected to perform at the 2006 National Music Student Leadership Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, this April. This was an unsolicited invitation, and our Irish traditional music program is honored to be one of only three student groups from the entire country chosen to perform. In addition, our director, Mark Gowman, has been selected to present a workshop for teachers from across the United States 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.



Contact Information:

Celtic Music Society
East Rochester High School
200 Woodbine Ave.
East Rochester, New York 14445
(585) 248-6344
mark_gowman@er.monroe.edu

Please visit our website for more information,
sound and video files.

www.erschools.org/celtic

See pages 2 & 3 for quotes.

CELTIC MUSIC SOCIETY

Quotes

“[Celtic Music Society] is a uniquely special group of musicians who really have tapped into the well of traditional Irish music. Their enthusiasm and sheer enjoyment of making music is a delight to experience.”—Kevin Crawford, *Lúnasa*

“Dear Mark,

I drove from Perry to ERHS (about 50mi) last night to hear Lunasa, which I enjoyed a great deal. But I was much more impressed with your groups from the Celtic Music Society. In fact, I was totally BLOWN AWAY that today's Western NY high-schoolers would latch onto Irish music at all, let alone be SO GOOD at it... I was honored to be able to hear them (your kids), and to buy the CD, and to collect many of the members' autographs (sorry there wasn't time to get them all). Keep up the good work, and pass on my admiration to your students. Thank you for providing the opportunity for them, and for us to hear you.”

—Sue Hengelsberg, *Folk Music, Storytelling & Theater*

“Dear Mark,

Congratulations to you and all your kids, they were fabulous. Please tell them I said so... you guys are really unique!” —Bob Phillips, *Alfred Publishing Clinician and Author of String Explorer String Method, Fiddlers Philharmonic, Fiddlers Philharmonic Encore!, and Jazz Philharmonic*

“Celtic Music Society was good in everyway... their general deportment, focus, and of course musical performance... they are really very consistent. I hope they know how much they were appreciated. The group embodied the concept of the living tradition in their playing. Their focus and sense of musicality and complete engagement in the music is a credit to them and to you. I'm really proud of the 2004 Sampler concert and Celtic Music Society was an essential part of the success of the entire event. I think your approach is excellent....and again, I can't tell you how much I enjoyed performing with you all!” —Mitzie Collins, *Eastman School of Music Community Education, Recording Artist, and Sampler Records President*

“...a talented and enthusiastic group of young people who had the crowd clapping, singing and dancing along ... they were a memorable part of our St. Patrick's Day festivities!” —Mare Millow, *Chairperson, Rochester St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee & Celtic Family Fair*

“What I like about what you are doing with the children is that you are not only giving them a group experience that can be entirely successful and uplifting but also an individual skill that they can pack and travel with throughout their lives. I may never play the second violin part to a Mahler Symphony in my living room when I am older, but I just may entertain my kids [by playing this music] and make them excited about music at a very personal level.” –Linda Ford, Kanack Music School

Celtic Music Society Highlights, 2001-2006

- One of only four student groups from the United States invited to perform at the National Music Student Leadership Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah
- Teacher Workshop at 2006 Music Educators National Conference in Salt Lake City
 - Performance at Irish Cultural Centre of New England (Boston/NYC trip, July 2004)
- Produced two albums: *Legend of the Celtic Winds* and *Color Blind*
- Twice performed/presented workshops at NY State Music Education Conference
- Performances at Eastman School of Music, Hochstein School of Music, University of Rochester, Nazareth College, and St. John Fisher College
- Twice presented concerts by (and performed with) *Lunasa*, one of the top Irish bands in the world
- Hosted Irish music workshops by four different World Champion Irish musicians
 - Only Irish music program in an American public school