



March '09

Celtic Notes Concert a great success

The annual concert of the national Youth Piping and Drumming Ensemble was held in Siamsa Tíre, Tralee, Co Kerry on Saturday 21st February.

Irish Pipe Band Association



The N.Y.P.B. is the main project of the College of Piping and Drumming. The ensemble brings young pipers and drummers together in a bond of fellowship and learning, through performance in concert type events. The N.Y.P.B. is primarily financed through Arts Council grants.



www.ipba.ie



The concert commenced at 7.30pm and ran for two hours.

Many dignitaries including the mayor of Tralee Cllr Ted Fitzgerald were present in a full theatre.

The company played to a most receptive audience who showed their appreciation in no uncertain way.



Final practice in Dublin, before the parade

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TEMPLE BAR GIG

As a 'warm up' for the annual concert the NYPB did a gig in Temple Bar, Dublin on Sunday 1st February.

It was a bitterly cold day and great credit is due to all of those who turned out.

The format of this event was a parade through the Temple Bar region followed by a recital and a return parade, which went in a 'loop' to the original start point.

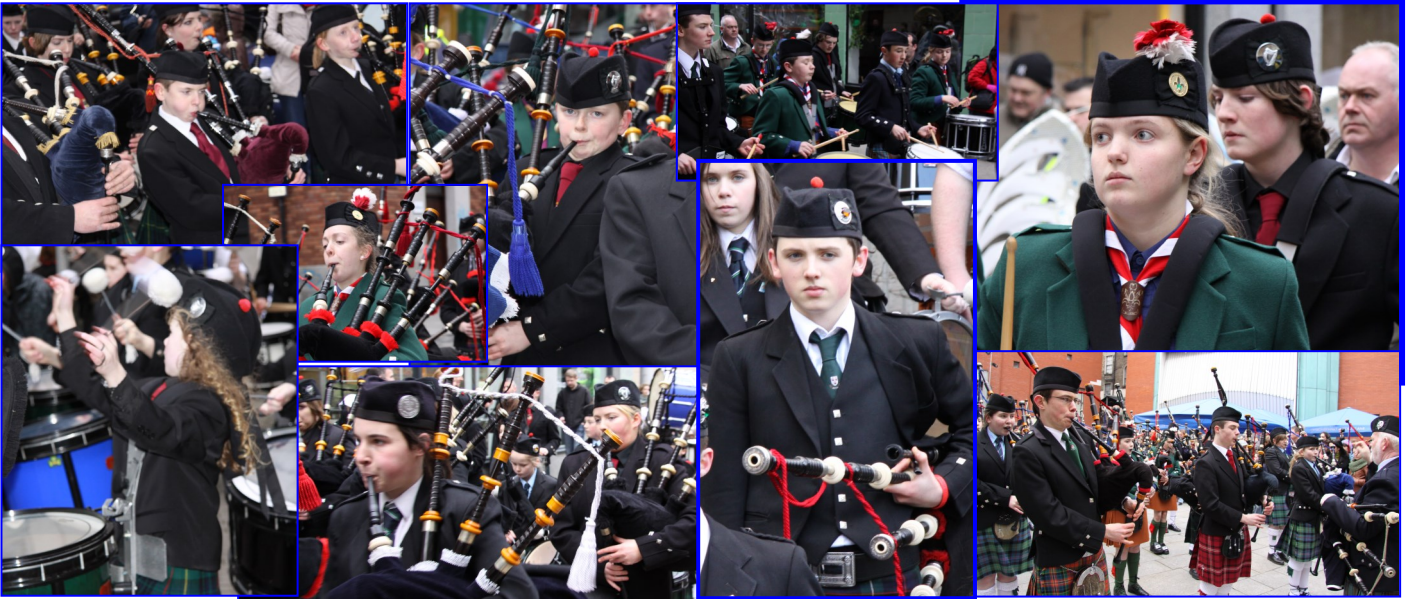
Many kids had to travel long distances, some up before the crack of dawn and not returning home until late that evening. Well done all



Nigel O'Neill oversees rehearsals. It was a long day for all the participants with practice commencing at 12.00.

Some of those involved had been through the process before in the concert staged in New Ross in April 2008.

Temple Bar Gig



SUNDAY 1ST February 2009



Rogues Gallery



How many faces can you identify from the Temple Bar Gig ?



no drummers allowed





SIAMSA TIRE REHERSALS SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY



Our Chief Tuner Philip Duffy



Thanks to Victoria Grant & Gavin Richardson and to Tim Goulding, not pictured here.



Nigel O'Neill gets the correct pitch



'OK got my hat on'
Ready to go



OK guys I'm here



Someone call for the drummers ?'cause they were just chillin

MUSICIANS GATHER for epic night of music and dance

Pipe and drum band excels at magical Siamsa concert

SIAMSA Tire was the venue on Saturday night for a spectacular night of entertainment in the coming together of students from the National Youth Piping and Drumming Ensemble.

Seventeen bands from all over the country performed together on stage along with Kingdom Dancers, Rinceoirí na Ríochta to complete the third and final leg of the Celtic Notes Concert (which started in New Ross with the second show in Dublin).

It featured 108 pipers and drummers from ages seven to 18 joined with senior members of their bands to play such songs as 'Dawning Of The Day' and 'Galway Girl'.

The tumultuous applause given by the appreciative audience after each performance gave an indication of just how good the evening was. Among those in attendance was the Mayor of Tralee, Ted Fitzgerald.

"Tonight is superb, I never realised the other bands travelled so far for tonight," said Ted. "They have spent all day rehearsing for the performance and it's wonderful to see all the effort put in by everyone con-



Enjoying The National Youth Pipe Band concert in Siamsa Tire on Saturday night were Cllr Johnnie Wall, Mayor of Tralee Ted Fitzgerald and Drum Major Christy Switzer.

cerned. It is also great night for our own local Tralee Pipe And Drum Band," said Ted.

Also on hand to complement the night's entertainment was Cllr Johnnie Wall; "It is a magical evening and the talent on show here tonight is something else," said Johnnie. "I thought it was a very nice gesture of the group to play a tribute to the children who died in Dunblane," he added.

"The music absolutely lifts your soul," said Christina Murphy from Strand Road. "It is a great combination of modern and traditional music here tonight. My niece Amy Murphy from Cork is playing and the whole family are here to support her," she said.

Former side drummer with Tralee Pipe and Drum, Dennis Costello from Glenard was very impressed by the performance also. "It is a fabulous concert and the standard of the National

Youth Pipe and Drum Band here tonight is brilliant. The kids are simply unreal as is the tuition they are receiving," said Dennis.

"It is excellent entertainment here, a lovely night it is a pity it is not held more often," said Margaret Sheehy from Abbeydorney.

At the beginning of the second half of the show, Tralee Pipe and Drum took to the stage along with Rinceoirí na Ríochta to perform 'A Wet Sunday', 'The Damned' and 'Hyberboa Gesticulation', which was of course met with a great response.

After the performance all Band members headed to the Grand Hotel for light refreshments and the younger members of Tralee Pipe And Drum, although exhausted from their long day took time out to speak about the show.

"I'm a tenor drummer for the past year and a half and tonight I loved

the last tune 'Galway Girl'. I am so tired after today but I can't wait for our next show," said Dylan O'Connor, (11).

"We all had so much fun rehearsing together today I really enjoyed it and 'Galway Girl' was the best bit," said Jessica Stephen (7), Tenor Drummer.

Next came Jessica's ten year old brother Gary. "I love playing the bagpipes and we love going to practice every Tuesday and Thursday night. Tonight was very good and I loved performing on stage," said Gary.

"I learned loads from all the practising today my favourite tune tonight was 'The Damned,'" said Hayley Donovan, (11), Tenor Drummer.

Another Tenor Drummer Chelsea Quirke (9), also delighted in telling about her experience. "I am so tired from rehearsing all day but tonight I loved playing Dawning Of The Day," said Chelsea.

Proud parents Linda

Moriarty and Ann O'Connor from Tralee were also effusive in their praise. "We are delighted and so proud of our kids here tonight the children gave it their all," said Linda.

"The band is not highlighted enough and they do not receive as much recognition as they should. I hope they will be first in line for the 50th Rose Parade this year," said Ann.

Then it was the turn of some senior members of the band to talk about the event.

"I have been a member for the past 14 years and our performance tonight with the dancers was outstanding. We were delighted with the great applause we got after," said Bass Drum Player Richard Long.

"Today and tonight proved very enjoyable for all involved, we learned a lot and it was lovely to see all the other bands together again for the concert, but most importantly it is great to see the younger members getting their chance to perform," said Chris Rogan, Tenor Drummer Co-ordinator.

"Everyone played tremendously here tonight. It was a great success and the organisation was spot-on," said Christy Switzer, Drum Major.

"Tonight was a new departure for us intertwining electronic instruments with pipe and drum music. The Tralee band played music from Brittany and merged it in with Irish traditional music and all our hard work and dedication rehearsing since Christmas has really paid off tonight," concluded Dan O'Donoghue, a Piper with the band since the early 70's.



EXTRACTED FROM
'THE KERRYMAN LTD.'
AND
'KERRY'S EYE'



THE 'D' PAGE
absolutely no pipers





Concert Preparations



Siamsa Tire, Tralee, Co Kerry

In planning for the Siamsa Tire Concert, it was uppermost in our minds to keep costs to the minimum.

A 'benefactor' (someone whose arm was twisted), was found to pay for the advertising

flags which were prominent in the town centre.

Resulting from this exposure Sarah has become an 'overnight celeb', as for Mike and Aidan the're still just wannabies.

Posters were placed in all local retail outlets. Photos from last year's concert and some images from the Temple bar Gig were used in this promotional effort. (apologies to all concerned).

The concert was also advertised in the Siamsa Tire Event guide.



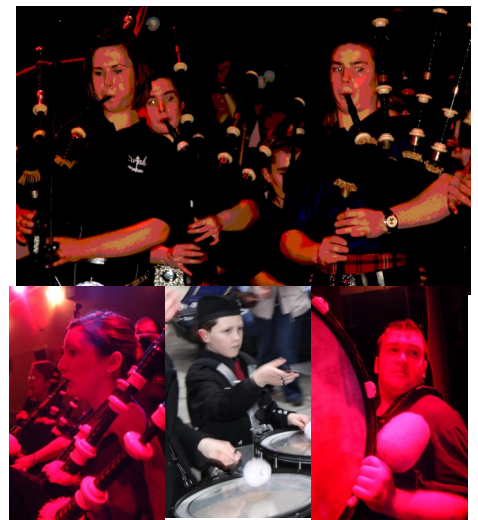
Imagery used in Poster Campaign & Programme Campaign

Saturday 21st @ 7.30 pm
Celtic Notes Concert
NATIONAL YOUTH PIPING & DRUMMING CONCERT

This is the second annual concert of the National Youth Pipe Band and is a development of last season's successful programme incorporating an expanded repertoire. The show will consist of fantastic ensemble numbers with a selection of virtuoso solo and group performances.

The purpose of the N.Y.P.B. is to bring young pipers and drummers together in a bond of fellowship, through participation in concert type events. Over 60 performers, from 15 participating bands, will take to the stage in what promises to be a fantastic evening of piping & drumming

Tickets: €10



Irish Pipe Band Association

National Youth Pipe Band

Celtic Notes Concert

www.ipba.ie

from Tralee Town council reads this), and after the Temple Bar Gig had occurred, we decided to scrap the original idea and go for a programme based on photos from Dublin.

CONCERT PROGRAMME

INTERMISSION

Irish Pipe Band Association

www.ipba.ie

Irish Pipe Band Association

Celtic Notes

www.ipba.ie

Initially we were basing the Concert Programme on last years show, obviously BLUE was the 'in' colour. Naturally this prog. had to be produced at zero cost, therefore in true style, after printing 500 copies, which nearly burned the printer out at work, (hope no one

P.S. this necessitated a change of colour, suddenly we became very patriotic and 'green' was the 'in' colour and that's what you got. (can still smell burn from the printer)

HAVE YOUR SAY



tenor drummers in action

This newsletter is an attempt at recording and promoting the NYPB and most importantly entertaining all its members. While this first issue is primarily photographic in nature and undertaken by people 'behind the scene', we would, in the future, hope to incorporate, articles, photographs, comments (good, bad or indifferent) from YOU the members of the NYPB. Each and everyone of you are probably

thinking at the moment 'WELL I CAN'T WRITE ARTICLES' - totally untrue. From what I've seen and heard around the fringes of activity of the NYPB, most of you could bulls**t your way out of any situation. If there was a Eurovision for loquaciousness and for people who could 'talk for Ireland', most of you would be prime candidates. So, send your Photographs, interview a friend,

find out what they thought of the activity of the NYPB this year, more importantly lets hear what you thought. This is your newsletter and we hope that you all will input to it, even in the smallest manner towards the next edition. (Autumn '09)

'cmon get stuck in

OK so it took all this time (probably until St Patrick's Day), to get this newsletter together. This was mainly due to the limitations of the available technology (for that read 'he hasn't a clue how to operate a computer'). Our next effort at a newsletter will be 'off



the presses' in October 2009. In the meantime you can forward information, comments, photographs or just general chit-chat to:

Brian Mc Mahon 087 / John-
nie Sheehan 087 /
2314444

For further information check out
www.ipba.ie

or
our new bebo page

<http://www.bebo.com/nationalyouth>

Looking Back to Look Forward

The title of this article seems quite anomalous—daft, silly even, however it is quite simple (*like the writer*).

We would like to enlist your help to develop the programme and concert schedule for upcoming events. And to do this we need to look back at our previous events, pinpoint what was good, what worked and from this analysis we will look to the future and develop new ideas.

For those of you who participated in the 'Coming Together Concert' in New Ross in April 2008 and also the 'Celtic Notes' event in Tralee you will have noticed a gradual progression and development of the music played.

Another feature of the second concert was that many of the established and noted solo piping players were absent. However this did not impact on the event with all the in-house players stepping up to the mark to provide a fantastic nights entertainment.

Printed *across* is the programme for the Siamsa Tíre Concert which was held on 21st February 2008.

What did you like about it? What didn't you like? What was just *so-so* or 'iffy'?

We really do want your comments.

What would you do to improve the Concert?

What suggestions have you got?

Can you or a friend play another instrument? Do you want to incorporate into the Ensemble?

Your overall comments on the Temple Bar Gig and the Siamsa Tíre Concert would be appreciated.

NYPB LIST OF PARTICIPATING BANDS

1	ARKLOW,	CO WICKLOW
2	C.B.S. LIMERICK	CO LIMERICK
3	CITY OF LIMERICK	CO LIMERICK
4	CLONTIBRET,	CO MONAGHAN
5	DE LA SALLE SCOUT GROUP / WATERFORD CITY	CO WATERFORD
6	KILLESBIN,	CO CARLOW
7	LETTERKENNY & DIST,	CO DONEGAL
8	MANORCUNNINGHAM	CO DONEGAL
9	NEWCASTLE WEST & DIST.,	CO LIMERICK

10	NEWMARKET,	CO CORK
11	NEW ROSS & DIST.	CO WEXFORD
12	ST. COLMAN'S, COBH,	CO CORK
13	ST. MICHAEL'S, GOREY,	CO WEXFORD
14	ST. LAWRENCE OF HOWTH,	CO DUBLIN
15	ST. PATRICK'S, BANDON	CO CORK
16	TRALEE PIPES & DRUMS,	CO KERRY



Auditorium seating in the Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny. There is accommodation for 383 people seated.

The next concert of the NYPB is scheduled for the Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.

The date has not been finalised but will be released as soon as is practically possible. Again it is proposed to develop the schedule of music for the forthcoming event, however we would dearly welcome any suggestions from members of the Youth Ensemble.

What would you like to incorporate into this concert. Now is the time to have your say and together we may be able to develop your idea and bring it to fruition.

Concert Programme Siamsa Tíre

1. **When the pipers play** (vocalist - Linda Grace)
2. **The Greenhills of Tyrol & When the Battle is O'er**
3. **The Bells of Dunblane** - soloist David Doyle
4. **Paddy's Leather Breeches - Jig** (dancer Kate O'Hanlon)
5. **Team Drumming** (Oisín Bates Kit & John Stewart Snare)
6. **Smallpipe** (Michael Foley) Medley the Strutting Jig, Bobby's Jig, Jack Patterson's Mare, Girl from Dungannon, Hard Times & the Duck.
7. **Dawning of the Day** - melody & march
8. **Theme for the Greenlands** soloist Michael Foley
9. **The Water is Wide** (vocalists - Linda Grace & Emma Duffy)
10. **Drops of Brandy** - traditional slip jig with **Rinceoirí na Ríochta**
11. **Highland Cathedral** - soloist Elaine Stone Kit Drum Briam O'Callaghan

INTERMISSION

1. **KAZ AR BAK** (White and Black)
Tralee Pipes & Drums & **Rinceoirí na Ríochta**
A Wet Sunday - the damned - Hyperbolaeic Gesticulation
2. **Solo Drums** (Matthew Ring)
3. **La Boum - Breton Air** - the party
4. **Mingulay Boat Song** - (vocalist - John Aspel)
5. **Maire's Wedding , I Love a Lassie, The Bonnie Lass O' Fyvie** - traditional airs with a central theme of LOVE
6. **Theresa Shalloe** - solo whistle
7. **Lord Lovatt's Lament & The Rowan Tree**
8. **The Gael** - suite
9. **O'Neill's Cavalcade & The Minstrel Boy**
10. **The Galway Girl**



The theatre has a 'modernist' design approach, the facilities are similar to those of Siamsa Tíre and possibly much better.

Background notes on some of the tunes played in the Concert

The Green Hills of Tyrol is one of the best known, and oldest, tunes played by pipe bands today. It was originally from the opera "William Tell" by Rossini, but was transcribed to the pipes in 1854 by Pipe Major John MacLeod after he heard it played by a Sardinian military band when serving in the Crimean War with his Regiment, the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders. Pipe Major MacLeod himself was well liked in his Regiment, and had a reputation for selflessness and amiability.

The Bells of Dunblane The Dunblane massacre was a multiple murder. Look it up. It occurred at Dunblane Primary School in the Scottish town of Dunblane on 13 March 1996. Sixteen children and one adult were killed. In addition, the attacker, Thomas Watt Hamilton, committed suicide. It remains the deadliest single targeted mass homicide on children in the history of the United Kingdom. This tune was composed to commemorate this tragic event by Robert Mathieson of Shotts & Dykehead Pipe Band.

The Dawning of the Day (Irish: *Fáinne Gael an Lae*) is an old Irish air composed by the blind harpist Thomas Connellan in the 17th Century. An Irish-language song with this name (*Fáinne Gael an Lae*) was published by Edward Walsh in 1847 and later translated into English as *The Dawning of the Day*. The melody of this song was used by Irish poet Patrick Kavanagh to his poem, "Raglan Road".^[1]

Theme from Greenlands - Dan ar Braz

The Water Is Wide (also called "O Waly, Waly") is thought to be an English or Scottish folk song that has been sung since the 1600s. It has seen considerable popularity through to the 21st century. Cecil Sharp song-catched this folk song during his journey to America during World War I.

The Gael Dougie MacLean has a long-standing reputation as one of Scotland's finest musicians and composers, but among fans of the Last of The Mohicans he is best known for writing that wonderful piece called "The Gael"—

Mingulay Boat Song The premise of the "Mingulay Boat Song" is that it would be sung by Scottish fishermen as they returned from the Atlantic towards the Isle of Mingulay. The lyrics were penned by Sir Hugh S. Robertson in the 1930s. The melody is originally a "traditional Gaelic pipe tune", "Creag Guanach" from Lochaber.

Highland Cathedral is a popular bagpipe tune written by German musicians Ulrich Roever and Michael Korb.

The Minstrel Boy is an Irish patriotic song written by Thomas Moore (1779-1852) who set it to the melody of *The Moreen*, an old Irish air. It is widely believed that Moore composed the song in remembrance of a number of his friends, whom he met while studying at Trinity College, Dublin and who had participated in (and were killed during) the 1798 rebellion of the United Irishmen. However, the song gained widespread popularity and became a favourite of many Irishmen who fought during the United States Civil War and gained even more popularity during World War I.

I Love A Lassie Here is a perennial favourite from Sir Harry Lauder which was inspired by his love for his wife Nancy.

Mairi's Wedding (also known as the Lewis Bridal Song, or Mairi Bhan Óg) - originally written in Gaelic by Johnny Bannerman for Mary McNiven, in 1935, using a traditional Scottish tune.

The Bonnie Lass o' Fyvie is a Scottish folk song about a thwarted romance between a soldier and a girl. Like many folk songs, the authorship is un-attributed, there is no strict version of the lyrics, and it is often referred to by its opening line *There once was a troop o' Irish dragoons*. The song is also known by a variety of other names, the most common of them being Peggy-O.

Lord Lovat's Lament was composed by his Lovat's piper, David Fraser. Lovat was defeated at Culloden and convicted of treason against the British. He was beheaded, on Tower Hill, the last person to be so in Britain.

