

# SHOWBILL

COMMODORE JOHN BARRY IRISH ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER



Philly Fleadh Productions Presents

# CELTIC KICKOFF

**A Music & Dance Experience**  
**Saturday, February 24th, 6 pm**  
**Commodore John Barry Arts & Cultural Center**

**Featuring:**

**The Celtic Experience Band &  
Celtic Flame Irish Dance**



**It is with great excitement that we present to you The Celtic Kickoff!**

We are happy to bring this music and dance experience to The Irish Center. We have been producing some version of The Celtic Christmas Experience every December for the past decade. This year we took the show on the road performing in Sea Isle City, North Wildwood, Bensalem, Drexel Hill and Pottstown. Our show has become a holiday tradition for many families across the tri-state area to start their Christmas season, and we hope to do the same with The Celtic Kickoff for your St. Paddy's season.

The music for this evening is provided by The Celtic Experience Band. This group of musicians includes some of the best in the Philadelphia area who all play in separate bands that will be playing all over the area for the month of March. Each musician is extremely skilled in their own realm, and are all big names on the Philly Irish and Rock scene. You will also find them playing in their other bands at our annual Philadelphia Fleadh which is held every year on the second Saturday in May in Northeast Philadelphia. Be sure to check out these talented musician's bios throughout this showbill.

We are extremely pleased to announce that Chrissy Zeo-Mills and The Celtic Flame Irish Dancers will be providing us with the dancing for the evening. Chrissy has been the main choreographer of the Celtic Christmas shows since they started a decade ago. Her skill in choreography and vision is nothing short of amazing. This past year Celtic Flame Irish Dance and The Celtic Experience Band took first place in the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade for Best Performance for the second year in a row. We are also very excited to welcome dancers from both The Timoney School of Irish Dance and The Cummins School of Irish Dance who will be joining us on stage this evening.

Whether you have been to some of our past shows or this is your first time experiencing our music and dance experience, we are grateful that you are joining us today. Enjoy the show, enjoy your March and thanks for making The Celtic Kickoff a part of your Irish season.

Slainte

C J and Chrissy Mills and the entire cast of The Celtic Kickoff

# **Set 1**

**Reel Around the Sun**

**Ireland**

**National Anthem**

**Danny Boy**

**Banshee-Tell Me Ma – Galway Girl**

**If I Ever Leave this World Alive**

**Butterfly Slip Jig**

**Wizards in Winter**

**Rose Tattoo**

**Sons of Molly**

**Dirty Old Town**

**Auld triangle**

**Black and Tans**

**Warriors**

# **Set 2**

**Lord of the Dance**

**Grace**

**Hills of Donegal – I just seen her face**

**Fields of Athenry**

**Sean South**

**Zombie**

**Fairytale of New York**

**Acapella Hard shoe**

**Wild Mountain Thyme**

**Four Green Fields**

**Whiskey in the Jar**

**Christmas Eve in Sarajevo**

**Celtic Symphony**

**Finale**

# PERFORMERS

**Bob Hurst** (*accordion, bass clarinet, vocals*) is a dynamic and versatile multi-instrumentalist and vocalist who has fronted three groups, and has toured around the North-Eastern US, Ireland and on cruise ships in the Caribbean. Trained as a classical pianist, he has performed for over 40 years in Classical Ensembles, Concert & Marching Bands, and Orchestra and Rock Band Formats on Piano, Piano accordion, Clarinet/Bass Clarinet, Tin Whistle, Guitar (Acoustic and Electric), and Irish Drum/Bodhran. He has performed alongside many musicians in the Philadelphia area, and currently performs with the Irish rock group, Bogside Rogues, as band leader and front man.

**C J Mills** (*fiddle*) started his musical career at the age of 6 playing the violin. He has been playing professionally for the past 28 years and has played in rock, bluegrass, country and Irish bands all over the tri-state area. Currently he plays in numerous acoustic acts and bands, mostly with Mike Shackleton, L.J. Hall and Shaun Durnin. He has been a teacher at Bensalem High School for the past twenty-three years where he teaches Media Communications and is the Executive Producer of The Owls Television Network. Mills is also the Producer of the Philadelphia Fleadh & The Celtic Christmas Experience.

**Dan Schram** (*bass and vocals*) has been working as a professional musician for 27 years. He specializes in playing string instruments and battery percussion. He graduated from Temple University in 2000 with a degree in secondary education. Schram has a minor in music performance and psychology. Dan has either backed up or shared the bill with many great professional musicians including the Spin Doctors, G love and Special Sauce, Tommy Conwell, and Ben Harper to name a few. Dan has been a teacher in Bensalem Schools for 22 years.

# PERFORMERS

**George Leigh** (trumpet, flugelhorn, piccolo trumpet, trombone) is a professional freelance trumpet player who performs in the area with various ensembles, artists, and bands. He was a music director with Carnival Cruise Lines and has recorded for the Wells Fargo Center (then Wachovia Center) and other local recording artists. Leigh taught music in Bensalem School District for 18 years and five years ago moved into a position at the high school where he is currently teaching history.

**Hailey Mills** (vocals) is a senior at Bensalem High School and has been a dancer in the Celtic Christmas shows since the conception ten years ago. Hailey has also been a member of The Celtic Experience Band for the past four years. Hailey started singing as a toddler with her first live performance at 3 years old as she sang One Love on stage with Mike Lecompt. She went on to record on the song Puzzle for Meg Russel's CD, Hat Parade and performed it at World Café Live and has been sitting in with her Dad's bands all of her life. She was in the BHS Drama Club's 2019 production of Cinderella, the 2020 production of Damn Yankees, the 2022 production of Beauty and the Beast, and held the lead role of Dragon in the 2023 production of Shrek The Musical.

**Kim Killen** (vocals) has been a part of this show since the start. Her voice is one of the most powerful you will have the pleasure to hear, and she is no stranger to the stage, or to the Philly Music Scene. Singing since she was a little girl, Kim has been in multiple bands, playing many genres of music over the years. Starting with The Patriots, she was one of the first bands to play Irish Weekend in North Wildwood. She went on to become the lead singer for the popular bands Causeway and Killen Thyme. Kim is still performing regularly with her bands Vuja De, Two Jazzy Ladies, and Killen Clark.

# PERFORMERS

**Laura Elbahtimy** (*piano, vocals*) was once an active student in Bensalem's band, orchestra, and choral programs. Laura is now in her thirteenth year as the General Music Teacher at Benjamin Rush Elementary School. She teaches students kindergarten through sixth grade, and conducts the 4<sup>th</sup>- 6th grade chorus. In 2011, Laura implemented a guitar curriculum servicing all 5th and 6th graders, which has now evolved into Rush's after school rock group, "The Roadrunners." Laura received her Bachelor of Music Education, with a piano concentration, from the University of Maryland, and her Masters of Education from Cabrini College.

**Martin Bradfield** (Drums) has been a versatile and popular drummer and teacher on the Philly scene since 1977. In his career he has taught over 12,000 students and over 55,000 drum lessons. When not teaching, Martin plays out in different bands. In addition to his own jazz groups, wedding bands, drum ensembles, drum clinics, theater work and studio work, Martin was in the popular Philly based Irish band Causeway for many years. As a testimony to his versatility, he has shared the professional stage with groups and artists as diverse as Julius La Rosa through Danny and the Juniors, The Shirelles, The Platters, Jimmy Heath, Al Grey, Tommy Dedesco from the Wrecking Crew, and many others. When forced to declare a favorite outlet, Martin says, "I love the range and passion of the Irish Music and its fans".

**Mike Shackleton** (vocals, acoustic guitar) has become a household name with anyone who is going out to hear music in the Philly or Jersey Shore scene. Mike plays both acoustically and in his full band in bars and clubs all over the area, and has been doing so for many years. Known for his upbeat tempo and great vocal range, Shackleton's shows are packing houses wherever he is booked. When not playing music, Mike is a Philadelphia Fire Fighter.

# PERFORMERS

**Shaun Durnin** (vocals, guitar) has been playing all over the tri-state area in bands and as a solo acoustic act. Hailing from Delaware County and raised listening to Irish music from his father who is from Dublin Ireland, Durnin has Celtic music running through his veins. A trained vocalist, Shaun has an amazing voice as well as great licks on the guitar. Shaun spent parts of his childhood singing in the Archdiocesan Boys Choir of Philadelphia, where he took his talents to the likes of Portugal, Spain, and Ireland. Shaun studied music at Immaculata University and is trained in multiple instruments.

**Tyler Stetler** (Electric Guitar) is the newest member of the band, joining us this year. He is a full time musician playing in the very popular duo Rachel and Ty, as well as a guitar teacher. Rachel and Ty are playing everywhere in the Philadelphia and Jersey Shore music scene with great success. Tyler's guitar playing has been turning heads wherever they play, including those of local brands that he is sponsored by. Tyler Stetler is endorsed by Breedlove Guitars and SIT Strings



# PERFORMERS

**The Celtic Flame School of Irish Dance** has proven to be one of the premier Irish Dance Schools in Bucks County and Philadelphia. Celtic Flame not only teaches Irish dance, it incorporates mindfulness, fitness and music with specialized classes once a month. It is the only dance school in the area that takes children as young as two years old, and that age range goes all the way up to seniors. Celtic Flame also caters to children with special needs with a skills class that is both beneficial and fun. Owner, Chrissy Zeo Mills (choreography and production) began Irish dancing at the age of 7 and danced for Rose Marie and Beth Timoney, and The Ryan School of Irish Dance where she reached the status of Preliminary Champion. At age 18, Chrissy opened The Celtic Flame School of Irish Dance. Over the past twenty years the school has grown from a young girl's dream to an extremely successful program with multiple locations and over 100 dancers ranging from Beginner to Championship level. In 2015, the school produced their first international champion. Celtic Flame has won numerous awards including Best Dance Group in The Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2012, 2021 and 2022 as well as Best Dance group in The Burlington St. Patrick's Day Parade. Recreational, competition and performance classes are offered year round. Chrissy is also a certified personal trainer, and offers fitness classes for all ages. For more information about joining Celtic Flame Irish Dance and Fitness and for a free trial class contact [CelticFlameIrishDance@gmail.com](mailto:CelticFlameIrishDance@gmail.com)



# **PERFORMERS**

## **CELTIC FLAME IRISH DANCERS**

Allie Rocchi

Alyssa Berkery

Bridgid Mulligan

Caitlyn Ryan

Catherine Keenan

Claudia Farrant

Colette Kehoe

Emma Tonkin

Jamie Roberts

Kaeleigh Neville

Kelly Ferraro

Maddie Collins

Madison Elliott

Madison Roth

Mia Szafran

Molly Sheasley

Alison Bilbee

Allyson Burton

Amanda Curry

Caitlin Shuler

Chrissy Zeo-Mills

Heather Brennan

Jeannie Guerra

Jennifer Rocchi

Jennifer Neville

Jillian Viscariello

Kristin Stipa

Lauren Hammill

Lauren McBrearty

Margaret Bagnell

Mary Teresa Ferraro

Maura Collins

Olivia Szczepanski

Rebecca McCarrie-Setta

Tanya Hull Clothier

## **TIMONEY IRISH DANCERS**

Eilish Kidd

Lily Heinemann

Mackenzie Conricode

## **CUMMINS IRISH DANCERS**

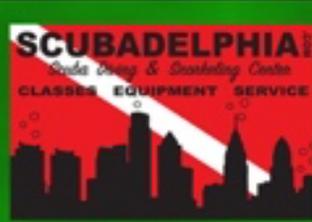
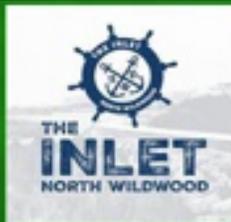
Megan Glanz

Megan Harrell

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