

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



(T.B.F. 7c-7c) B.W.D.C.

'Music in the Glen' offers best of Irish song, dance

My father is old and my mother's right feeble
To leave their own country would grieve their hearts sore
Oh the tears down their cheeks in great showers they are rolling
To think I must die on some far foreign shore.

... Pack up your sea-stores, consider no longer
Ten dollars a week is not very bad pay
With no taxes or tithes to devour up your wages
When you're on the green fields of America

— from the Irish air, "The Green Fields of America"

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Traditional music, step dancing and songs dating to the "dawn of history" will be highlighted at a fall festival featuring 20 of Ireland's leading folk artists at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21 at Detroit's Comhaltas Hall.

"Music in the Glen," headlined by all-Ireland champion musicians, dancers and story tellers, is being sponsored by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (pronounced COY-ahs KAY-TOY-ah-reen), or the Music Association of Ireland. Tickets — \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors — are available at the Orchestra Hall box office (833-3700), Musical Oasis in Birmingham, Irish Imports in Dearborn, Village Records and Tapes in Grosse Pointe and from Comhaltas members.

The non-profit, non-political organi-

zation is dedicated to preserving and promoting Ireland's cultural and musical heritage through its nearly 1,000 chapters in Ireland, the U.S., Canada, Britain and Australia. Comhaltas Detroit branch claims members of Irish, Italian, German and Polish descent from throughout Wayne and Oakland counties.

RANGING FROM 16 to 70 years old, Comhaltas' non-paid Irish artists sacrifice vacations to perform 17 concerts in three weeks in New York, Chicago, Toronto, San Francisco, St. Louis and Los Angeles. Seventeen U.S. cities are on the waiting list.

Proceeds will benefit Comhaltas' Dublin headquarters, a converted school providing entertainment, a music library, instrument workshop, recording studio and advisory service for musicians and music lovers.

DETROIT'S Comhaltas chapter is wooing the likes of Uilleann (elbow) piper Seamus Meehan, all-world step dancer Ruth Garrett, banjo player Mary O'Connell, Irish harpist Janet Harrison and Gaelic singer Eileen Curran for a 15th consecutive concert because of "our love for the culture," says Livonia's Daniel O'Kennedy, chairman of Comhaltas' Detroit branch.

Experiencing the cultures of others "is part and parcel of living among the great conglomeration of people in the melting pot of the States."

"WE HAVE something to offer, and it's only right that we emphasize it," adds the County Clare native.



DAN DEANWART photographer

Redford's Mick Gavin, (left) originally from County Clare, Ireland, and Brendan McKinney of "County Macomb" play Irish traditional music with Tanist, a group of local musicians to serve "curtain raisers" for "Comhaltas," an Irish concert coming to Orchestra Hall Friday, Sept. 21. The pair got a little practicing in while visiting the Ancient Order of Hibernians on Grand River in Detroit.

Emphasizing it for several years now has been "Tanist," a local group of traditional Irish musicians who will serve as "curtain raisers" for Comhaltas. From Redford Township, "County Macomb," Detroit and Belfast, Northern Ireland respectively, Tanist is composed of Irish fiddler Mick Gavin, all-Ireland and all-around musician Bren-

dan McKinney and his brother, pipe and tin whistle player Terence McKinney, guitar/bouzouki/mandolin player Jim O'Callaghan, and banjo and mandolin player Wallace Hood.

Please turn 2 pages



ART EMANUELE

Fancy footwork has been a tradition with square dancers and cloggers at the outdoor event held at Livonia's Historic Greenmead.

Festival accents bluegrass music

Five bluegrass groups, cloggers and square dancers will perform at Livonia's annual Bluegrass and Country Festival from noon to 8 p.m. Sunday at Historical Greenmead at Eight Mile and Newburgh roads in Livonia.

Admission, including parking at the festival, is \$5 per car. Kegs of beer or pets are not allowed. Food and beverages will be available.

The bluegrass music begins with Dave Walk appearing at noon and again at 3:15 p.m. Stoney Creek at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m., Mainstreet Cloggers at 1 and 4:15 p.m., North Country Grass at 1:15 and 4:30 p.m., High Sierra at 1:45 and 5 p.m., Bill Peterson's Square Dancers at 2:15 and 5:30 p.m. and Footloose at 2:30 and 5:45 p.m.

Larry McDaniels, WDET's "Arkansas Traveler," will be the master of ceremonies.

PARKING LOT picking is being encouraged. A hog-calling contest and an apple-pie-baking contest are added features this year.

Greenmead is a historic 103-acre farm, settled in 1820. Greenmead is now owned and operated as a park by the city of Livonia. The festival is sponsored by the Livonia Arts Commission.

Concert-goers may stroll through the historic village and flower gardens on the farm grounds without charge. Admission to the Hill House Museum is \$1 for adults and 25 cents for children ages 10-17.

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