

Entertainment

Keely Wygonik editor/953-2105



6B(OX7, Ro-6C)

O&E Thursday, November 21, 1991

Dancers take steps to learn about Irish culture

By M.B. Dillon
staff writer

If you're looking for a fun, painless way to exercise while socializing and soaking up some culture, Kitty Heinzman would like to hear from you.

The Livonia resident, who for years has taught traditional Irish folk dancing at the Gaelic League in Detroit, is bringing "Kitty's Cella Night" to Plymouth on Tuesday nights.

Similar to square dancing, Irish cell dances are performed with anywhere from two to 16 or more people.

Heinzman's first Plymouth class for adult beginners was Nov. 19. Newcomers are welcome at sessions set for 8-10 p.m. Nov. 25, Dec. 10 and Dec. 17 at the I.O.O.F. Hall, Ann Arbor Trill and Elizabeth. The registration fee is \$24, or \$8 per class. Partners aren't necessary. Comfortable shoes and attire are recom-

mended. For more information, call 522-5787.

Heinzman, who works at the Michigan Institute for Neurological Disorders in Farmington Hills, also teaches Friday nights at the Gaelic League two blocks west of Tiger Stadium on Michigan Ave. Classes, 8-11 p.m., are \$5 each.

A GIFTED teacher, Heinzman, from County Mayo in Ireland, has an infectious laugh and a passion for life that's contagious.

Her students, hailing from all over metropolitan Detroit and southern Ontario, call Heinzman's class "Irish aerobics."

"Dancers come from all walks of life and range in age from young to old. They include students, retirees, teachers who work with boat people, yacht club commodores, priests, electricians and respiratory therapists.

Kitty Middleton of Birmingham has been a regular since 1985. "I saw

the dancers performing down at Hart Plaza at the Irish Festival," she said. "You just feel right at home. It's like a big happy family. Kitty is delightful and a very good instructor."

Now she is. "I didn't need a partner, and it's a good social group," she said. "You just feel right at home. It's like a big happy family. Kitty is delightful and a very good instructor."

Among Heinzman's forte is the ability to teach beginners to get through a dance and enjoy themselves just as much as the experienced performers.

"Kitty includes the new dancers and the beginners as much as possible," Middleton said. "She has the experienced dancers dance with the beginners. "It's a great outlet for anyone who thinks they would enjoy dancing. You don't have to be Irish to enjoy it."

RANDY CALLAHAN, a West Bloomfield firefighter, has been

dancing for two years. "I enjoy the music and the dance activity. I like being able to go to the dances and the excitement and stuff. Kitty is a lot of fun and we have a real cross-section of people. They're great. If I'm not working, I'm down there," he said.

Katie Mielock, a Detroit social worker who lives in Bloomfield Hills, says she has taken a strong liking to cell dancing, even though "I'm older and I never danced in my life. It's like square dancing, except it's faster. I just took it up a couple years ago, and I really enjoy it. I go every week."

Cell dancing is the oldest form of Irish dancing. "It is folk dancing which originated in the villages," Heinzman said. "History tells us that during the occupation of Ireland we were denied the freedom of religion, education and our native language. As a result, cell dancing became a very important tool of clever Irish imagination."

"Cell enabled us to celebrate some of our religious beliefs and communicate to other villages the joyful events that were taking place.

Step-dancers compete

The Troy Marriott Hotel will host the Mid-America Championships of Irish Step-Dancing Thanksgiving weekend.

Sponsored by a different host city in the Midwest each year, the competition features the best of the Irish step-dancers in the region. Performers are chosen from smaller-scale competitions staged throughout the year.

Winners become eligible to compete in the All-World Irish Step-Dancing Championships next spring in Ireland.

"It's an enjoyable event to behold for it features not only the finest in Irish dance but also music and crafts," said Livonia resident Maureen Moriarty-Root, event organizer.

For more information on the competition Nov. 28 to Dec. 1, call 464-3227 or 591-6358.

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It was used also to educate the people about historical facts."

MUCH OF what Heinzman learned about history and culture as a girl in Ireland was taught by word of mouth.

"I'd listen to the old people. That's how you learned. I feel I should pass it on to someone else," said Heinzman, whose parents were British subjects. "Young people have to pick

up this ball or our cultural traditions are going to die.

"Keep people in ignorance and you can conquer them," she said. "The English didn't succeed at that but that was their intent. And it's happening in the 20th century."

Dancers are welcome to bring their own refreshments to the I.O.O.F. Hall, as there is a kitchen with a stove and refrigerator, Heinzman said.

St. Clair Trio rewards audience

The St. Clair Trio is, by now, an established chamber group in this area. It should be known, by now, to many regular chamber music listeners. Its characterization as a local group doesn't do it justice, however.

It consists of pianist Pauline Martin, violinist Emanoelle Boisvert and cellist Marcy Chanteaux. Martin is the winner of many prizes who has been giving concerts here for several years. Boisvert and Chanteaux are the concertmaster and assistant principal cellist of the DSO, respectively.

This tie with the DSO prevents this group from embarking on more extensive tours outside this area. For those fortunate listeners who have heard them, there should be little doubt about the top-rate rank of this distinguished group.

Its latest program was presented Sunday evening at Temple Israel as a part of the Schiller Chapel Chamber series. The free admission of such a rewarding and fulfilling event is among the few "points of light" in this gloomy state of our economy.

THE PROGRAM opened with three Nocturnes by Ernest Bloch and proceeded with more established items, the Trio Op. 70 No. 1 ("Ghost") in D major by Beethoven and the Trio in D minor, Op. 49, by Mendelssohn.

Even in the Bloch appetizer, however, one could note the special qual-



Avigdor Zoromp

ity of this group with its keen sense of coordination and balance.

There is a vast difference between familiarity and predictability, as was manifested in this program.

ONE SELDOM hears the second movement of Beethoven's "Ghost" trio with such penetrating approach and insight.

Mendelssohn's Trio in D minor has what is commonly described as "a lot of notes." That is, it has a lot of fast, dazzling passages, especially in the piano part.

Along the many technically correct performances of this work that I have heard, few can offer a spark of life and compelling artistic presence beyond the racy acrobatics, as this performance did.

AMONG SOME other scheduled events of the St. Clair Trio will be a

program in a new Rose Garden Concerts series, where they will perform works by Mozart and Beethoven on Feb. 18. The opening event of this series at the Fisher Mansion took place Sunday morning, featuring a gifted and recognized pianist in our area, Leszek Barakiewicz.

The Sonata in F major, Op. 10, No. 2, is among Beethoven's less performed sonatas. This performance presented this work, with its swirling final movement, with a sparkling yet elegant light.

Call 331-8740 for further information about the Rose Garden Concerts Series.

Avigdor Zoromp, born in Poland, educated in Israel and the United States, has a Ph.D. in math and has studied piano, music theory and history.

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