

# ST. PATRICK PARADE

March 16, 2025

Baltimore, MD



**James P. Farace**

GRAND MARSHAL

**Jim Burns**

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

**Colleen E. Monahan**

CHAIRWOMAN

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## 2025 PARADE MARSHALS

### GRAND MARSHAL

**James Farace**

### HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

**James Burns**

### DEPUTY MARSHALS

AOH Division 3, Towson

**Greg Leftwich**

St. John's Old Tenth Ward

**Denny Lynch**

Metropolitan Baltimore Fire Emerald Society

**Meaghan Ryan**

Irish Charities of Maryland

**Katie Mullin McCune**

AOH Division 5, Baltimore City

**Craig Collins-Young**

AOH Division 1, Harford County

**Vincent Dattoli**

AOH Division 1, Catonsville

**Kira Schoeffield**

Friendly Sons of St. Patrick

**Shawn Casserly**

Hibernian Society of Baltimore

**Patrick McCulloh**

Friendly Daughters of St. Patrick

**Amy Campbell**

Police Emerald Society

**James Sweeney**

Emerald Isle Club

**Maura McGough**

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

**Mary Asaki and Carole Lafrate**

Baltimore St. Patrick Parade is a Production  
of St. Patrick Celebrations, Inc.

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[www.irishparade.net](http://www.irishparade.net) | [www.facebook.com/BaltimoreParade](https://www.facebook.com/BaltimoreParade) | [twitter.com/BaltimoreParade](https://twitter.com/BaltimoreParade)



## JAMES PATRICK FARACE 2025 GRAND MARSHAL

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**D**ia Duit! Good Day! Welcome to the 67th Baltimore St. Patrick Parade, a celebration rich in tradition, fanfare, and all things Irish. This parade is possible through the dedication of the Parade Committee, St. Patrick Celebrations, the City of Baltimore, numerous volunteers, marching units, floats, and spectators.

Since childhood, the parade has been part of my family's celebrations of our Irish American heritage. I was born in Baltimore to Irish and Sicilian parents and attended St. Anthony's of Padua and The John Carroll School. Later I earned a degree in Culinary Arts from Baltimore International College and a Food Science Certification at Rutgers, working for McCormick Spice Company for over 30 years.

Mike Riley, Irish Charities of Maryland Past Chairman and fellow Friendly Son of St. Patrick, recruited me as the Chef for the Maryland Irish Festival in 2006. Since becoming Chairman of the Board of Directors in 2010, I've had the pleasure of working with thirty-two charities over the years, helping to make the Maryland Irish Festival the largest all-volunteer-run Irish Festival fundraiser in the United States.

Celebrating the 50th Maryland Irish Festival in 2024 was a highlight for me and the entire Irish community. Over the past 18 years, I was honored to work with dedicated Board members and the hundreds of world-class volunteers required to ensure our Festival continues to celebrate Irish culture, music, and heritage. A special thank you to the kitchen crew, many along my side for 18 years, working tirelessly to produce our traditional Irish favorites and Guinness-inspired recipes unique to the Maryland Irish Festival.

In 2009, I had the honor of marching as the Deputy Marshal for the Baltimore St. Patrick Parade on behalf of Irish Charities of Maryland. Today, as I march down Charles Street as Grand Marshal, I take great pride in our Irish ancestors' traditions of honoring the Great Patron Saint of Ireland, St. Patrick.

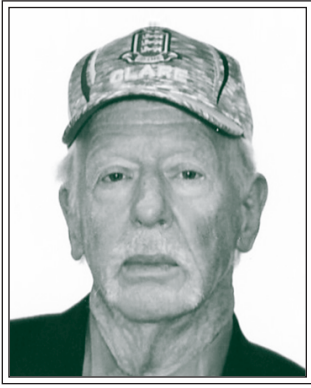
May we continue to do good in the world.

*"May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us."* — St. Patrick

Go mbeannaí Dia sinn go léir!  
May God bless us all!

**JAMES PATRICK FARACE**

Past Chairman of The Board - Maryland Irish Festival  
2025 Grand Marshal



## JIM BURNS

### 2025 HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

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Jim's roots trace back to the Burns and Quirk families of County Tipperary and the Downes and Carrigans of County Clare.

Jim and his 5 siblings grew up in Catonsville at the family home known as Cherryknollfarm. His father was a printer for the News American, and his mother a pharmacy clerk at Rite-Aid. Many of his parents' Irish neighbors found work building the Hoffman Street railroad tunnel in the 1930's.

From a very early age Jim can remember some informal Irish social clubs, lots of Irish music, and watching the St. Patrick Day parades. As he grew up, his love of Irish music drew him to the Gandy Dancer pub one night, where he was warmly greeted by Tommy Feeney and pushed into a Haymakers Jig. Soon thereafter he was taking dance lessons from Linda McHale and Larry Smith's Róisín Dubh school while soaking in the local authentic Irish party culture at Kavanaugh's Pub, the Cat's Eye and Bertha's in Fells point, and J. Patrick's in Locust Point.

When not dancing or working as an expert truck mechanic, Jim became active with the Emerald Isle Club and the rapidly growing Irish Festivals held at Hopkins Plaza, Festival Hall, the Fifth Regiment Armory, and the Timonium Fairgrounds. We all know of his tireless volunteer work for those festivals beginning in the 1980's and still going strong. Jim gets there days in advance, transporting equipment, flags and banners that he personally arranges and hangs over the stages year after year, in addition to a lot of heavy lifting set-up and clean-up work. Meanwhile, Jim, always the, reliable and hard-working "go to" handyman, has done similar behind-the-scenes work for the St. Patrick Parades and numerous other Irish projects and events.

Along the way Jim was elected President of the Emerald Isle Club and also led the extensive restoration work at St. Peter's Cemetery in West Baltimore, where he directed the human volunteers as well as one llama, two goats and four donkeys who kept the vegetation under control as the project progressed.

In his spare time, Jim's love of Irish music and dance has led him to numerous Irish festivals in the US, as well as back to the Old Sod in County Clare at least 20 times to visit his many cousins, and to participate in "Willie Clancy Summer School", usually held early in July in and around Milltown Malby in Co. Clare. There, expert musicians from Ireland, the US and Europe hold workshops for aspiring Irish music-makers on the fiddle, flute, tin whistle, Uilleann pipes, etc., while famous dancing instructors teach some new sets as well as country-style dances. Then there's a Ceili almost every night and Music sessions at pubs like O'Looney's and Paddy Hennessey's, sometimes spilling out into the streets to enjoy the great weather and long daylight hours. The Irish, both natives and exiles, know how to have fun.

Jim's love of all things Irish and his 40 plus years of volunteer service has been a labor of love for him, as well as a great asset and blessing for the Greater Baltimore Irish community.

**Up the Banner!**

**JIM BURNS**

2025 Honorary Grand Marshal

# WELCOME TO THE BALTIMORE ST. PATRICK PARADE!



**H**ello! I am beyond honored to hold this position again this year and I welcome all of the organizations, participants, and spectators to the parade again this year. I've been a part of this wonderful Irish community for over two decades and have loved every minute of it.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade is a special day on which we can all come together and celebrate our Irish heritage and honor the Patron Saint of Ireland. As we march down Charles and Pratt streets, it's always such an amazing experience to hear the cheers from spectators and watch all of the participants smiling and waving back to the crowds. Our parade committee works very hard for many months to produce a fun event for all of those who come out to support our Irish heritage and Baltimore's history.

This year, I'd like to remember two special women whom we lost, both of which I was honored to work alongside on the parade committee for many, many years. Stacie Guerin was a dear friend and a very integral person in the Irish community, dating close to 1997. She also was the one who pushed me to become Vice Chair when she had to step down and that path led me to becoming the Chairwoman for which I'm very grateful. Stacie had very deep roots in our Irish community and was very active in many organizations, the MD Irish Festival, and of course, the Baltimore St. Patrick Parade. Susan Legg was another member of our Irish community who worked tirelessly for our Parade and the MD Irish Festival. For many years, you could always see Susan corralling participants and making the sure the Parade's staging area was in impeccable order. Both of these women brought so much insight and happiness to the Parade and our committee, for which I'm truly grateful. They are dearly missed as are everyone else in our Irish community that we lost in 2024.

It is with tremendous gratitude that I acknowledge James Farace as our Grand Marshal. Jim has been a long-time contributor to our Irish community, being a member of various Irish organizations as well as serving as the Chairman of the Board for the MD Irish Festival and Irish Charities of Maryland. Jim's dedication has helped make the Irish Festival a success for the past 18 years, working tirelessly to ensure the kitchen runs smoothly and produces the very best Irish food as well as being a board member and Chairman.

I'd also like to acknowledge our Honorary Grand Marshal, James Burns. Jim has been a very active member, and past President, in the Emerald Isle Club and has worked tirelessly at the MD Irish Festival since the 1980's and you can still see him there. At the Irish Festival, Jim makes sure the flags hang impeccably and also does a lot of heavy lifting set up and clean-up work, along with being the reliable handyman for the festival as well as our St. Patrick Parade and other Irish projects and events.

The parade could not happen without the dedication and organization of our Parade Committee, which begins planning and working in September, nor without the advisory oversight of the St. Patrick Celebrations Board who guides our legal and financial affairs. I would like to recognize everyone's efforts and dedication and couldn't be prouder to work with this great group of individuals. I would also like to thank those in the Baltimore City Special Events and Parks & Rec office (along with other departments) and the Baltimore Police Department who help ensure that everything runs smoothly prior to and on the day of parade. And a huge thanks to the many Irish organizations who generously donate or hold fundraisers as well as the businesses that purchase ads in our guide and the participants who march in our parade. To all of you who support our parade - thank you!

With much love, Sláinte!

**COLLEEN E. MONAHAN**  
2025 Parade Chairwoman

# PARADE MARSHALS

## PARADE GRAND MARSHALS SINCE 1956

1956 John J. Sweeney, Jr.	1979 Rev. Patrick A. Magnier, C.Ss.R.	2002 Michael P. Flynn
1957 George H. Fallon	1980 R. Emmet Guerin	2003 Brian K. McHale
1958 James C. Anderson	1981 John Montgomery	2004 Mary Frances Swan
1959 C. Ferdinand Sybert	1982 John McBride	2005 David W. Keelan
1960 Joseph J. Duffy	1983 Joseph A. Roche	2006 Timothy G. Harvey
1961 James Robert Tweedy	1984 Gilbert Johnson	2007 Catherine E. Reinholdt
1962 J. Harold Grady	1985 Frank X. Gallagher	2008 Michael P. Riley
1963 Charles F. O'Donnell	1986 Sarah E. Murphy	2009 Ann C. McDonnell
1964 William J. Guerin	1987 Albert E. Guerin	2010 Chuck Connolly
1965 Thomas B. Finan	1988 Peter J. O'Connor	2011 Daniel Patrick Mead
1966 Joseph G. Finnerty	1989 Michael P. O'Shea	2012 Arthur C. Casserly
1967 Robert F. Sweeney	1990 George C. McGinn	2013 Daniel Layden
1968 James Foley, Jr.	1991 Frank X. Gartland	2014 John Schell
1969 James Foley, Jr.	1992 Leo I. Welsh	2015 Stacie Guerin
1970 James J. Lacy, Jr.	1993 William D. McCloskey	2016 Jay Linahan
1971 Francis B. Burch	1994 William L. Davis	2017 John M. "Jay" Kerney
1972 William J. O'Donnell	1995 Thomas E. Bracken	2018 Don Doherty
1973 J. Joseph Curran, Jr.	1996 James A. Jones	2019 Joanna Miskelly Cox
1974 William J. Cahill, Jr.	1997 Rita A. McDonough	2020 Michael McConnell
1975 Robert C. Murphy	1998 Edward McBride	2022 Michael Willis
1976 Gerald J. Curran	1999 John T. Harvey, Jr.	2023 Tom Lawler
1977 D. Chester O'Sullivan	2000 Martin J. O'Malley	2024 Sean Hackett
1978 D. Chester O'Sullivan	2001 Kevin J. Leonard	2025 James Patrick Farace

## HONORARY GRAND MARSHALS SINCE 1986

1986 William Donald Schaefer	2000 Perry Sfikas	2014 Brother Kevin Strong
1987 Thomas McMillan	2001 Hank Arnold	2015 Msgr. John Fitzgerald
1988 Mary Pat Clarke	2002 J. Michael Riley	2016 St. Elizabeth's School
1989 Jeremiah E. Casey	2003 Gerry Farrelly	2017 Stephanie Arthur Town
1990 Rex Barney	2004 Rev. John J.B. Ward	2018 Billy McComiskey
1991 Sr. Kathleen Feeley	2005 Sisters of Mercy	2019 Terry Patrick Brennan
1992 Sr. Mary Thomas	2006 Thomas Ward	2020 Tim Sisk
1993 Msgr. Myles McGowan	2007 James M. Fagan	2023 John McMaster
1994 The Spalpeens	2008 Ed Hale	2024 Michael P. May
1995 Archbishop William Keeler	2009 Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien	2025 James W. Burns
1996 Frederick J. Byrnes	2010 Bill McCarthy	
1997 John Steadman	2011 Charles Donald Waters Sr.	
1998 Rev. John McLoughlin	2012 Kelly Parks	
1999 Msgr. A. Thomas Baumgartner	2013 Little Sisters of the Poor	



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR  
*100 Holliday Street, Room 250  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*



March 16, 2025

Welcome to Baltimore's St. Patrick Parade and Shamrock 5K Race!

Today, thousands of spectators will crowd the streets and sidewalks of downtown Baltimore to watch participants march in celebration of Irish culture, song, and dance. One of Baltimore's most memorable annual traditions, the St. Patrick Parade is the largest parade in the state of Maryland and the longest-running parade in Baltimore.

Thanks to St. Patrick Celebrations, Inc., the parade committee, participating Irish organizations, and all of the parade participants for making this event possible. Best wishes for a memorable celebration. Sláinte!

Sincerely,

Brandon M. Scott  
*Mayor  
City of Baltimore*

*phone: 410.396.3835 fax: 410.576.9425 e-mail: [mayor@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:mayor@baltimorecity.gov)*





STATE OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
**Wes Moore**

March 16, 2025

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Baltimore. I am honored to recognize the enduring legacy and spirit of determination and optimism that the Irish community has contributed to American culture and to the fabric of Baltimore and Maryland.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the parade committee and everyone whose hard work has made this parade such a lasting success. For more than 65 years, downtown Baltimore has welcomed this joyful celebration of Irish culture—I wish you many more years of success and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Wes Moore'.

Wes Moore  
Governor

100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21404  
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TTY Users Call via MD Relay  
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# 2025 PARADE PATRONS



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Pat Gillease

Timothy Harvey

Daniel Layden

David Reed

Bob & Karen Williams



## CLADDAGH CLUB

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Tom Bracken Family

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Joe /Leslie Dougherty

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Sean & Jenn Dougherty

Amber Field

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Carl Klein

Owen Layden

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Declan Layden

Jake Layden

Kaitlyn Likas  
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Ted Heinbuch

Melody Heinbuch

Alison Klein

Delaney Klein

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Griffin James Ruby

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James Gallagher, Sr.  
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Dennis Gillease  
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Jacqueline Harvey Grossnickle  
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Owen Harvey  
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Joy Kavanagh  
Rev. John L. Kelly  
Wayne Kempfske  
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Dawn Patricia Landers  
Jane Miskelly Loving  
Ed Martel  
Dolores Krauss McCloskey  
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James McConnell  
Norah McMeeking  
Laura Chips Merkle  
Mary Mettee  
Ira Lynn Mitchell, Sr.

Elaine Monahan  
John J. Monahan  
Nancy Monahan  
Kitty Musk  
Dick Nethkin  
John (Jack) Alexander O'Brien  
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Mike O'Shea  
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Rosemary Ravenscroft  
David A. Reed  
Mary Sharon Reed  
Anthony Ryan  
Scott Alan Skiles  
Ed Snedicker  
Mary Louise Snyder  
Michael Francis Tierney, Jr.  
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Ethan Bruce  
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Ellie Grace Dougherty  
Madeline Marie Dougherty  
Morgan Caroline Dougherty  
Shay Marion Dougherty  
Harper Flynn  
Grant Gabrielson  
Choco Heinbuch  
Connor Hienz  
Brian Francis Madigan  
Abigail Josephine Martin

Cecilia Jean Martin  
Baby McConnell-Doherty  
Joan O'Connell  
Winifred O'Corgey  
Francesca Orlando  
Marco Orlando  
Claudia Reed  
Parker Reed  
Devin Michael Ritzenberg  
Lennon Aileen Ritzenberg  
Laura Jean Seidel  
Atticus Watson  
Odin Watson





## SUSAN BLUM LEGG

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### IN MEMORIAM

Susan was born in Baltimore where she resided her entire life. She was educated at The Institute of Notre Dame and Notre Dame of Maryland College, institutions she actively supported. After graduation, she began a long career with the Baltimore City School System, concluding with a decades long tenure at Baltimore City College.

Her interests centered around her extended family, Baltimore City College and the Irish community. In conversation, she often said her interest in Ireland was influenced by the McGeeney side of the family and the fiery, but pastoral, sermons delivered by Fr. Ryan at St. Ignatius Church, where her family attended Mass.

An avid reader, Susan always had a book (or two) to lend to students, colleagues and friends. She was a member of several book clubs and favored an eclectic mix of Irish authors and topics but never warmed up to James Joyce.

As an active member of the LAOH, Susan worked at the Irish Festival and the Parade. In recent years it was easy to pick her out on Parade Day with her safety vest and clip board, herding the marchers into their proper positions with the same composure she used to corral her high school students.

Susan had a way of exerting gentle influence on situations by keeping herself well informed and then providing advice or insight when she found a welcomed opportunity. She was endlessly supportive of any group she associated with, whether that be her work colleagues, family or community organization. Numerous folks have commented on how much they valued her opinion on how to make a personal connection or how to navigate tackling a shared goal, whether that be at the LAOH or City College.

Susan was an enthusiastic traveler and visited almost every country in Europe. However, she most enjoyed her trips to Ireland. She relished its pristine beauty and the dark chapters of the country's history. One of her regrets was not getting to the County Armagh in the North where her ancestral roots were. She also commented, jokingly, that she had seen the Cliffs of Moher often enough.

Through her work, travel and other life experiences, Susan always had a lot to offer. It is a shame we didn't have more time to share her insights, knowledge and wisdom.



## STACIE YVONNE GUERIN

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### IN MEMORIAM

Stacie was born December 6, 1966, in Baltimore, Maryland. She grew up in Beckly, WVA. Stacie graduated from West Virginia University with a Master of Arts Degree. These early years coupled with her Catholic upbringing would pave the way for her teaching career and philanthropic work. It would forge her unwavering commitment to those who were less fortunate. She moved to Baltimore in 1994 for work. She met “her Billy” in J. Patrick’s Irish pub and as they say – “The rest is history!” She and Billy married in 1997, and she began her teaching career with Baltimore City Schools. Because Billy was so involved with the Irish community in Baltimore, Stacie jumped in with full force. She joined the LAOH, Irish Northern Aid, and was an integral part of the of fundraisers for the parade and festival. Stacie eventually rose in the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) to be State President and she also spent time on the Board of the Maryland Irish Festival. Since she had so many ties to Irish musicians and Irish organizations, she was in a perfect position to be the Cultural Chair for the festival for many years. She was known for her support of “Irishness” throughout the United States and Ireland. Stacie had many achievements and successes, but she would not want them to be opined over, except one. Stacie was elected by her peers to be Grand Marshall of the 2015 Baltimore Saint Patrick’s Day Parade. She looked like a queen on top of that Cadillac.

Loving and merciful God, we entrust our sister to your mercy. You loved her greatly in this life: now that she is freed from all its cares, give her happiness and peace forever.

Developed with combined efforts of Karrie Leigh Boswell (sister), William J. Guerin (husband) and Catherine Reinholdt (friend).

# THE GREAT HUNGER

By David Willard

**T**he Irish have been a part of America since the earliest colonial era. During that time, after the English, the Irish made up the largest population in this country. But most of us don't date back that far. For many of us, our roots extend back as far as the influx seeking to escape the great famine that devastated the people of the Emerald Isle. This is the story of that terrible time. Your American citizenship was paid for, long ago, with unbelievable hardship.

It all started in 1536. It was a decision that would impact our families, 300 years later. Spanish Conquistadors, busy plundering Peru for silver and gold, discovered a new food source. They stumbled upon the humble potato. There are hundreds of cultivars of potatoes in Peru. They say there that you could eat a different variety each day for a year and never repeat your selection. The Spanish decided to import only one type of potato. That decision would be responsible for death on an unimaginable scale.

Sir Walter Raleigh introduced potatoes to Ireland in 1589. It took almost 40 years for them to spread to the rest of Europe. They were considered the exclusive property of the rich. It would be a long time before they found their way to the under-privileged. The wealthy elite, living in England, owned about 95% of the land in Ireland. They allowed impoverished Irish farmers to live on their estates, in small plots. In return, the crops and livestock they produced had to be exported back to Britain. Up to 75% of Irish soil was devoted to wheat, oats, barley and other crops that were grown for export and shipped abroad while the people starved. There was nothing left, after export, except for a single crop that the farmers managed to grow in their hard, rocky soil. The potato was their life support. For at least a third of the people it was the only thing they ate.

By 1845, Ireland's population was a thriving 8.5 million. Today, 180 years later, it is 5.25 million. In the summer of 1845 farmers were boasting of their expected potato harvest. One afternoon in August the laborers looked across at the tangle of strong green vines and felt pride. The next morning there was no greenery to be found. Their life-sustaining plants had turned into a black, putrefying mess.

Overnight an ill wind blew in a cloud of blighted spores that destroyed their entire yield. It wasn't just Ireland that was affected. The same infection killed plants in England, France, Germany, Spain and Russia. Over 100,000 subsistence farmers, in those countries, starved to death.

The country with the worst impact was Ireland. Their small villages were noisy places. The air was filled with talking, laughing, arguing and singing. Those voices would be swallowed in a deathly silence.



Over one million people died of starvation. It is a slow and agonizing death. The Irish called it “Gorta Mór,” or “The Great Hunger.” It was also named “Drochshaol.” That translates to “the bad life.” A looser translation is “the hard times.” Some whole villages were cut down. The smell of suffering and decomposition was thick in the air. Open some doors of the huts and there was a whole family struck down. Many times, those doors would be re-sealed. Their home would become their mausoleum. There was one county, Leitrim, that was especially hard hit. In 1840 its population was over 150,000. Currently it is just over 35,000. Like its motherland, its wounds ran deep and still haven’t healed. One author wrote a book about Leitrim’s experience with the Great Hunger. He entitled it “*The Dead Buried by The Dying.*” Leitrim lost about 88% of its population.

Staying in place meant death. The Irish were forced to find some way to survive. Some men, that still had adequate stamina, went to work for various public works projects. Some sought shelter in the workhouses, though it was nearly impossible to get in. Some of the stronger young men joined the English Army. Others left Ireland for Liverpool, hoping to find work on the docks. About two million left the country, usually, permanently. Around 90% were illiterate laborers and servants. Most of them couldn’t speak a word of English. They only spoke the Irish language. Some sailed for Canada, Australia and New Zealand. But many chose to build new lives in America. Today, 15% of the US population of nearly 350 million traces their ancestry to Ireland. Weakened by hunger, more than 15,000 of the Irish emigrants died on the ships crossing the Atlantic. The vessels got the nickname, “coffin ships.”

Long before, in the sixteenth century, when there was no concept of genetic diversity, a soldier brought back a new food source to his native Europe. It nourished millions for centuries. When it collapsed, it did so with deadly consequences. However, without its collapse and the diaspora of Ireland’s people, our families might never have had the chance to discover America.

# EXPLORING IRISH MUSIC

By Denny Lynch

**F**or centuries music has been created and performed throughout Ireland. Whether it was played by the blind harper Turlough O'Carolan during the 18th century, published by the poet Thomas Moore in the 19th century or sung by Luke Kelly in the 20th century, music has always been part of Irish culture. In fact, it's fair to say that music is at the center of Irish culture. The classic tunes in Irish folk music have been more than entertainment. As the great Irish musician/folklorist Mick Moloney (1944–2022) asserted “we speak of our personal lives and our history as a people through song and music.” This essay will examine the elements that help to define Irish traditional music; in addition, it will highlight music produced in Ireland in recent decades by major singers, songwriters and musicians. The only regret is that all the great musicians on both sides of the Atlantic can't be included in this brief essay.

**Ireland has a long history of traditional music** that has been passed down from generation to generation. Instrumental music was and still is learned by listening to and watching other players, a kind of osmosis. This is all part of the oral tradition. Much of that tradition developed in rural areas when musicians gathered together at farmhouses and shared tunes and stories. As time went on the local pubs became the setting for an evening of music. Today we refer to these gatherings as sessions. Eventually the music reached into larger venues.

**In traditional Irish music there are three main types of dance tunes** played by musicians: reels, hornpipes and jigs. Each of these types of tunes are defined by the beat or rhythm. And the type of tune is played to match a dance. For example, the rhythm of a hornpipe is usually played more slowly and is perfect to accompany a solo dancer. In contrast, the rhythm of a reel is faster and is a natural fit for set dancing. At a ceili (social dance event) musicians will play loads of reels because they are so popular. A jig is a dance tune that has four variants: the double jig, single jig, slip or hop jig, and slide. Of the four, the double jig would be heard more frequently at ceilis because of its pliability.

**Another essential component of Irish music is its instruments.** Since the 18th century the fiddle, tin whistle, flute, harp and uilleann pipes have been linked with the music. Accordions and concertinas became important to the music in Ireland in the 19th century. And in the 20th century other instruments were adopted which can lend support to the melody or rhythm; they include the mandolin, banjo, bodhran, bouzouki, and guitar. Traditional ceili bands prefer to remain acoustic.

**Sean-nós (old style) singing** can still be heard in some Gaeltacht or Irish-speaking communities in Galway, Donegal and Kerry. Many of the unaccompanied airs, sung solo in Gaelic and English, date from previous centuries. Often the songs in the repertoire concern courtly love, laments and lullabies. Seosamh O'hÉanaí-Joe Heaney (1919-1984) from Connemara in County Galway was one of the great sean-nós singers.

Throughout Ireland there are areas closely associated with traditional music. One such area is Sliabh Luachra. This region is located along the borders of counties Cork, Kerry and Limerick. For generations it has produced great music and musicians. The legendary fiddle player Pdraig O'Keeffe (1887-1963) from Glountane Cross in Co. Kerry is regarded as a master of the Sliabh Luachra style. His influence on fiddle playing can be heard today at pubs in the Sliabh Luachra towns of Knocknagree, Scartaglen and Abbeyfeale. And for that matter, here in America musicians speak of O'Keeffe reverentially.

**An important Irish music revival happened in the 1960s.** The catalyst was the popular ballad and showband groups that took Irish music to a broader audience. The Clancy Brothers & Tommy Makem, The Dubliners and The Chieftains showcased their music in concert halls on both sides of the Atlantic and the music was embraced internationally. It was the Chieftains in particular who served as the ambassadors of Irish music and culture throughout the world. In addition, composer Sean O Riada's modern orchestral compositions along with his lectures at University College Cork had a huge influence on the direction of Irish traditional music.



**By the 1970s**, groups like Planxty began introducing more instrumental accompaniment to their music. And instead of all the melody instruments playing in unison, there was an interesting interplay between Donal Lunny on bouzouki, Andy Irvine on mandolin and Liam O'Flynn on uilleann pipes. Vocals were provided by the legendary Christy Moore. By 1970 Van Morrison had already established himself as a major artist when his acclaimed album *Moondance* was released. During his illustrious 6-decade long career he has been the recipient of Grammy Awards and inducted into both the Songwriters and Rock and Roll Halls of Fame.

**During this time two beloved vocalists came on the scene:** Dolores Keane and Mary Black. They both were able to bridge the gap between the old style of Irish singing and modern Irish music. Dolores Keane, from County Galway, became famous in her solo career for the song "Lion in a Cage" and for her cover of "Caledonia". Also, her rendition of "The Island", by the prolific songwriter Paul Brady, was so well received. Mary Black hails from a very musical Dublin family. As a recording artist she championed the compositions by the sublime songwriter Jimmy MacCarthy. His songs "Katie", "No Frontiers", and "Adam at the Window" brought her great fame. In addition, Black was a keen interpreter of songs by the gifted songwriter Noel Brazil; "Columbus", "Ellis Island" and "The Loving Time" are stunning examples of her musical talent.

**In the last two decades of the 20th century** bands emerged that took Irish music in new directions. Moving Hearts, formed in 1981 fused Irish traditional music with rock and jazz. Along with Declan Sinnott on guitar and the masterful Davy Spillane on uilleann pipes, they included a drummer, a sax and a bass player. The Pogues, referred to as a Celtic punk band, was formed in 1982. The band's principal songwriter and lead singer was Shane MacGowan (1957 - 2023). They released a number of albums, collaborated musically with the Dubliners and in 1987 became famous for their song "Fairytale of New York". The group U2 released their album *Boy* in 1980. Over the years their music has continued to reflect important political and social causes. In 1994 the broadcast of an interval act during the Eurovision Song Contest gave birth to the dance/music phenomenon we know as Riverdance. It eventually evolved into a dance production that toured the world and brought interest in Irish music and culture globally.

**Now in the 21st century**, people use online streaming services to explore and consume Irish music. At the touch of a keypad, you can create your own Irish playlist. This new technology allows you to listen to masterful musicians like fiddler Martin Hayes, button accordionist Sharon Shannon and the extraordinary music by the singer Enya. You can also enjoy the songs by talented younger singer-songwriters like Hozier and Declan O'Rourke. Whether you favor the purists' approach to traditional Irish music or a more innovative sound it's all waiting for you to experience. Two examples of popular contemporary bands that perform Irish traditional songs as well as their own material are: Garadice that features the excellent vocals by Eleanor Shanley and The High Kings known for their exuberance on stage. And there are so many more great artists to discover. So grab a pint and let the ceili begin; here's to a new century of Irish music!



Donal Lunny



Mary Black and Band



Declan O'Rourke

*Photos by Denny Lynch.*

Denny Lynch has been exhibiting his work in New York, Paris, and parts of Ireland since the 1990s. His photographs have become part of the permanent collections of the Museum of the City of New York and the New York Historical Society. You may contact Denny at: [denny@dennylynch.com](mailto:denny@dennylynch.com).

# GRAPPY POLAN & HER BUTTON BOX

By Kevin Farrell (grandson)  
Mary Lou "Mim" Quaid (granddaughter)  
Luke F. McCusker III



**B**altimore's Irish women made huge contributions towards the preservation of the best elements of traditional Irish life. They did this while raising children, keeping up the home and, at times, going to work each day. Such was the heroism of Mary Helen O'Neill Nolan, originally from Marshalstown, Ballymitty Parish, County Wexford.

Mary came to America in 1900 and married John D. Nolan on February 26, 1908, at Baltimore's St. Ignatius Catholic Church. They had four children together, but daughter Margaret was lost to diphtheria on January 21, 1913. John passed away, as so many did, during the Spanish Flu epidemic of October 1918 and left Mary to raise their three young children. She pressed on and built a life for them in the St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church parish.

Success in life was not optional for their three children. Daughter Mary Ellen is featured below at her graduation from St. Peter's Female School. She received a scholarship from Mount St. Agnes High School, established by the Sisters of Mercy, and did well. Her sister Kate graduated from Seton High School, run by the Daughters of Charity, and brother John completed his studies at Mount St. Joseph High School, under the instruction of the Xavieran Brothers. These successes were realized in no small part at the insistence of their dear mother, who made her living working at Hochschild-Kohn department store in downtown Baltimore.

West Baltimore's Irish families maintained musical and dance traditions in their modest rowhomes as well. Descendant Mim Quaid shared with us stories from a hooley in 1914:

*"The kitchen of 921 W. Fayette St. rang with the sounds of a button accordion pumping out jigs and reels and the pounding of hard shoes on the kitchen's linoleum floor. John and Mary Nolan had put their children to bed early and were hosting a party of Irish friends and family who lived and worked in the neighborhood. Some party goers had been fellow servants at the great Winans/Hutton estate, Alexandroffsky. Party hostess Mary Helen O'Neill Nolan had learned to play the "squeeze box" in earlier years and provided some of the entertainment. Guests arrived at the door with contributions to the evening's refreshments that were guaranteed to get the party going. At some point, dancers got up on the floor and the party became a ceili where they all danced to traditional set dances. Finally, tired out after having worked all day and danced until their legs gave out, they found places to sit and sang old Irish "Come all yas" with words remembered from evenings spent in their homes in Ireland. Such evenings provided a link to a past that they remembered gratefully while providing a sustaining path to their new lives in America. The Nolans' oldest child Mary, who was not asleep as she was supposed to be, heard all the craic taking place in the kitchen. Later in life, she described the scene with the clearest of memory and enjoyment. Her mother (image above; Mark Evans, artist) died in 1982 at the age 99 and 11 months. She left the button accordion to her grandson Kevin Farrell who treasures it as he does all things Irish."*

## Button Box Accordion

My grandmother lived with us when I was still young.  
Though between us, there were few words said.  
But I remember those nights upstairs after dinner,  
When she sat there alone on the edge of her bed.  
And she'd play her old button box accordion.  
She remembered just a handful of songs.  
So, she played them over and over again.  
And, in her half-spoken whisper, I could hear her sing along.  
They were old Irish songs. The real Irish songs.  
The ones she learned when she lived there as a child.  
I stayed awake all those nights, just listening. Just listening.  
So, the music and the memories were gathered and filed.

(Chorus)

She played  
"Come to The Bower"  
"Her Mantle So Green"  
"The Star of County Down"  
"The Galway Shawl"  
"The Rose of Tralee"  
And "The Boys of Wexford Town"

When my grandmother died, that button box was mine  
To save for the next generation.  
Yes, I was the one who sought out that treasure.  
So, to me it was given, without hesitation.  
And I promised to keep it always, safe in my care  
Where I lived, I would proudly display it.

While the music and the memories were kept close to my heart  
For the day I could learn how to play it.  
Now the thumb strap was broken. The wood stain had faded.  
The pearl buttons were tarnished and worn.  
But I could hold in my hands, my grandma's memories  
Of those old Irish songs from before she was born.

(Chorus)

When she came to America, she was just seventeen.  
Thirty-five, when my grandfather died.  
So, she raised up the family, more or less on her own  
Through War and Depression. But, with God by her side.  
She was here when the first car rolled off the line.  
And she lived to see a man walk the moon.  
But though she lived nearly 100 years  
I would swear that she died too soon.  
Oh, I wish I knew then some of what I know now.  
I would have listened to the things that she said.  
I would have asked her a thousand questions  
While she sat there alone on the edge of her bed.

But I still have that button box accordion.  
And her memory will not let me mourn.  
While me and these steel reeds are still going strong  
And I can play you those songs from before she was born.  
I'll play...

(Chorus)



**Graduating Class of 1922, St. Peter the Apostle Church Schools. Mary Ellen Nolan, daughter of Mary Helen O'Neill Nolan and John D. Nolan, is in the second row from the bottom, *second from right*.**

**Another notable graduate is Elizabeth Agnes Herbig, a future railroad clerk. She can be seen in the second row from the top, *third from the right*. Elizabeth was a descendant of County Roscommon Irish.**

We invite you to consider other stories about the Irish of Baltimore on the web site of the Irish Railroad Workers Museum. They can be found on the Big Pivot blog found at [www.irishshrine.org](http://www.irishshrine.org) : a place to rejoice in our freedom to be who we are.

# ROUND TOWERS OF IRELAND

By Sean Hackett

One of the most iconic visions in Ireland, along with the ornately carved High Crosses, are the great high towers that dot the countryside, standing tall, firm, and grey against the lush greens of the countryside.

They were built at the height of the monastic era, primarily the tenth through the twelfth centuries. There are roughly 65 of them throughout the Emerald Isle, found in all but 4 counties and all are associated with former monastic sites. Because of the elevated doors, it has often been said that the towers were built as refuges from Viking invaders, the monks being able to run up a ladder, pull the ladder in, and shut the door, remaining sheltered and safe with their treasures. However, Vikings had ladders of their own and could easily break a door and smoke out the now captives in a short time to pillage as they wished. It is now believed more widely that, as the Irish name “Cloigtheach” suggests and translates to, they were bell towers whose pealings from the uppermost floor called the monastics in the fields and villages back from their labors for the various daily worships.

There are some very famous well-preserved round towers in the Republic of Ireland including those at Monasterboice, Clonmacnoise, the Rock of Cashel (previously free-standing but now attached to the Cathedral ruins) and especially St. Kevin’s Glendalough in County Wicklow. Yet one of the best preserved and most beautiful and serene towers is well off the trail of most tour buses in the tiny village of Timahoe in County Laois, a couple of hours west of Dublin. The monastic community was founded by the little remembered St. Mochua in the 600s and thrived for more than 700 years. The ruins of the monastery can still be seen today. It was replaced in the 1850s by a small church which is now a coffee shop and Heritage Center. The tower, standing about ninety feet tall, is beautifully preserved and the ornate Romanesque doorway faces the remains of the monastery. It is believed that these doorways would have stands on which relics and other religious items would be displayed for veneration by the community and traveling pilgrims.

A small statue on the grounds displays three creatures whom folklore says lived with St. Mochua: a rooster, a mouse and a fly. The rooster would wake the monk when it was time to pray, the mouse would nibble his ear when he began to fall asleep, and the fly kept place in the text as he was reading.





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**Best Wishes for a Grand Parade**



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Arthur C Casserly	Boots Heidenreich	Fred Reinholdt III
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Aiden Cate	Sean Hull	Reed & Freya Reinholdt
Leah Marcuri-Cate	Eleanor M Jett	Carson Runge
Nikos Cate	Norah Kalkman	Hannah Ellen Runge
Tom Cate	Nancy Loiero	Audrey Schwemmer
Bich Thuy Coleman	Joanne & Laura Lough	Trevor Keith Sears
Daniel James Coleman	Denny Lynch/Paula Bogert	Kerry G Singleton
Lydia Coleman	Harry James Mahoney	Lily G Singleton
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 Jack Casparriello  
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## DECEASED CUIMHEACHAÍN DOP DÚPEPACH MAIREANN

Sarah Dolliver	Eileen Grund	Frank Mattes	Pat Ragan
John M Dougherty	Melvin Gryczkowski	Sam Mattingly	Fred Reinholdt
Timothy M Dougherty	Albert Guerin	Rita Matoska	Kate Reinholdt
Driscoll Family	Bill & Margaret Guerin	Luke F. McCusker Jr	Margee Reinholdt
Cornelius Driscoll	Charles B. Guerin	McNamee-Neal Family	Preston Petty Rowland
Tom A Dromgool	Stacie Gurein	Alfred Middleton	Bud Russell
"Bunky" Dudderar	Darla Hale	Elizabeth Corr Middleton	Mary Russell
Shizuko Dudderar	Mrs Lillian Hale	Raymond Middleton	Michael Russell
Joyce Dunnagan	Mr William Hale	Eleanor "Lady" Miles	Nanny and Pop Ryan
Margaret Eder	Jackie Hall	S. Miles	Anthony Sallese
Gengy Egan	Ken & Catherine Hall	Amelia P Miller	Anna Mahoney Schaubert
Jerry Egan	Catherine Harrison	Betty R. Miller	Marge Schwartz
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Richard J Ellwood Sr	Bobbie Hawkins	Charles (Bud) Miller	C J Scilipote Jr
John E Epple	John H Heagy	Edwin Miller	John R Scilipote Jr
Lavinia L Epple	Edward Heath Sr	Helen Molloy	John R Scilipote Sr
Stella Falk	Nora McCleary Heath	Joseph and Santa Mooney	Sean M. Simmons
Mary Ellen Berger Fanton	Vernon Jett	Elsie Morris	Edith Simms
Francis X Fields Sr	Agnes B Johnson	James Thomas Morris	Larry Simms
James Jim Finch	C Gilbert Johnson	Leland P Morris Sr	Bernard E. Smith
Mary Irene Finch	Edward & Marie Junghans	Mary Jean Morris	Nancy Driscoll Smith
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Margaret J (Donahue) French	Daniel Kenney	Aunt BeBe Murphy	Mary F Dougherty Swan
Raphael French	Claire Kincaid	Cecelia Murphy	John Talbott
M/M Fred Gammon Emma Green	James Kincaid Sr	Catherine J Murphy	Eddie Tighe
Ruth Green	Michael Kincaid	Dennis Murphy	Peggie Tighe
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M/M Fred German	John E King	Mary A Murphy	Trionfo Family
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Leona O'Neill Gilmore	John Kirby	Robert Murphy	Laura Eleanor Wade
Jack B Gollick	Patrick & Mary Kinsella	Sally Murphy	Samuel Wade Jr
Joseph Gollick	Thomas & Kathleen Kinsella	Betty Nelson	Samuel Wade Sr
Sara Gollick	Warren Koogle	Dr/Mrs James I Nolan	Mary Wallace
William Gollick	Thomas R Knott	Alex & Paulen Nolfi	Thomas Leo Wallace
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Barbara Goodhues	Helen Kummer	John F. O'Neill	Ward Family
Barry E Goodhues	James P Landerkin	John G O'Shea	Ward-King Family
M/M Fred Gorman	Jim Landerkin	Nellie O'Shea	Rose Marie Weaver
Eileen Burke Gossman	Joseph G Loiero	Tom J O'Shea	Margaret Welsh
Gould Family	Mary Loiero	Mary Panuska	Thomas & Kathleen Kinsella White
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Emma Green	Thelma Rebecca Macciola	Wm J Rafferty Jr	John Dutch Wilhelm
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*Honorary Grand Marshal – James Burns*

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*FSSP President Shawn Casserly*







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AOH 5 is an Irish Catholic fraternal organization in Baltimore City, founded in 1895.  
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Come to our monthly céilí dances at the Promenade Ballroom, featuring live traditional Irish music; all dances are called. For more information, visit [www.EmeraldIsleClub.com](http://www.EmeraldIsleClub.com) or our Facebook page: EmeraldIsleClub



### Congratulations to the 2025:

- Parade Grand Marshal: Jim Farace
- Honorary Grand Marshal: Jim Burns
- Emerald Isle Club Deputy Marshal: Maura McGough

Beannachtaí na féile pádrais a gairbh!



The Padriac Pearse Division #1 of the Maryland of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Catonsville, Maryland wishes to congratulate the 2025 Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Grand Marshal Jim Farace  
and  
Honorary Grand Marshal Jim Burns

Additionally, we say congratulations to Kira Schoeffield our Deputy marshal and send our congratulations to all the other Marshals.

Cheers!

# Maryland Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians



**Congratulates**

**Jim Farace**

**2025 Grand Marshal**

**and**

**MD LAOH 2025 Deputy Marshals**

**Carole Iafrate & Mary Asaki**







**The Metropolitan Baltimore Fire Emerald Society  
would like to congratulate  
the 2025**

**Grand Marshal,  
Jim Farace**

**and**

**Honorary Grand Marshal,  
Jim Burns**

**Our 2025 Deputy Marshal,  
Meaghan Ryan**

**Keep your Irish up!**

**[www.baltimorefes.com](http://www.baltimorefes.com)**

# Congratulations to the 2025 Parade Marshals!

*St. Kevin, Division One  
Herford County, MD*



*St. Kevin's Deputy Marshal – Vince Dattoli  
Grand Marshal – James Farace  
Honorary Grand Marshal – Jim Burns*



James Joyce

# CHEERS TO AN EPIC ST. PATRICK'S DAY

We're turning St. Paddy's Day weekend into a non-stop party! Immerse yourself in the rhythm of live music that blends timeless Irish melodies with electrifying Celtic rock—sure to get your feet moving. Be captivated by dazzling Irish dance performances all weekend long. Savor the flavors of Ireland with a menu of authentic fare, perfectly paired with our extensive selection of Irish beers and whiskey. At James Joyce, it's not just a celebration; it's a full-blown Irish shindig that'll have you grinning from ear to ear; join in on the festivities — it's bound to be a shamrockin' great time!



# CATHOLIC CHARITIES

CHERISHING THE DIVINE WITHIN ALL

“May your troubles  
be less, and your  
blessings be more,  
and nothing but  
happiness come  
through your door.”

— *Irish blessing* —



LOVE  
your neighbor

Catholic Charities is proudly celebrating more than 100 years  
of improving the lives of Marylanders in need.

Congratulations to the 2025 Grand Marshal James Patrick  
Farace and 2025 Honorary Grand Marshal Jim Burns.

*Inspired by the Gospel mandates to love, serve and teach, Catholic Charities provides care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need.*