



September 2006

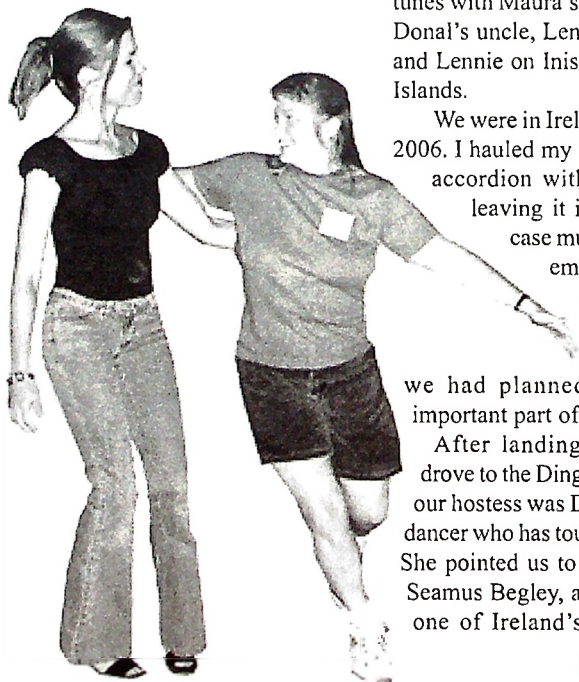
# TFTM news

The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music

## MUSICAL MEANDERINGS IN IRELAND

by Russ Healy

“You should come up to Donegal next week. There’ll be music at two pubs in Glencolumbkille; the town is beautiful and the crack is really great!”



That’s what my wife, Liz, heard her new friend Maura say. Lizzie was taken aback by Maura’s invitation. After some angst, she was chagrined and relieved to learn that “craic,” (pronounced “crack”) is a Gaelic word which, roughly translated, means fellowship, spirit or atmosphere.

While Liz wrestled with the intricacies of the language, I played tunes with Maura’s friends, Donal and Donal’s uncle, Lennie. I’d met Donal and Lennie on Inishmann in the Aran Islands.

We were in Ireland from July 1-20, 2006. I hauled my big, 120-bass piano accordion with me everywhere, leaving it in the rental car in case musical opportunities emerged. I also took a set of tin whistles. They were much easier to carry. As we had planned, music was an important part of our trip.

After landing in Shannon, we drove to the Dingle peninsula, where our hostess was Denise Begley, a set dancer who has toured internationally. She pointed us to a local pub where Seamus Begley, a friend of hers and one of Ireland’s best *bosca ceoil*

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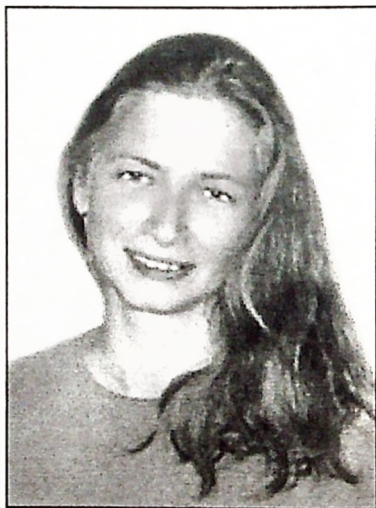
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### LAURA BROWN, DID CALLER

**L**aura Brown, one of our fabulous callers for Dance in the Desert 2006, thinks the most important dance skill a dancer can master is to learn to be actively and consciously aware of the other dancers in the set and nearby.

"Sure," Laura said, "your enjoyment of the dance is important, but you'll enjoy the dance even more when the others around you are having a good time, too. If someone is lost, gently and graciously help them. If you're in a long line going forward and back, try to be there on time so the other dancers won't "miss" you."



The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music  
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The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music  
PO Box 40654, Tucson, AZ 85717-0654

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music (TFTM) is dedicated to keeping the traditions of community music and dance alive and growing in Tucson. TFTM sponsors and promotes concerts, dances, workshops, and informal music sessions. Through these activities and a newsletter publication, TFTM builds awareness, educates, and fosters diversity in music and dance in the Tucson community.

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music is incorporated in the state of Arizona as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

For more info, visit [www.tftm.org](http://www.tftm.org), or call us at 520-408-6181.

Laura's favorite dances to call are squares. "They are more challenging to call, to teach, and sometimes to dance," Laura said. I like to call dances that are interesting, but fairly easy to learn. I don't like to spend more time teaching a dance than the dancers will spend dancing it. Beginners and quick walkthroughs are my specialty. I also like dances with balances: Alamo rings, wavy lines of four and Petronella circles."

## DANCE CAMP NEWS

**P**lans for the **Eleventh Annual Dance in the Desert**, November 10-12, at the Triangle Ranch in Oracle, Arizona, are well underway. We are excited about the stellar talent lineup: bands **Lift Ticket**, **Round the House**, **Hands Four**, **Privy Tippers**, and callers **Nils Fredland** and **Laura Brown**. There will be a full slate of interesting, informative workshops including contra and couples dancing, music and song, and calling.

We've heard enthusiastic and positive comments from folks who have danced to **Lift Ticket** this year at other venues. They are reporting that the band is marvelous and they all say it is spectacular music to dance to.

You don't want to miss out on the fun. With less than two months before camp, we are at two-thirds capacity and the participant roster is filling up fast.

We especially need single men to register **NOW** so we can make sure that we have enough guys to partner with all those lovely gals who are already signed up. More information and quick-and-easy on-line registration is available on our website at [www.tftm.org](http://www.tftm.org).

The next Dance Camp Committee Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 17**, noon (munchies provided), at Marilyn's house, 2926 East Seneca Street.

We still need volunteers to organize the raffle for camp and to help move some replacement panels for the portable

dance floor.

Will you help out? Call Marilyn Cleavinger at 520-795-2081 or email Omer at [dancecamp@tftm.org](mailto:dancecamp@tftm.org), to volunteer.

Also, call or email if you need directions to the meeting or if you want more information.

We are replacing quite a few of the dance floor panels so that the dance floor will be in excellent condition.



Round the House

Continued from page 1- Meanderings

(button accordion) players was making music with his concertina-player son. There are many Begleys around Dingle. Seamus lived up to his billing; we brought a couple of his CDs home.

After Dingle we drove to County Clare, where, in Miltown Malbay, the Willie Clancy Summer School was in session. It's a music school named after the great Clare Uilleann piper. There were numerous informal pub sessions and I sat in on one in which the participants companionably traded tunes.

Then it was off to the Aran Islands where we met Maura, Donal and Lennie. Donal (fiddle, guitar, whistle) and Lennie (flute, whistle bodhrán) had lived in Minnesota for ten years where, Donal, Lennie and Lennie's brother, Barry, had their own Irish "trad" band, performing reels, jigs, polkas, and hornpipes as well as a generous sprinkling of classic Irish ballads.

I felt a real musical connection with Donal and Lennie and the *craic* was good. We played long into the night.

Next we went to Roundstone, County Galway, in the Connemara region. Here we visited Roundstone Music, where Malachy Kearns makes some of the world's best bodhráns,

including those for *The Chieftains* and *Riverdance*. We purchased a fine 18-inch bodhrán for Liz.

We enjoyed a night of music in the civic center, featuring Marcus Herndon (flute) Johnny Connolly (button box) and Nóirín (tin whistle). (Incidentally, Nóirín, whose last name I can't recall is the sister of the well-known fiddler,

Frankie Gavin.) There were performances of several styles of dancing and Sean-nós singing as well.

We repaired to a local pub after the performance, where Johnny and Nóirín continued to play. When the group discovered that I'm an aspiring musician, they

insisted on a tune. The level of play was so high that I felt intimidated, but I launched into *The Maid Behind the Bar* and they joined in. I was feeling much more comfortable as they continued to ask me to contribute. The *craic* was good.

Johnny was surprised that my accordion could play in all keys (piano accordions being relatively rare at Irish sessions) and both he and Noirin were taken aback when I played *The Star of the County Down* in waltz time. I was equally amazed that they had never heard it as a waltz before.

We went up to Donegal, where I reconnected with Donal and Lennie

Continued on page 5



Continued from page 4- Meanderings

and met Barry. They asked me to sit in on their acoustic set in a pub the next night. For me, it was the most fun, musically, of the entire trip. We played for hours. I felt as if I'd found my musical soul mates. The *craic* was exceptional.; we had the whole pub stomping, clapping, and singing along into the early morning hours.

My last musical experience of the trip wasn't much fun, but it was educational. It was in Drumshanbo, County Leitrim, home of another music school. I tried to get involved in a session, but it just didn't work out. The musicians were very talented; everything was technically perfect, but no one seemed to take much joy in it. The friendly communication among the musicians that I relished wasn't there. When a tune ended, a short silence ensued until someone started another tune. There were no requests for tunes from one musician to another or from the audience, which wasn't involved in the music either. I felt very uncomfortable and tense. In other words, the *craic* just wasn't good.

We had a great time in Ireland, and we're looking forward to visiting again soon. For me, that last session in Drumshanbo affirmed what I already knew. Music doesn't have to be perfect to be fun. Technical brilliance can't make up for a lack of soul. No matter where I am, it's all about the *craic*.

## FROM THE TFTM PRESIDENT

by Dale Tersey

As of October 1, 2006, TFTM will be raising the annual membership dues to \$20 for an individual and \$24 for a family membership. This is due to increasing organizational costs.

With three dances a month and discounts on TFTM co-sponsored events, the new membership rates are still a bargain.

If your membership has expired or will expire soon, renew before October 1 and get in under the old rates. We will extend your current membership another full year.

The TFTM Board is considering a new interactive web site for the Dance and Music Community to share their interests, experiences and upcoming events in a calendar and bulletin board style format. Watch for this on our website in the near future.

2801 North Country Club Road (520) 293-7770  
(NW Corner of Glenn and County Club)  
8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Mon-Sat  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sun

**AQUAVITA**  
www.aquavilastore.com

The Water That Keeps Us Dancing!

**Natural Foods Market**



Mike M. and Sidney



Mike C. and another dancer.

## WAREHOUSE SPACE NEEDED.

**W**e need space, approximately 1000 square-feet, to refinish the Dance Camp floor panels. It would be best if the space was air conditioned.

Call Rohn Brown 520-519-6245 or Dale Tersey.

Omer and Este



## CONGRATULATIONS RTH

**O**ne of TFTM's favorite bands, **Round the House**, is the Tucson Weekly's 2006 Traditional/Ethnic Tammies winner. Congratulations.

Band member, **Mark Robertson-Tessi** also won a Musician's Award as Runner-up in Acoustic Guitar and was the winner in the String Player category.

**Dave Firestine** was a Runner-up in the String Player division.

Cover: Michelle (right) and a first-time visitor execute a courtesy turn.

## THOMPSON'S TUNE OF THE MONTH

Bruce Thomson  
(LibTNov1@aol.com)



### HAMMERED DULCIMER

One of the most baffling instruments in traditional music is the hammered dulcimer. It possesses a great multitude of strings that are divided by a couple of bridges at approximately one third of the string length. Whacking a string on one side of the bridge gives a different tone than banging on the same string on the other side of the bridge.

Aside from the continued challenges of tuning so many strings, their total force on the instrument is enormous. I calculated the tensile force for a single A string at nearly 100 N (22 lbs). This means the total, potential energy in a tuned dulcimer (now there's an oxymoron!) is roughly equivalent to that in a low-yield thermonuclear warhead (another reason dulcimers shouldn't be allowed on airplanes).

My friend, Peter Esherick—proud owner of a new 86-string dulcimer, introduced me to the music of Ken Kolodner, a talented, hammered dulcimer player and fiddler from Baltimore. Ken plays a varied mix of music including old time, Celtic, and New English/French Canadian, and he is the author of a number of instructional CDs.

His most recent music CD, *Journey to the Heartland*, has a version of *Lady of the Lake* that is as nice as any I've heard. It features Laura Risk on fiddle.



Second Annual  
Sierra Vista Fiddle Contest  
Saturday, Sep. 9, 2006  
10 AM-5 PM.  
Veteran's Memorial Park  
Sierra Vista, Arizona  
520-220-1166

[www.dkmusicstudio.com/fiddlecontest](http://www.dkmusicstudio.com/fiddlecontest)



X:65

T:Lady of the Lake

M:C

L:1/8

N:From Ken Kolodner, Journey to the Heartland, MM231

N:Transcribed by Bruce Thomson

K:G

[: "G" G, B, DG B2GB | dBG A B2AB | "C" c2cB AGFG | "D" AGFE DCB, A, |

"G" G, B, DGB2GB | dBG A B2AB | "C" cdcB AGFE | [1 D "D" G2F "G" G2B, A, : [2 D "D" G2F "G" G2Bc |]

[: "G" dcBd g2g2 | "Am" edcea2a2 | "D" f2fg fedf | "A7" ed^ce "D" d2B=c |

"G" dcBdg2g2 | "Am" edcea2a2 | "D" f2fe dcAF | [1 G "G" BAFG2Bc : [2 G "G" BAFG2B, A, |]

## Lady of the Lake



G C D  
 G C | 1 D G | 2 D G  
 G Am D A7 D  
 G Am D | 1 G | 2 G



**ONGOING ACTIVITIES of  
Traditional Music and Dance.**  
*These are not TFTM events.*

♫ **Irish Jam Session at  
O'Malley's:** Traditional Irish  
jam session on the second and  
fourth Thursdays at 7 pm at  
O'Malley's, 247 N. 4th  
Avenue. Info: 520-623-8600.

♫ **Scottish Country  
Dancing:** Thursdays, 7:30  
pm, First United Methodist  
Church, 915 E. 4th St.  
Info: 520-299-5566.

♫ **Celtic & Old-Time Jam:**  
Open Jam session on the first  
and third Tuesdays, 8-10 pm,  
Rincon Market, 6th St. at  
Tucson Blvd. Set up in the  
Deli area. Tunes from the  
TFTM Tune Book and some  
other sources.

♫ **Shape Note Singing:**  
First and third Saturdays, 3-5  
pm, Sonora Cohousing  
Common Room, 501 E. Roger  
Rd. Info: 682-6201.



**Correction:**  
This is Amy  
Copler. We  
didn't get her  
name right in  
the July-  
August issue.

# Acoustic Music Gathering 2006



Advance Registration  
Ends October 16, 2006

[www.dulcianna.com](http://www.dulcianna.com)

## TFTM ADVERTISEMENTS

*TFTM members, place your free ad here.*

*Larger ad, good rates. Inquire at  
[Newsletter@TFTM.org](mailto:Newsletter@TFTM.org)*

Scottish Highland Bagpipes. Private  
instruction or public performance.  
Call William Don Carlos at 520-907-4460  
or email [pipes-are-loud@wdoncarlos.com](mailto:pipes-are-loud@wdoncarlos.com)

Lil Rev will be returning to Tucson  
from January 30- February 12,  
2007, on his winter tour. If you or  
your organization would like to  
sponsor a house concert, a  
school/educational event,  
workshop or concert, please call  
414-305-2328.

Lil Rev teaches Blues  
Mandolin, Old Time Mandolin,  
Ukulele Tunes and Techniques,  
and Harmonica (I & II). Check out  
[LILREV@LILREV.COM](mailto:LILREV@LILREV.COM) for more  
information.

# UPCOMING DANCES

Location	Date	Time	Band	Caller	Cost
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	<b>Sat.</b> <b>Sep 16</b>	Lesson	<b>HANDS FOUR</b>	<b>Tod Whittemore</b>	\$7 Public
		7:30 pm			\$6 TFTM
		Dance			\$5 Student
		8-11 pm			
YMCA Downtown 60 W Alameda	<b>Sat.</b> <b>Sep 23</b>	Lesson	<b>JUMPING CHOLLAS</b>	<b>Claire Zucker</b>	\$7 Public
		7:30 pm			\$6 TFTM
		Dance			\$5 Student
		8-11 pm			
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	<b>Sat.</b> <b>Sep 30</b>	Lesson	<b>ROUND THE HOUSE</b>	<b>Becky Nankivell</b>	\$7 Public
		7:30 pm			\$6 TFTM
		Dance			\$5 Student
		8-11 pm			
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	<b>Sat.</b> <b>Oct 7</b>	<b>Canceled</b>			
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	<b>Sat.</b> <b>Oct 21</b>	Lesson	Cooper Wedding Celebration		\$7 Public
		7:30 pm	<b>PRIVY TIPPERS</b>	<b>Merri Rudd</b>	\$6 TFTM
Dance					\$5 Student
		8-11 pm			
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	<b>Sat.</b> <b>Oct 28</b>	Lesson	<b>HALLOWEEN DANCE</b>		\$7 Public
		7:30 pm	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	\$6 TFTM
Dance					\$5 Student
		8-11 pm			
First United Methodist Church 915 E 4th St	<b>Sat.</b> <b>Nov 4</b>	Lesson	<b>BUZ LLOYD</b>	<b>TBA</b>	\$7 Public
		7:30 pm			\$6 TFTM
		Dance			\$5 Student
		8-11 pm			

## JOIN TUCSON FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC!

Membership benefits include: Discounts on many events, including all TFTM events, plus a subscription to this newsletter and free classified listings in the newsletter.

Send this form and your check to TFTM, PO Box 40654, Tucson, AZ 85717-0654

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Renewal

Address Change

Yes, include me in the TFTM contact email listing

I am interested in helping with:  Newsletter  Sound

Dance Camp

Contra Dances

Special Events

Do you even know  
whether or not  
you've paid  
your dues?

Well, find out!

You can find your membership expiration date on the mailing label on the back of the newsletter. Renew now. Remember, the price of membership goes up on October 1, 2006.



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