CELTIC COLLEGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2018

FIDDLE

Fiddle classes are generally broken into skill level and regional repertoire. The material in each class will differ depending on the tradition of a particular teacher and the skill level of the class. Skill levels are described as:

Beginning Fiddle

Beginning fiddle classes are designed for those with some fiddle experience: students should know how to hold the fiddle and the bow and be able to play a few tunes at a moderate pace. Learn a few standard tunes in the style of the teacher while focusing on tone, pitch, and overall playing confidence.

Int Fiddle

Intermediate fiddle classes focus on the repertoire and technique of the music from a specific geographic region or style (ie. Ireland, Quebec, PEI) or a particular skill (ie. Ornamentation) For fiddlers of intermediate level: with a few years' experience, a good knowledge of the fiddle, able to play at a moderate speed, and some comfort learning by ear.

Int/Adv Fiddle

Open to both intermediate level and advanced level players! Focussed on the style, tunes, and technique of a certain region. For those at a less advanced level, don't be discouraged! Enjoy the challenge, and focus on learning by ear.

Adv Fiddle Classes

Advanced fiddle classes are designed in the same way as Intermediate classes, but are geared for those of a more advanced skill level: very comfortable on your instrument, able to play full-speed and learn quickly by ear.

Fiddle Singing

Ever wanted to try singing while accompanying yourself on fiddle! Scotland's Catriona Price can show you the ins and outs of "fiddle singing"! For advanced beginning level and up.

ENSEMBLE, REPERTOIRE & SKILLS

Ensemble and Repertoire classes are open to all instruments unless otherwise noted. Participants should be of intermediate level and above.

Gaspé Music and Style

Join Laura Risk and Glenn Patterson of the Douglastown Project for a week of tunes, repertoire, and fiddling style from the Gaspé region of Quebec. This workshop is for melody players only.

Music for Fun and Joy! Session I and II

Note: each session is stand alone - participants may take one, or the other, or both!

Sam Pirt and Gary Hammond have many years of experience in delivering workshops either as individuals, or together as their concert act The Hut People. Their primary aim in workshops is to impart confidence in playing and of course, to have fun. Although virtuoso musicians, they don't get bogged down in the technicalities of playing (unless the participants are that way inclined) and usually start their 'Hut People' workshops with a two-pronged journey; those who want to play percussion are taught the rhythms to our tunes and those with instruments are taught the tune. They then come together to play as one. They also like to work with improvisation, taking ideas from the group and composing on the spot. If they have time, groups are formed to have them to come up with their own compositions.

"Playing should be joyful and fun and certainly should not be stressful. We feel it's important to break the barrier down which says 'you can't do this' - making music is easier than we think and everyone should have the opportunity to feel how powerful and self affirming playing together is." – Sam and Gary

Irish Ensemble with Goitse

Join in the craic with the world-famous Goitse! Participants will break into groups to learn some new tunes, and put them together in some mighty arrangements. With Áine McGeeney, Colm Phelan, Conal O'Kane, Tadhg O Meachair, and Alan Reid.

Scottish Fiddle Band

Explore the rich Scottish fiddle tradition with the members of the Orkney-raised band Fara! Expect jigs, strathspeys, reels, and pipe marches, and learn to put tunes together into arrangements for fiddles and piano. With Kristan Harvey, Jeana Leslie, Catriona Price, and Jennifer Austin.

Ontario Fiddle Jam

Take in the "Fitzgerald style!" Learn some common Ontario and old-time fiddle tunes and put it all together in a great arrangement with the bombastic Fitzgerald siblings! If interest, there will certainly be some step dance instruction thrown in too! With Tom Fitzgerald, Kerry Fitzgerald, Julie Fitzgerald, and Kyle Waymouth.

Playing Tunes for Dancers (with Sets and Squares)

For those who love playing for dancers, and those who love dancing! This class is open to all instruments, and dancers. The class will start together discussing how dance and music are intertwined in Quebec music. Dancers will take instruction from Méllisandre Tremblay-Bourass on Quebec social dances and other sets and squares - and the musicians will workshop with Claude Méthé (fiddle) and Dana Whittle (guitar and foot percussion) on arrangements, tips and techniques for playing for dancers, and learning some common repertoire. Then the whole class will come together for a ceilidh!

Québec Kitchen Party

Experience the *joie de vivre* of Quebecois folk music and focus on playing as a group with the dynamic Claude Méthé (fiddle) and Dana Whittle (guitar and foot percussion)! Expect lively fiddle tunes, driving guitar, and some compelling songs.

Tunes to Join the Session

For those looking to increase their repertoire of tunes to bring to an Irish session! Have you had your eye on a particular tune to learn? Bring it to this class and learn it as a group! Or, come away with a few new tunes to try out at your next session.

Chords to Join the Session

Have you always wanted to know how musicians can "hear" what the right chord is? This class is for beginning accompaniment players, especially guitar, harp and piano. Learn how to hear the home note, gather some basic tools to be able to tell what chord will come next, and learn some rhythms and variations for basic accompaniment at sessions, plus learn all about how to participate in group music making!

VOCAL HARMONY

Vocal Harmony

A big sing in multiple voice harmony! Explore harmony singing for all levels with Andy Hillhouse, member of the Juno-award nominated choral ensemble *musica* intima, a founding member of the band Mad Pudding, and musician extraodinaire. Andy will explore harmony and choral styles from across the world, from south and west Africa all the way to Ireland, Scotland, and England. Each section of Vocal Harmony is stand alone – take one, two, or all three! For singers of all ability. Beware: these are our most popular classes and nearly always fill up, so be sure to enrol early and save your spot!

REEDS

Beg Piano Accordion

Ever thought you'd like to give the piano accordion a try, but don't know where to start? Find your way around the keyboard with a few simple tunes, and get some basic guidance on adding chords and accompanying songs.

Int/Adv Irish Piano Accordion

Explore the finer points of the piano accordion in the Irish traditional style with Tadhg O Meachair. This class is for those with a few years' experience and looking for some more advanced tunes and a bit of a challenge.

FLUTE/WHISTLE

Tin Whistle for Absolute Beginners

For those with no previous experience with the tin whistle. Learn correct hand position, basic fingerings, and tin whistle technique along with a few basic tunes. Please bring a tin whistle or low whistle in the key of D.

Int Irish Tunes for Flute/Whistle

Take home some new tunes for the Irish flute or whistle.

Beg/Int Irish Flute

For those who can assemble the flute and can play a couple tunes at moderate speed. Work on mastering basic technique in the Irish style, and learn some new tunes to take to the session.

Int/Adv Irish Flute

For those looking for more of a challenge with a good ability to learn by ear and good knowledge of the flute. Learn the Irish flute style and more advanced tunes for flutists.

HARP

Harp for Absolute Beginners

For those with absolutely no experience with the harp. Learn basic hand position and simple technique to enable you to create beautiful music right away! Music will be taught by ear. *Note: there are a limited number of small harps are available for students. Harps must be reserved at the time of registration; if no harp is reserved, students are required to provide their own.

Harp for Advanced Beginners

For those beyond the absolute beginner stage who are just starting to play hands together, can tune the instrument, and who can learn slowly by ear. New tunes and techniques will be introduced at a gentle pace.

Harp Ensemble

Working at a gentle speed, participants will learn beautiful melodies and slow airs. Emphasis will be on repertoire that can be performed in groups, and the creative work of arranging will be incorporated experientially. Everyone will be encouraged to try learning without sheet music at first, but sheet music for all repertoire will be provided by the end of the session (or earlier, by individual request).

Int/Adv Tunes Tunes and more Tunes!

Working at a lively pace, participants will be challenged to learn repertoire by ear. We'll cover dance tunes + more, in all different time signatures, keys, and tempos. Emphasis will be placed on learning lots of tunes and repertoire quickly, to provide participants with as much material as possible to take away and enjoy long-term.

Int Irish Harp Style

All harp classes focus on learning good technique, mastering basic skills, exploring melody and accompaniment styles and variation, and learning new arrangements. Int Harp classes are for those with multiple years' experience, can play a number of arrangements without music, and are comfortable learning by ear.

Int/Adv Irish Harp Technique

All harp classes focus on learning good technique, mastering basic skills, exploring melody and accompaniment styles and variation, and learning new arrangements. Adv Harp classes are for those looking for a challenge with good mastery of the harp. With Michael Rooney, explore new and different kinds of melodies, advanced harp technique, and some new tunes.

PERCUSSION

*Note: no percussion instruments will be provided.

Bodhran for Absolute Beginners.

For those with no experience with the bodhran. Learn how to hold the drum and tipper, proper drumming technique, and the rhythms to accompanying a variety of common tune types. No bodhrans are provided.

Int/Adv Bodhran

For those with some experience playing the bodhran. Become more comfortable with the common and uncommon time signatures, and learn to expand your rhythmic repertoire and left-hand technique.

PIANO

*Note: there are a limited number of pianos available to students. Pianos must be reserved at the time of registration; if no piano is reserved, students are required to provide their own.

Beg Piano Accompaniment/Beg Ontario Style Piano Accompaniment

For those who are fairly comfortable playing piano and who are looking to explore the world of piano accompaniment. Students should have good knowledge of the piano, key signatures, and be able to play hands together.

Int/Adv Scottish Piano Style

For those familiar with piano chording but wanting to explore the dynamic and rhythmic piano style of Scottish traditional music with Jennifer Austin of Fara.

GUITAR

Beg/Int Guitar Skills

Guitar skills, technique, accompaniment, and arranging for songs and fiddle tunes: Focus on guitar skills and techniques for accompanying fiddle music and songs, as well as discussing approaches to coordinating movement and/or singing with guitar performance.

Intro to Drop D Tuning

For those looking for an introduction into the alternate Drop D tuning. Learn basic accompaniment styles for jigs and reels, and the basics of this tuning style.

Int/Adv Driving Accompaniment

For those quite comfortable with a variety of chords and changes, looking to advance knowledge of how to accompany session tunes and styles at speed.

FRETTED STRINGS

Beg/Int Mandolin Tunes

Learn the basics of good playing technique and some new tunes. Students should have minimal experience with the mandolin and bring their own instrument.

Int/Adv Mandolin

Take your mandolin playing to the next level by expanding your technique, working on speed and precision, and expanding your repertoire. Explore some new repertoire from a variety of mandolin genres.

Beg/Int Irish Tenor Banjo

For players with at least some knowledge of the tenor banjo – master basic technique, explore regional styles of Irish tenor banjo repertoire, and take away some new tunes for the session!

Int/Adv Irish Tenor Banjo

For those with some years' experience on the tenor banjo looking for new tunes, more advanced techniques, and an exploration of different regional styles of the tenor banjo.

Beg/Int Old-Time Clawhammer Banjo

Explore the clawhammer banjo with Glenn Patterson and learn some tunes from a variety of genres.

Mountain Dulcimer and Song

For those comfortable with the basics of the mountain dulcimer. This fun filled workshop is filled with simple and beautiful Appalachian ballads and trad Scots and Irish tunes. It is a delight to beginners and experienced players alike.

SONG

Traditional Scottish Ballads

Delve into the rich history of Scottish ballads and songs and expand your traditional song repertoire, and discuss unaccompanied singing techniques, accompanied singing techniques, and performance ideas.

Contemporary Scots Song

Explore songs written and collected more recently in Scotland, and discuss unaccompanied singing techniques, accompanied singing techniques, and performance ideas.

Song Interpretation and Accompaniment

For solo singers who like to sing socially or on stage, and who would welcome some helpful feedback on their singing. Bring some songs to sing for the class. We'll cover choosing songs, making a song your own, phrasing, choosing a key and a tempo, the hows and whys (and why nots) of accompaniment, etc.

Traditional Irish and English Songs

Expand your traditional song repertoire with songs from Ireland and England, as well as songs that have travelled, along with its people, to new lands and countries. Explore singing technique, breath control, and performance tips and techniques.

Quebec Songs

Explore the rich song heritage of Quebec with Claude Méthé. For those of all singing ability - with some foot percussion thrown in!

Folk Singing for Beginners

Always thought you couldn't sing? Give it a try with Joanna Hyde! Go back to basics on how you use your voice, covering posture, breathing, projection, tuning, tone control, and confidence building. Suitable for all singers, even those who think they can't!

DANCE

Playing for Dancers/Sets and Squares

For those who love playing for dancers, and those who love dancing! This class is open to all instruments, and dancers. The class will start together discussing how dance and music are intertwined in Quebec music. Dancers will take instruction from Méllisandre Tremblay-Bourassa on Quebec social dances and other sets and squares - and the musicians will workshop with Claude Méthé (fiddle) and Dana Whittle (guitar and foot percussion) on arrangements, tips and techniques for playing for dancers, and learning some common repertoire. Then the whole class will come together for a ceilidh!

Step Dance for Absolute Beginners

For those looking to experience percussive dance for the first time! Learn some basic steps from the step dance and clogging traditions. Explore the rhythms of different music, and experiment with different techniques. Please wear non-marking soled shoes, or running shoes.

Int Quebec Step Dance

Open to anyone with a basic knowledge of a few steps. Explore the rhythms and techniques of the Quebec step dance tradition with Méllisandre Tremblay-Bourassa! Please wear non-marking soled shoes, or running shoes.

Int Ottawa Valley Step

Learn the specific techniques of the bombastic Ottawa Valley and French Canadian step dance traditions. Explore the rhythms of different music, and experiment with different techniques. Please wear non-marking soled shoes, or running shoes.

Sound Systems and Mixing

Learn the basics of setting up and running a PA system, how to develop and interpret technical riders and sound plots, and an introduction to sound equipment. This class runs from 1.00 to 5.00 pm every day at the Livery Theatre (35 South St, Goderich). Students will also have the opportunity to run the sound at each evening's Teacher Mini-Concerts.

CRAFT ART

Celtic Design with David Rankine

Learn how to create your own knot patterns, spiral and animal designs using this fun and easy to learn method. Watch as the more intricate of patterns appear before your eyes within the first lesson.

Sacred Geometry with David Rankine

Explore this fascinating method of design that uses the ratios and forms found in nature to create complex pieces of sacred art such as the Celtic Cross and other world cosmograms. This easy to learn method utilizes only compasses and straight edges. A great class for lovers of math AND art.

The Art of Hand Embroidery with Roslyn Cook

In this course we will explore design, materials, methods and basic stitches to complete a project . There will be several designs to choose from including a design created for this course by David Rankine, or you could create your own design that we can adapt to embroidery.

Material cost: \$15.00 plus, depending on project

Silversmithing with Jason Bellchamber. These classes take place at Elizabeth's Art Gallery on The Square.

Jason's classes take place over 4 periods (9:00 am – 12:00 and/or 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm). Students can take one half day (2 projects of the list below) or a full day (all 4 projects below). Only 8 students are permitted in each class section.

- a. Make a setting for a large cabochon stone to be worn as a pendant or a Thors hammer
- b. Make a hammered torque style silver ring
- c. Make a penanular broach kilt or shawl pin out of sterling silver
- d. Make a set of hand pierced earrings with a Celtic interlace

Approx silver materials cost: \$20

Celtic Creature Creation with Linda LaForge

Students create characters based on existing mythology and place them into their own story. They'll learn drawing methods and creature creation techniques and be introduced to a few artists who make their living at it. They'll have the option to focus on story writing or visuals arts, where they'll learn drawing and painting techniques and how of make a mask using paper maché.

Materials Fee: \$10 per person

Acrylic Painting Techniques with Linda Laforge

This is course is designed to compliment Celtic Knot Design, Mandala Design and other visual arts courses, allowing students the opportunity to learn methods of painting their new designs. Learn about colour mixing, paint, paint products, brushes and various tools used to paint.

Materials Fee: \$15 per person

Chainmail 101 with Sevrn Crocker

Originally used for armour, chainmail techniques can be used for many applications, such as jewellery and other accessories. This course will centre on learning how to properly weave rings, create key weaves important to all maillers, and how to use them in a variety of applications. No prior experience is necessary, and all materials will be provided in class.

Materials fee: \$10/person. 3 hours daily.

Stained Glass with Siobhan Lynch. These classes take place at Elizabeth's Art Gallery on The Square.

Intro to Stained Glass

Stained glass, copper foiling technique introduction course.

Learn to cut, grind, foil, solder and finish a 5-6 piece sun catcher in four 1- 1/2 hour classes to take home. Each student will be given the choice of a Celtic knot or Shamrock sun catcher design. Maximum 5 adult (18 +) students per class.

Material fee: \$20. 90 mins daily.

Stained Glass Panel Original Design and Fabrication

Using the copper foiling technique to fabricate and take home your own original 8" x 10" stained glass panel. The final pattern will consist of 10 – 15 finished pieces. Maximum 5 adult (18 +) students per class.

Material fee: \$20. 3 hours daily.