

## LAST NIGHT'S FUN

### The Celtic Society of the Monterey Bay Newsletter; December 2011

Dear Celtic Society members and friends,

Here's wishing everyone the happiest of holidays and nothing but the best in the coming New Year. There are lashings of fun things to pass along in this, our largest newsletter ever. First off, our website, [www.celticsociety.org](http://www.celticsociety.org), originally designed by **Christina Lopp** as a labor of love, has a brand new look. Kudos to **Kasie Talbot** & plaudits to **Paul Edwards**, Celtic Society members both, for all the time & trouble they've taken. If you've a moment, do check the website out & let us know what you think. Kasie & Paul are planning more fun additions to our site but, if you've any suggestion, do please pass it along to myself, Bob Breheny, at my contacts on the next page.

Among the many highlights in the following pages, the festive season has a trio of distinctive Celtic events. In just a couple days, the Celtic Society presents direct from Ireland, **Irish Christmas in America**. This will be followed with a troika of concerts each from **Molly's Revenge's 'A Celtic Christmas Celebration'** & **Mary McLaughlin's 'A Gaelic Christmas.'** Coming soon will be a performance by **Wake the Dead**, at whose concerts you can have the most fun in public without actually being arrested, in Pacific Grove. There will also be solo concerts by traditional Irish music superstars, **Kevin Burke** & **Andy Irvine**. The dazzling fiddler **Athena Tergis** & singer/guitarist **Kyle Alden** play in both Pacific Grove & Felton & Scots singer & songwriter **Jim Malcolm**, with guests **Deby Benton Grosjean** & **Shelley Phillips**, performs on Robert Burns' birthday. The emotions are sure to be mixed when **Molly's Revenge plays their last concert with founding member, Pete Haworth**.

Members of The Celtic Society of the Monterey Bay have made this quarterly newsletter, our monthly e-mail updates and our concerts possible. I am, as ever, much beholden to them for doing so and additional thanks to those members who receive the newsletter by e-mail only. Help us go paperless. In the words of Irish-American poet, Joyce Kilmer - 'I think that I shall never see / A Celtic Society newsletter as lovely as a tree.'

As always, we have our **Free CDs Contest** available only for Celtic Society members. (Membership information is on next page should you wish to join & have a chance to win.) If you make a reservation for a concert at (408) 847-6982 or [celtsoc@aol.com](mailto:celtsoc@aol.com) (if you've made reservations or purchased tickets, you're instantly eligible) & you're the lucky person requesting one of the free CDs, I'll be happy to hand over your prize at the door on the night of the concert. Only one free CD per person for each newsletter issue, please. For the first callers or e-mailers for each of the following concerts, we have:  
For **Irish Christmas in America** – the eponymous album of music from the show  
For **Wake the Dead** – the latest recording, 'Blue Light, Cheap Hotel'  
For **Kevin Burke** – his most recent CD, with Cal Scott, 'Suite'  
For **Jim Malcolm** – his album, 'Sparkling Flash'  
For **Andy Irvine** – his new masterpiece, 'Abocurragh'  
For both concerts by **Athena Tergis & Kyle Alden** – their 'Songs from Yeats' Bee-Loud Glade'

---

**Our website is located at [www.celticsociety.org](http://www.celticsociety.org).**

**For Celtic events throughout Northern California, an indispensable source is the website is run by Jim Scarff at [www.sfcelticmusic.com](http://www.sfcelticmusic.com) & another good option is Chuck Jamison's at [www.2jamisons.com](http://www.2jamisons.com).**

**Also of note is the blog at <http://theoldblognode.blogspot.com> written by Irish music writer & Northern California resident, Tom Clancy.**

**All items in this newsletter are listed free of charge. February 7th is the deadline for the December issue. E-mail items to [celtsoc@aol.com](mailto:celtsoc@aol.com) or post to myself, Bob Breheny, at 3415 Dryden Ave., Gilroy, Ca. 95020 or phone me at (408) 847-6982.**

**The previous address is also where to send your check made out to The Celtic Society to renew or join The Celtic Society. Our membership rates are at the individual level of \$13 for one year or \$24 for 2 years. The family or household level rates, whereby everyone in the family or household receives concert discounts, are \$22 for one year or \$40 for 2 years.**

### **RADIO**

**Celtic Music is heard weekly on the following public radio stations. Please keep in mind that without the great support of these stations that grace our area, none of our endeavors would be possible.**

**At KUSP, 88.9 fm in Santa Cruz** there is excellent Celtic music program, 'The Continental Drift,' hosted by Cindy Odom, airs on Saturday from 1pm to 3pm. You can also listen 'live' at [www.kusp.org](http://www.kusp.org) which also archives Cindy's most recent show for a week for listening.

**At KZSC, 88.1 fm in Santa Cruz**, there is a **new Celtic music show, 'Lucky Clover,'** hosted by 'Q,' airing Thursday from 2pm to 4pm. There are also the folk programs, 'Friday Folk at the Bar & Grill,' with alternating hosts, on Fridays from 9am to noon & 'Backroads' on Sunday from noon to 2pm with alternate hosts Jeff Emery & Chris Jong. You may also listen 'live' at [www.kzsc.org](http://www.kzsc.org).

**At KKUP, 91.5 fm in Santa Clara**, Celtic Music may generally be heard in the first part of Peter Schwarz's program on Thursday from 7am to 10am and Dave Stafford hosts a folk program on Friday from 3pm to 6pm with a focus on 'live' performances. The station's website is at [www.kkup.com](http://www.kkup.com).

**At KPIG, 107.5 fm in Watsonville** there is an excellent 'live' music show, 'Please Stand By,' hosted by John Sandidge, which books Celtic musicians when they're available. For example, **Athena Tergis & Kyle Alden** are scheduled to perform on the February 19th show. You may also listen 'live' at [www.kpig.com](http://www.kpig.com).

### **SESSIONS**

**There are a number of free Celtic music sessions in the area** where many of the outstanding local Celtic musicians perform in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in or merely to enjoy the music and also have the chance to meet other people with interests in all aspects of the rich Celtic culture.

**There is a full session list** covering all of Northern California at <http://www.americeltic.net/> but to list a few notable ones:

**There is a session being held every Sunday from 3pm to 6:30pm at the Poet and Patriot Irish Pub, 320 Cedar St. in downtown Santa Cruz. For more info, call the pub at (831) 426-8620 or e-mail [thepoetandpatriot@gmail.com](mailto:thepoetandpatriot@gmail.com).**

**The sessions at O'Flaherty's Irish Pub, 25 N. San Pedro St. in downtown San Jose, on Sundays from 5pm to 8pm are by invitation from Art Friedman & appointed session leaders. Contact Art at [friedman\\_art@yahoo.com](mailto:friedman_art@yahoo.com). Tuesday sessions from 6:30pm until late are by invitation from Julie Horner. Experienced Irish style musicians should contact Julie at (831) 325-1974 or [leap2three@yahoo.com](mailto:leap2three@yahoo.com). For info about how O'Flaherty's sessions are managed (basic session etiquette), visit <http://pweb.jps.net/~jgilder/seisiun.html>.**

**The sessions in the Monterey area are held on the first & third Sundays of the month at the Nifty 50 Café, 1760 Fremont Blvd., #B1 in Seaside starting at 3pm. Directions: Take Hwy. 1 to Canyon Del Rey Blvd. and then turn left on Del Monte, then right on Broadway, then left on Fremont Blvd. & it's in the Olympic Shopping Center on the right. For info, call Marc at (831) 333-1493.**

**There are three affiliated sessions; on the 1st Sunday of the month at Deli-Licious, 21505 E. Cliff Dr. in Santa Cruz from 1:30pm to 3:30pm, on the 2nd Sunday at The Britannia Arms, 8017 Soquel Ave. in Aptos from 7pm to 9pm & on the 3rd Sunday from 2pm to 4pm, at The Buttery Bakery & Café, 702 Soquel Ave. in Santa Cruz. For info, e-mail Jamie Wylde at [jwylde@gmail.com](mailto:jwylde@gmail.com).**

**Monthly Friday Sessions are hosted by the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers, Monterey Bay contingent led by Deby Benton Grosjean. Sessions, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, are held alternately at Calvary Chapel, 8065 Valencia St in Aptos & at the Common House, 842 Western Dr. in Santa Cruz. If interested, it's best to get on Deby's mailing list; her contact info is below. This is an open session but by becoming a SFSF member, allows you get a massive binder of tunes, more sessions to join, concerts to perform, monthly newsletter & more. There is an optional one dollar in the basket for finger food. For more info, contact Deby at (831) 566-0441 or [Deby.fiddler@gmail.com](mailto:Deby.fiddler@gmail.com).**

**Shay Black hosts The Starry Session every Sunday at the Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley from 8:15pm to 11pm. All ages & all musicians, singers & dancers are welcome. For more, visit [www.starryploughpub.com/session](http://www.starryploughpub.com/session).**

### **CELTIC MUSIC NIGHT ON TUESDAYS**

The marvelous Celtic music multi-instrumentalist **David Brewer**, from the popular band Molly's Revenge, hosts a free Celtic Music Night on Tuesdays at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 9850 Monroe Ave. in Aptos from 7pm to 8:30pm and runs on a 5 week on, 4 week off basis. The current schedule is online at <http://www.davidbrewermusic.com/Performances.htm>. The evening is for people interested in listening to & learning more about the instruments in a casual, fun, friendly environment, with Brewer keeping things hopping, barley breaking a sweat in presenting music that could malt the coldest heart. There are presentations of the music by different performers with related history & cultural context, question & answer and free coaching for those interested in learning Celtic technique & tunes on an instrument. There will also

be an informal Celtic jam session with refreshments in the reception hall next door. For more info or to get on David's e-mail list, contact him at (831) 239-0602 or [pipeyspice@hotmail.com](mailto:pipeyspice@hotmail.com).

---

### CELTIC CALENDAR

**Please note that an \* before a listing indicates there is a C.S.M.B. member discount price. A member purchasing tickets in advance, either online or at a ticket outlet, pays full price & has their discount then tendered, in legal tender, at the door on the night of the concert.**

**\*Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>** – The Celtic Society of the Monterey Bay proudly present the spectacular seasonal celebration of Ireland's cultural traditions, **Irish Christmas in America**, at Kuumbwa, 320 Cedar St. in Santa Cruz at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$25 advance, \$27 at the door or \$22 to Celtic Society members. Tickets are on sale online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/196711> & at More Music, 512 Front St. in downtown Santa Cruz. For reservations, call Ariel at (831) 336-9810 or contact Bob at [celtsoc@aol.com](mailto:celtsoc@aol.com) or (408) 847-6982. This atmospheric, family-friendly entertainment, rich in history, humor & boundless enthusiasm, now in its seventh year, features lively traditional tunes, evocatively sung Irish ballads & carols, stirring narration bringing to life ancient customs & stories & thrilling Irish dancing. This captivating, heart-warming show has been hailed in the *Irish Echo* thusly; 'Irish Christmas in America admirably refuses to pander to the lowest common denominator. By doing so, they all convey the spirit of the season with uncommon taste and integrity. Full of exceptional music and dance, relaxed good humor and interesting historical commentary, Irish Christmas in America is one of the few standouts. It was as relaxed and enjoyable as any Irish Christmas-themed concert I've ever attended.' The stellar cast of Irish luminaries includes show producer & All-Ireland Champion Fiddler, Oisín Mac Diarmada, from the award-winning Irish group Teada & was praised in the *Irish Echo* as 'one of the most gifted and creative traditional fiddlers playing today.' Returning by popular demand from the outpouring of audience reaction the past two years is the irrepressible & ebullient West Kerry singer & button accordionist Seamus Begley. The *Irish Times* wrote, 'Begley's voice is buoyant... a joy' & he is equally brilliant on the accordion, playing with astonishing energy & spontaneity, belting out jigs, slides & polkas with rapid sprays of ornamentation. The fan favorite, sean-nos (old style) Irish dancer Brian Cunningham who at 24 has won all the major dance competitions in Ireland & been called the most exciting Irish dancer of his generation. As very special guests this year, one of the most ballyhooed vocal acts to emerge from Ireland in recent years, Sony recording artists, Lumiere, comprising the terrific talents of the young female singers Eilís Kennedy & Pauline Scanlon, both from Dingle, Co. Kerry. While Eilís & Pauline have had successful solo careers, releasing critically acclaimed CDs, the joining of their distinctive voices in Lumiere has produced something quite extraordinary where the song & its delivery are the primary focus & technical concerns give way to powerful emotional feeling as song & singer effortlessly merge. Eilís & Pauline will be joined by guitarist Donogh Hennessy, former member of Lunasa. Take a memorable glimpse into the enchanting spirit of Christmas as some of Ireland's finest traditional performers take you on distinctively

Irish journey during the 2011 holiday season. For more, visit the website at [www.irishchristmasinamerica.com](http://www.irishchristmasinamerica.com).

**Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – Molly's Revenge's 'A Celtic Christmas Celebration,'** with special guests, vocalist **Christa Burch** and the **Rosemary Turco Irish Dancers**, takes place locally at the following:

**Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** - at the First United Methodist Church, 915 Sunset Dr. in Pacific Grove at 7:30pm. Advance tickets are available at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/208460>.

**Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** - at Don Quixote's International Music Hall, 6275 Highway 9 in Felton at 7:30pm. Admission is \$15. Tickets are available online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/209398> or in person at the venue. For reservations, call the Don Quixote's hotline at (831) 603-2294.

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** - at Angelica's Bell Theatre & Bistro, 863 Main St. in Redwood City. Tickets are available through the venue's website at <http://www.angelicasbistro.com> or (650) 365-3266.

Molly's Revenge & their special guests will be performing their annual Celtic Christmas Celebration of music, song & dance associated with the festive season. The show will include Christmas songs both old & new, all given a Celtic twist. Also to be featured will be selections from Molly's Revenge's latest release, 'Aged Ten Years,' their 10th CD, produced by Aaron Jones of Old Blind Dogs fame. The audience will have a chance to join in the singing of some of their favorite carols & the dancers will surely set everyone's toes tapping. Molly's Revenge, whose lineup includes bagpipes, fiddle, whistles, guitar, bouzouki & mandola, has toured extensively in the USA & in Australia, China & Scotland is known for their infectious on-stage enthusiasm & hard-driving sound that always leaves the audience shouting for more. 'Winterdance,' a holiday CD of music from the show, will be on sale at the concert, a portion of the sales of same being donated to ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) Foundation, much as the band's earlier Christmas album, 'Yuledance,' also on sale, has already generated over \$3000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society & the Aplastic Anaemia and MDS Foundation. For more info & concert dates further afield, visit [www.mollysrevenge.com](http://www.mollysrevenge.com).

**\*Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** – The Celtic Society of the Monterey Bay proudly presents the world's only Celtic All-Star Grateful Dead Jam Band, **Wake the Dead**, at Chautauqua Hall, 162 16th St. (at Central) in Pacific Grove at 7pm. Admission is \$20 advance/\$22 at the door or \$18 to Celtic Society members. Tickets are on sale online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/208582> & in person at The Works, 667 Lighthouse Ave. in Pacific Grove. For out of town reservations, contact Bob at the Celtic Society at [celtsoc@aol.com](mailto:celtsoc@aol.com) or (408) 847-6982. As an expression of cultural joy, you can't top an Irish wake. And what is a wake but a celebration – a toast of appreciation – an expression of love – and a smashing good excuse for a party. So when some of the Bay Area's top acoustic musicians got together eleven years ago & realized they shared

as deep a love for the songs of the Grateful Dead as they did for traditional Celtic tunes, some brand-new music sprang up & started partying. Songs originally made popular by the Grateful Dead were retooled in unexpected ways, blended with Celtic reels, jigs & airs & performed all-acoustic but with true rock and roll sizzle. These aren't worlds colliding – they're worlds meshing, coalescing – creating a new world of possibility & true to the spirit of the Grateful Dead & the eternally hopeful Celts. Wake the Dead is a romp that flows seamlessly from rock grooves to hot Irish reels & from haunting airs to achingly beautiful melodies familiar to Deadheads everywhere. 'Sugaree' in waltz time is bracketed by an ancient harp tune & infused with a poignant Celtic longing. 'Bertha' is thundered out of 'China Cat' on a mandolin tidal wave. The eerie lilt of the uilleann pipes gives a glow to 'Bird Song' as if it was always meant to be there. Wake the Dead have performed sold-out concerts, wowed festival audiences & released three deliriously intoxicating CDs with *Amazon.com* opining of their latest, 'This is a record that could capture a broad audience, converting folkies into Deadheads and 'heads into folkies.' Wake the Dead bands together seven of the most respected musicians in the west; Singer, fiddler & fretman **Danny Carnahan**, singer & guitarist **Sylvia Herold**, (at any time, but especially around Christmas, it's a treat to hark the Herold angel sing), mandolinist & guitarist **Paul Kotapish**, Celtic harpist **Maureen Brennan**, uilleann piper & whistle player **Kevin Carr**, bassist **Cindy Browne** & percussionist **Brian Rice**. For more, visit [www.wakethedead.org](http://www.wakethedead.org).

**\*Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** – The Celtic Society of the Monterey Bay proudly present a special solo concert by Irish fiddle icon, **Kevin Burke**, at Don Quixote's International Music Hall, 6275 Highway 9 in Felton at 7:30pm. Admission is \$17 or \$15 to Celtic Society members. Tickets are on sale online at

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/202453>, at Don Quixote's & More Music, 512 Front St. in Santa Cruz. For reservations, call the Don Quixote's hotline at (831) 603-2294 or contact the Celtic Society at [celtsoc@aol.com](mailto:celtsoc@aol.com) or (408) 847-6982.

Kevin Burke has been hailed in the *New York Times*, 'Burke imparts a rhythmic intensity that is remarkably powerful... a superior instrumentalist in any idiom... impressively virtuosic' & in the *Irish Times*, 'Burke's fiddling is one of the high spots of the current Irish music scene.' Burke has been enthraling audiences around the world & influencing an entire generation of fiddlers, spinning gold with his uniquely sly slant from his silken-smooth Co. Sligo-based style of Irish fiddling. Kevin has been continually in the forefront of Irish & Celtic music, from the Bothy Band in the 70's through his outfit Open House & since the 80's with Patrick Street & since the 90's with the Celtic Fiddle Festival. There have also been notable partnerships with Micheal O Domhnaill, Jackie Daly & currently Cal Scott. Now a resident of Portland, Oregon, Kevin's immense contribution to music was acknowledged by The National Endowment for the Arts when he was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship, the USA's highest honor for excellence in the folk & traditional arts. This special solo concert will give full flavor to the force & the frolicsomeness of Burke's fabled fiddling & his wicked sense of humor in tune intros & stories. To cite an *Irish Times* article; 'Kevin Burke declares, "What many have forgotten is that originally, this music was typically a solo music."' Kevin Burke has stripped the music back down to its underpants and let it speak for itself.' For more info, visit his website at [www.kevinburke.com](http://www.kevinburke.com).

**Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** – Two evening & a matinee of the Sixth Annual ‘**A Gaelic Christmas,**’ the creation of & featuring the internationally renowned Irish singer **Mary McLaughlin** & her **Cor Aingli** (Irish for ‘Angelic Choir’), along with traditional musicians including Celtic harpist **Steve Coulter**, flute & whistle player **Owen Meehan**, **David Chadwick** on guitar, **Julia Horner** on hammer dulcimer & **Laura Reeve** on bodhran. Performances are:

**Fri., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** - at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 126 High St. in Santa Cruz at 8pm

**Sun., Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** - at Vallombrosa Retreat Center, 250 Oak Grove Ave. in Menlo Park at 2pm

**Sun., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** – at Advent Lutheran Church, 16870 Murphy Ave. in Morgan Hill at 7pm

For ticket info, visit <http://www.coraingli.com/> or contact Kathy Fiebling at (831) 227-6049 or Audrey Nickel at (831) 335-4879.

The choir performs original choral & ensemble arrangements of traditional Irish carols, as well as familiar European & American carols that have been translated into the Irish language with McLaughlin as the featured soloist.

**\*Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>** – The Celtic Society of the Monterey Bay, with mixed emotions, proudly presents **Molly’s Revenge in Pete Haworth’s Farewell Concert** at Kuumbwa, 320 Cedar St. in Santa Cruz at 7:30pm. Admission is \$16 advance/\$18 at the door or \$14 to Celtic Society members. Tickets are on sale online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/213288> & at the advance ticket outlets in Santa Cruz, Streetlight Records, 939 Pacific Ave. & More Music, 512 Front. St. For reservations, you may call the man himself, Pete, at (831) 464-9778 or contact Bob at the Celtic Society at [celtsoc@aol.com](mailto:celtsoc@aol.com) or (408) 847-6982.

After 10 years, 10 CDs, hundreds of concerts & thousands of travel miles, original member Pete Haworth will be leaving Molly’s Revenge, the group that has done so much to raise the cachet of the Celtic music from our part of the planet, both throughout the U.S. and overseas with their tours of Scotland, Australia & China & attracted the notice of the internationally renowned John Doyle & Aaron Jones to produce their last two albums. This concert will be Pete’s last hurrah with the band before the Lancashire lad is gone awa’. No doubt it will be a bittersweet occasion but, sure, isn’t Celtic music like that; never totally sad nor totally happy. (Perhaps though, Pete is reckoning this January 4th concert to be his July 4th; his Independence Day.) It’s the last call then for you to see & hear Pete’s vibrant, virile vocals & his buoyant bouzouki brilliantly buttressing the intoxicating instrumentals with piper & whistle player David Brewer, fiddler John Weed & guitarist & mandola player Stu Mason. Fair warning - people have already made plans to fly in for this event from around the country so it would be ha-worthwhile to get your tickets & reservations in pronto. If ever a concert deserved to be called ‘not-to-be-missed,’ this is that concert. For more, visit [www.mollysrevenge.com](http://www.mollysrevenge.com).

**Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** – Famed New York City/Co. Sligo style fiddler **Tony DeMarco** makes a rare West Coast appearance with guitarist **Richard Mandel** for a workshop from 1pm to 3pm & an afternoon house concert at 4pm in Redwood City. For workshop & concert prices, directions & reservations, contact Jim Biggs at (510) 812-5360 or [rwchouseconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:rwchouseconcerts@gmail.com). DeMarco has been performing & teaching Irish fiddle music for more than 30 years; he is now regarded as one of the leading living exponents of New York City's Co. Sligo fiddle style. Indeed, Mick Moloney has written, 'It is hard to imagine the traditional music scene in New York without Tony DeMarco. The late Paddy Reynolds, Andy McGann & Martin Wynne were very influential on Tony's playing, as was the music of New York/Sligo fiddlers of the generation prior, including Michael Coleman, James Morrison, Paddy Killoran & James 'Lad' O'Beirne. Since Tony's landmark CD with fiddler Brian Conway in the early 80's, 'Apples in Winter,' now available again on Compass Records, not much was heard of Tony on recordings until he burst back with a vengeance a couple years with 'Sligo Indians' on the Smithsonian Folkways label. Tony is joined on this amazing album by a who's who of Irish & Celtic traditional music. No home could truly be called happy without a copy. For over 15 years, Mandel has been a mainstay of the Bay Area Irish music scene & currently tours & records with the top-notch trio, Three Mile Stone. Some notes from Tony about his workshop: I focus on teaching tunes from the many great Irish musicians that settled in the New York City area over the past half century & shaped the traditional scene here. The workshop is for all instruments. I teach basic, bare bones settings of tunes that students can try later at home so bring your recording devices. I find people like this all-instruments approach because they all leave with the same settings of the same tunes, which makes for more cohesive sessions & jams. I have had harps, cello, guitar, flute, concertina, accordion, etc... all learning together.' For more, visit [www.tonydemarcomusic.net](http://www.tonydemarcomusic.net).

**\*Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** – The Celtic Society of the Monterey Bay invites you to celebrate the 253rd anniversary of the birth of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, by attending a concert by Scots singer, songwriter, guitarist & harmonica player, **Jim Malcolm**, with special guests, fiddler **Deby Benton Grosjean** & Celtic harpist & woodwinds player **Shelley Phillips** performing a wee opening set, at Don Quixote's International Music Hall, 6275 Highway 9 in Felton at 7:30pm. Admission is \$16 advance/\$18 at the door or \$14 to Celtic Society members. Tickets are on sale online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/211066> & in person at the venue & from 11/26 at More Music, 512 Front St. in downtown Santa Cruz. For reservations, call the Don Quixote's hotline at (831) 603-2294 or contact the Celtic Society at (408) 847-6982 or [celtsoc@aol.com](mailto:celtsoc@aol.com). It is hard to imagine more congenial company with whom to share Burns' birthday than Jim Malcolm, for 8 years the lead singer of the popular Scottish ensemble, Old Blind Dogs & winner of the 2004 'Songwriter of the Year' & nominated more times than anyone else for 'Singer of the Year' from the prestigious Scots Trad Music Awards. Widely regarded as one of the leading interpreters of Burns' songs, these songs feature prominently in his concerts & on Jim's ten 'solo' CDs. One album is an all-Burns affair & another features a mammoth retelling by Malcolm, set to his original music, of Burn's epic, 'Tam O'Shanter.' Jim has also released on DVD his hilarious one-man-show as Burns entitled 'Bard Hair Day.' If this DVD doesn't have you rolling in the

Hebridean aisles, you might want to check for your pulse because you could be dead. And while Burns may be decomposing, Jim has been composing songs on themes familiar to Burns; writing eloquently of the joys & sorrows of love & the wonders of nature & indignantly towards those who abuse their position of power. Amongst a profusion of critical accolades accumulated by Jim are from *The Independent*, 'One of the most outstanding talents to have emerged the Scottish folk scene in years,' from *Living Tradition*, 'One of the finest singing voices in Scotland in any style,' from *Dirty Linen*, which Jim possessed 'One of those pure, warm folk voices that one never tires listening to' & the *Boston Globe* noting, Jim Malcolm's voice has the complex individuality of an aged single-malt whisky.' His concerts are always highly entertaining; accompanying himself with his glittering guitar & hearty harmonica on Burns songs, traditional ballads & puissant self-penned material with between songs banter of comic stories, jokes & humorous observations. And, as always with Jim, expect a surprise or two. Adding to his already enviable legacy of recordings & DVD, also on sale at the concert, being released a nanosecond before, will be Jim's latest, tentatively entitled 'Disaster for Scotland.' Don't let the title fool you, the recording will be entirely of comic ditties. We're delighted to have the lovely lagniappe of Deby Benton Grosjean, who recently had a sold-out Kuumbwa concert for her CD release of the marvelous 'Healing Well' & Shelley Phillips of the Coulter/Phillips Ensemble & many other groupings open the concert. Perhaps their participation will re-ignite memories of when the Community Music School of Santa Cruz presented annual Burns' Birthday concerts. For more, visit [www.jimmalcolm.com](http://www.jimmalcolm.com).

**\*Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>** – The Celtic Society of the Monterey Bay proudly present the legendary Irish singer, songwriter & bouzouki player **Andy Irvine** at Don Quixote's International Music Hall, 6275 Highway 9 in Felton at 7:30pm. Admission is \$16 advance/\$18 at the door or \$14 to Celtic Society members. Tickets are on sale now online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/211811>, at Don Quixote's & will go on sale on December 7th at More Music, 512 Front St. in Santa Cruz. For reservations, call the Don Quixote's hotline at (831) 603-2294 or contact Bob at the Celtic Society at [celtsoc@aol.com](mailto:celtsoc@aol.com) or (408) 847-6982. Celebrating the recent release of his critically acclaimed CD, 'Abocurragh,' Andy Irvine is one of the great Irish singers, among the handful that gets to the very soul of Ireland. Hailed in Dublin's *Hot Press* as 'a tradition unto himself,' Andy's highly individual performing skills have cheered by audiences around the world from the mid-60's with the groundbreaking band Sweeney's Men & the enormous success with Planxty in the 70's to the Irish supergroup Patrick Street since the 80's & also currently with the world music powerhouse Mozaik. As a solo performer, Andy fills the role as an archetypal troubadour reflecting his traveling lifestyle & life-long influence Woody Guthrie in a rich & varied repertoire of traditional Irish ballads, dexterous Balkan dance tunes, American songs & a compelling canon of original compositions. Irvine has been praised by his peers; Dick Gaughan has written, 'Andy is one of the most creative persons and talented persons it has ever been my privilege to work with. Great company, superb singer, genius of a musician, truly original songwriter and an inspiration to us all –what more could anyone ask?' & Si Kahn observed, 'Andy Irvine is Ireland's Woody Guthrie, with a philosopher's ear and a prophet's passionate voice... a stunning singer and instrumentalist who weaves melody and texture, harmony

and rhythm, into a rich tapestry of present and past.’ As the *Sydney Morning News* pointed out, ‘What makes an evening with Irvine so special is that every note he picks and every line he sings comes from the heart. Everything he touches is performed with honesty and conviction and his playing is never less than breathtaking. By any measure, Irvine is one of the towering talents on the international folk scene.’

For more, visit his website at [www.andyirvine.com](http://www.andyirvine.com).

**\*Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** – The Celtic Society of the Monterey Bay proudly present two concerts, co-produced in Pacific Grove with More Music & in Felton, by the charismatic Celtic fiddler **Athena Tergis** & the brilliant Bay Area singer & guitarist **Kyle Alden** at the following:

**\*Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – Athena & Kyle** will be appearing at St. Mary’s by-the-Sea, 146 12th St., (at Central), in Pacific Grove at 7:30pm.

Admission is \$16 advance/\$18 at the door or \$14 to Celtic Society members.

Tickets are on sale now online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/211966> & will go on sale on December 7th at Bookmark, 307 Forest Ave. in Pacific Grove where payment is accepted in cash or check. For out of town reservations & info, contact Bob at the Celtic Society at [celtsoc@aol.com](mailto:celtsoc@aol.com) or (408) 847-6982.

**\*Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** – at Don Quixote’s International Music Hall, 6275 Highway 9 in Felton at the early start of 7pm.

Admission is \$16 advance/\$18 at the door or \$14 to Celtic Society members.

Tickets are on sale now online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/211976> & at the venue & will go on sale on January 4th at More Music, 512 Front St. in Santa Cruz. For reservations, call the Don Quixote’s hotline at (831) 603-2294 or contact Bob at the Celtic Society at [celtsoc@aol.com](mailto:celtsoc@aol.com) or (408) 847-6982.

The evening will feature high-octane Irish reels & jigs featuring Tergis’ famed ferocious attacking style (after all, her name is an anagram for ‘tigers’) & selections from Kyle & Athena’s, with mandolin player Mike Marshall, new CD, ‘Songs from Yeats’ Bee-Loud Glade,’ 13 poems by William Butler Yeats that have been set to music by Kyle in traditional Irish & American styles. The day after the album’s CD release concert, blogger Roland Nikles enthused, ‘ Kyle & Athena managed to bring the poems to life... they made them sound fresh and true, rather like they wrote the music and then asked Yeats to come back and be the librettist.’ An alum of Alasdair Fraser’s Valley of the Moon fiddle camp, Athena won the Junior National Scottish Fiddling Championship three years in a row & recorded her first album, ‘Journey Begun,’ at the age of sixteen with fellow fiddler Laura Risk. She immersed herself in Irish music, living in Ireland for four years & touring with the Sharon Shannon Band until she was invited to star as the principle instrumentalist of the mega-hit, ‘Riverdance,’ on Broadway in New York. Following her year and half run in ‘Riverdance,’ Athena recorded the gorgeous ‘solo’ recording of mostly traditional tunes, ‘A Letter Home,’ produced by & featuring guitarist John Doyle, with whom she later toured. Athena also tours & records with the esteemed traditional Irish ensemble, ‘Green Fields of America’ & was featured in the award-winning documentary on PBS, ‘Absolutely Irish!’ Athena recently performed in a limited

concert run in New York with Riverdance composer Bill Whelan which led the *Irish Voice* to rave, 'Once or twice in a decade, if you're lucky, you'll get a chance to hear a fiddler this gifted and Terigis – who has a dancer's build and often embodies the music she's playing – is the kind of musician who might have inspired Irish poets like William Butler Yeats to dream his mighty dreams.' Alden has toured Ireland with the Bay Area's popular Irish trad band, The Gas Men, toured nationally with the American/Irish outfit, The Mild Colonial Boys, performed in concert with such Irish traditional luminaries as Paddy Keenan & Tommy Peoples & performed solo on stages, showcasing his strong songwriting skills, from Co. Galway to San Francisco. For more info, visit the websites at [www.kylealden.com](http://www.kylealden.com) and [www.athena.cd](http://www.athena.cd).

**\*Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** – Pippa Siersema & the Celtic Society of the Monterey Bay proudly present a house concert on Summit Rd. in the Santa Cruz Mts. of the joyous traditional Irish music of East Clare with button accordionist extraordinaire **Andrew MacNamara**, fiery fiddler **Orla Harrington** & the gifted guitarist, singer & fiddler **Ged Foley**. There will be a potluck from 7pm & the music begins at 8pm. Admission is \$20 or \$17 to Celtic Society members. For reservations, contact Pippa at [pippasiersema@yahoo.com](mailto:pippasiersema@yahoo.com) or (408) 353-4366. The tree of Irish music has many branches. But if you follow the branch back to the trunk & go down the trunk to the earthy roots, this is where you'll find the music of tonight's performers. The lively lift of Andrew's accordion has delighted audiences around the globe from his tours with the famed Tulla Ceili Band, the Irish traditional group Skylark & his own ensemble, The Lahawns. Orla is one of Ireland's brightest young fiddlers, touring with Michael Flatley's 'Lord of the Dance.' The discovery of box of old reel to reel tapes containing many unusual tunes in the attic of the Harrington household in East Clare, led to the release of Andrew & Orla's marvelous CD with percussionist Jim Higgins, 'Flagstone Memories.' Filling in for Jim on this tour, Ged has been a member of some of the finest trad bands of our time; the Battlefield Band, the House Band, Patrick Street & the Celtic Fiddle Festival. The craic will indeed be mighty; hope you can join us. For more, visit [www.andrewmacnamara.com](http://www.andrewmacnamara.com).

**\*Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>** – The Celtic Society of the Monterey Bay proudly present two concerts, in Felton & co-produced by More Music in Pacific Grove by **The Black Brothers Band** featuring **Shay & Michael Black** from Ireland's first family of song, The Black Family. The Black Brothers Band appears at:

**\*Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** – at Don Quixote's International Music Hall, 6275 Highway 9 in Felton at 8pm. Admission is \$20 advance/\$22 at the door or \$18 to Celtic Society members. Tickets are now on sale online at

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/211886> at Don Quixote's & will go on sale on January 4th at More Music, 512 Front St. in Santa Cruz. For reservations, call the Don Quixote's hotline at (831) 603-2294 or contact Bob at the Celtic Society at [celtsoc@aol.com](mailto:celtsoc@aol.com) or (408) 847-6982.

**\*Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>** – at the Chautauqua Hall, 162 16th St. (at Central) in Pacific Grove at the early start of 7pm. Admission is \$20 advance/\$22 at the door or \$18 to Celtic Society members. Tickets are now on sale online at

**[www.http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/211888](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/211888)** & will go on sale on January 4th at Bookmark, 307 Forest Ave. in Pacific Grove where payment is accepted in cash or check. For out of town reservations & info, contact Bob at the Celtic Society at [celtsoc@aol.com](mailto:celtsoc@aol.com) or (408) 847-6982.

There's no better way to either get in a merry mood for or to continue the festivities of St. Patrick's Day than by imbibing a concert with The Black Brothers Band. The singing siblings, Shay & Michael, have recorded three albums with their sisters & brother, Mary, Frances & Martin that have gone 'Gold' in Ireland. With Martin they have released the CD, 'What a Time,' which led the *Irish Echo* to rave, 'One of the most impressive groups of Irish singers to be found anywhere... exquisite, exhilarating and nothing short of thrilling,' & Michael Black's eponymous 'solo' CD, produced by John Doyle, was short-listed for a Grammy nomination. The Blacks adroitly accompany their sheer joy of singing, either in stirring solos or heavenly harmonies, with banjo, cittern & guitar. In concert they are joined by fiddle virtuoso Bobbi Nikles, celestial cellist Myra Joy, sparkling keyboardist Bryan Seet & dazzling San Francisco Rose of Tralee winner, Irish step dancer & accordionist Aislin Roche. Performances include a lot of up tempo Irish reels & jigs, Irish ballads sung in English & Irish, Dublin street songs, music hall ditties & contemporary compositions, with a special fondness for songs with choruses for the audience to join in, all peppered throughout with comic stories, jokes & humorous childhood anecdotes. Concertgoers invariably leave grinning broadly & happily humming choruses. For more, visit **[www.black-brothers.com](http://www.black-brothers.com)**.

**\*Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** – The Celtic Society of the Monterey Bay proudly presents the radiant Irish singer **Karan Casey** & stellar Irish guitarist & singer **John Doyle** at Kuumbwa, 320 Cedar St. in Santa Cruz at 7:30pm. Admission is \$20 advance/\$22 at the door or \$18 to Celtic Society members. Tickets are now on sale online **<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/212085>** & will go sale on January 25th at More Music, 512 Front St. in Santa Cruz. For reservations, call Ariel at (831) 336-9810 or contact Bob at [celtsoc@aol.com](mailto:celtsoc@aol.com) or (408) 847-6982. Much more in our next issue on this special reunion concert by the founding members and heart & soul of Solas, Karan & John's potent musical partnership so memorably captured on their recent dazzling duo Compass Records release, 'Exiles Return.' Briefly though, 5 acclaimed CDs into her solo career & a Grammy winner for her collaboration with Paul Winter, Karan is widely regarded as one of the finest singer Ireland has ever produced; twice been voted by *Irish Music Magazine* as 'Best Female Traditional/Folk Artist, hailed in the *Wall Street Journal* as 'One of the true glories of Irish music today,' in *USA Today* as 'shiver-inducingly excellent;' made the *Irish Echo* proclaim, 'Seeing and hearing Karan Casey in concert constitutes an event' & had the *Associated Press* rave, 'A voice so beautiful it's almost impossible to avoid falling under her spell.' Called by *Irish Edition*, 'John Doyle has a magical touch ... a dream guitarist,' Doyle has been receiving increasing plaudits for his superb singing. (Doyle is a born singer; just correctly anagram his name.) John has released three 'solo' CDs, been a Grammy nominee for his triumphant triumvirate of recordings with fiddler Liz Carroll & currently tours a musical director & guitarist with folksinger Joan Baez. For more, visit the websites at **[www.karancasey.com](http://www.karancasey.com)** and **[www.johndoylemusic.com](http://www.johndoylemusic.com)**.