

# FACT SHEET 2018 Dayton Celtic Festival

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Title: The United Irish of Dayton Celtic Festival, presented by United Irish of Dayton, in partnership with Five Rivers MetroParks.

Festival Times:

Fri., July 27, 5.30-11 p.m.

Sat., July 28, 11.30 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Sun., July 29, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Location:

RiverScape MetroPark, 111 E. Monument Avenue, Dayton Ohio and surrounding streets

Information:

Visit [www.daytoncelticfestival.com](http://www.daytoncelticfestival.com) or call (937) 372-9788 for more information.

Description appearing in Five Rivers MetroParks Parkways magazine:

Downtown Dayton comes to life with the sights and sounds of Ireland, Scotland and Wales at the seventeenth Annual Dayton Celtic Festival. FOUR stages offer continuous live musical and dance entertainment with audience seating under-cover. Enjoy Celtic arts and language, cultural demonstrations, children's activities, food, beverage, a Gaelic Mass and Celtic breakfast on Sunday and lots more FREE family-friendly fun!

Festival Factoids:

- FREE!
- RAIN OR SHINE
- DAYTON'S LARGEST DOWNTOWN FESTIVAL
- Celebrating its 17<sup>th</sup> year
- An estimated 90,000 people visited the three-day festival last year
- SEVEN headliner bands
- Voted Best of Dayton 2016-2017 by Dayton Magazine
- Featuring authentic Irish beverages and craft beers
- 50/50 Raffle
- Whiskey tastings on Saturday and Sunday

Headliner Bands:

**Gaelic Storm**

*Fan favorite Gaelic Storm returns to headline the 2018 Dayton Celtic Festival. Gaelic Storm has straddled the line between tradition and innovation for nearly two decades, infusing traditional Celtic music with modern influences, and updating the genre for a new generation of fans raised on rock, country and folk. Along the way, the group has topped the Billboard World Chart four times and earned a reputation as a hard-touring, genre-bending band. Gaelic Storm has sold out hundreds of theatres and performing arts centers and has now played to audiences totaling in the millions.*

### **Scythian**

*A Dayton Celtic Festival fan favorite, Scythian (sith-ee-yin) returns for their tenth appearance at the Dayton Celtic Festival. Rousing and raucous, Scythian plays kicked-up Celtic and world music with hints of Gypsy and Klezmer, all infused with a touch of punk-rock sensibility. Their immigrant rock sound is saturated with thunderous energy, technical prowess and storytelling songwriting, which beckons crowds into a barn-dance rock concert experience.*

### **Socks in the Frying Pan**

*Socks in the Frying Pan returns for their fifth year as traditional headliners for the 2018 festival. The band includes a multi-award-winning trio from County Clare on the west coast of Ireland, the universal hub of Irish traditional music. Their dynamic vocal harmonies, virtuosic musical ability and onstage wit has captured and captivated audiences the world around. Socks in the Frying Pan consists of Aodán Coyne on guitar and vocals and the accomplished Hayes brothers, Shane Hayes on accordion and Fiachra Hayes on fiddle and banjo. This youthful trio blends Irish traditional melodies with their own personal flair, which has gained them critical acclaim and accolades including 'New Band of the Year' by the Irish Music Association. The group has been embraced in the United States, having been booked by every major Irish festival and praised for their modern traditional style and energetic approach to music. They have a clear love for live performance, which only compliments the traditional essence in their shows and makes for a truly unique form of entertainment.*

### **We Banjo 3**

*Back for their fourth year at the Dayton Celtic Festival, Award-winning quartet We Banjo 3 from Galway, Ireland, combines Irish Music with old-time American and Bluegrass influences to reveal the banjo's rich legacy and roots. We Banjo 3 plays with swing and soul, effortlessly combining the best of Irish and Bluegrass banjo music and song, mining the rich vein of the American old-time tradition and thoroughly reinventing the banjo band sound. Modern rhythms, traditional melodies, virtuosic technique and innovative arrangements of music and song add up to an incredible feast of banjo and mandolin music.*

### **Heron Valley**

*Heron Valley makes its debut at Dayton Celtic Festival in 2018 with a unique Scottish sound and energetic performance. Heron Valley tours as a 5-piece line-up in the U.S. The band will convey their unique Scottish sound and energetic performance to ensure their audiences are absorbed by the enthusiasm. This will consist of a lineup of Bagpipes, Fiddle, Vocals, Whistles, Banjo, Guitar, Piano, Drums, Bass and any other instrument they can get their hands on! In addition, Heron Valley is an extremely friendly group of individuals who love to travel the world, and so the opportunity to play music in the U.S. only adds to their energy on stage!*

### **Rory Makem**

*Rory Makem makes his Dayton Celtic Festival debut in 2018! A seasoned performer with over 25 years on the road, Rory has toured extensively with The Makem and Spain Brothers and for 17 years toured and played guitar with his father, the legendary Tommy Makem. He has entertained countless sold-out venues, festivals, and theaters throughout the United States, Canada, England, Scotland and Ireland. At his best on stage, Rory captivates audiences with his skilled musicianship, his charisma and passion for the songs, his extensive knowledge of poetry and history, and his humor.*

### **The Fitzgeralds**

*The Fitzgeralds, making a return appearance at the Dayton Celtic Festival, are a family group consisting of fiddling and step dancing sensations - Tom, Kerry & Julie Fitzgerald (the youngest members of Everything Fitz). These siblings, from Canada's renowned Ottawa Valley, have come a long way from their small-town roots. Featuring 3-time Canadian Grandmaster Fiddle Champions and Ontario Open Step Dance Champions, this unique act features high-energy fiddling and mind-blowing step dancing. It is the rare combination of exceptional musicianship, incomparable step dancing, audience interaction, evident love of performing, and genuine sibling connection that resonates with audiences of all ages and sets this group apart.*

### Regional Entertainers:

Ceili with Éamónn de Cógáin  
Celtic Academy of Irish Dance  
Celtic Font  
Dulahan  
Dwyer School of Irish Dance  
Father Son and Friends  
Fin Tan  
Jameson's Folly  
Mary's Lane  
McGovern Ceili Dancers  
Miami Valley Pipes and Drums  
9 Castle Close  
Sons O'Blarney  
The Drowsy Lads  
The Roving Rogues  
Wild Colonial Bhoys  
Wild Rumpus

### Sponsors

Presenter: United Irish of Dayton, Inc.

Festival Partner: Five Rivers MetroParks

Sponsors: Murphy's Stout/Heidelberg Distributing; Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway; WDTN/Dayton's CW; Key Ads; Five Rivers MetroParks; Coca-Cola; Culture Ireland; Westendorf Printing; DaytonLocal.com; O'Diam & Stecker Law Group; Ohio Arts Council; University of Dayton; Greater Dayton RTA; Dublin Pub; Chase; Water Street District; Dayton City Paper; Delco Lofts; and Hammerman, Graf, Hughes.

### Festival Featured Attractions:

- FOUR stages of continuous entertainment; all under cover
- Visit our Culture area, complete with the following new workshops:
  - Cindy Thomson, Author. Researching her Scots-Irish roots launched a writing journey that has lasted nearly 2 decades. Being a genealogy enthusiast, she has also published articles in Internet Genealogy and Your Genealogy Today magazines. Cindy and her husband Tom live in central Ohio near their three grown sons and their families. Visit her at [www.cindyswriting.com](http://www.cindyswriting.com) or on Facebook and Twitter.
  - Cathy Jo Smith: Storyteller & The Irish Wake: The Irish Wake attempts to explain in a family-friendly way many of the customs and traditions associated with the 3-day period of mourning as it was observed in Ireland. More information about Cathy Jo's stories and the Irish Wake can be found at [www.irishteller.com](http://www.irishteller.com).
  - Mai Herson, Singer/Dancer: Traditional singer/dancer from Gurteen, County Sligo, Ireland. She has four CDs on the market and has toured Ireland, England, Europe, and America. This is her fourth year performing and conducting workshops at the

Dayton Celtic Festival. To learn more about Mai, visit her website [www.maihernonirishtradsinger.com](http://www.maihernonirishtradsinger.com).

- Michael Vignoles, based in Galway, Ireland, is a musician and maker of traditional Uilleann pipes and bodhran drums. He will be joining the Dayton Celtic Festival for a third year for workshops on his instruments, as well as conversation and demonstrations throughout the weekend. To learn more, please visit his website at [www.michaelvignoles.com](http://www.michaelvignoles.com) or email him at [michaelvp60@gmail.com](mailto:michaelvp60@gmail.com).
- Meet the magnificent Irish wolfhound, the world's tallest breed of dog. Once prized as the war dog of the Celts, this canine is now known as the gentle giant. It was the dog of royalty in medieval times. During the Celtic Revival, the wolfhound became a symbol of Irish nationalism. See these amazing dogs up close, pet them, and maybe get a free Celtic kiss!
- Dayton Area Rugby Club (DARC) & Five Rivers Youth Rugby Foundation (FRYRF). Rugby first came to Dayton, Ohio, in the fall of 1969 when a group of University of Dayton students played their first rugby match. In the years that followed, the interest in the sport evolved to establish official club rugby in 1973 and squads in the Dayton area have been successful ever since. In 1979, Dayton rugby saw the creation of the first women's squad, and in 1999, it was reformed into the present-day women's team. Today, DARC is a rugby union club dedicated to the promotion and growth of the sport. For more information on how to get involved, or even just to come out and watch one of their matches, visit [www.daytonrugby.com](http://www.daytonrugby.com).
- Terence O'Leary, Irish-American author. Mr. O'Leary's five critically acclaimed, realistic coming-of-age novels focus on teenagers facing a family crisis. Aside from sharing his novels during the festival, Mr. O'Leary will also talk about life in Ireland during the time of the Great Hunger. He will discuss how the Potato Famine not only changed the destiny of Ireland, but also America. For more information, email: [terry@terenceoleary.com](mailto:terry@terenceoleary.com) or visit [www.terenceoleary.com](http://www.terenceoleary.com).
- Gaeltacht Midwest provides introductory Irish (Gaelic) language instruction to attendees and connection with other Irish-learning opportunities in the Midwest, US, and abroad. To learn more about their programming, please visit them at [www.facebook.com/indianacelticcommunity](http://www.facebook.com/indianacelticcommunity)
- Miami Valley Knitting Guild (MVKG) members put Irish craftsmanship at their skilled fingertips as they demonstrate Aran knitting. The Aran sweater is an integral part of Irish heritage, with a long history linked to the farming and fishing families of Connemara and the three Aran islands off Connemara's coast. Information is available on Facebook, Meetup, [ravelry.com](http://ravelry.com), and at [mvkg.org](http://mvkg.org).
- Staff members of the Dayton Metro Library's Genealogy Department will provide an overview of resources available, specifically the Irish and British Isles sources within their collection. For more information on the resources, events, and workshops available, visit Dayton Metro Library Genealogy Center's website at: <http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/locations/history>.
- Bro. Andrew J. Kosmowski, SM, of the University of Dayton's Marian Library will present Celtic Catholic Faith Practices: The Catholic Church has affected the Celtic lands

for centuries. He will also present on significant aspects of Catholic spirituality from the Celtic areas, including saints, Marian devotion, and its rich history of illuminated manuscripts.

- Introduction to Irish Music: This workshop will take a big picture look at what makes Irish music...Irish! Get a chance to hear tunes, songs, and explanations from some of the Dayton Celtic Festival's top Irish and American headliners. Feel free to come ready with questions. Participating Artists: Shane Hayes: accordion and vocals (Socks in the Frying Pan); David Howleylead vocals and guitar (We Banjo 3); Daniel McKewen: guitar, uilleann pipes, and bodhran (The Drowsy Lads).
- Tim Garner, member of the Southern Ohio Forge and Anvil (SOFA), will be onsite along with other SOFA members to demonstrate traditional blacksmithing. Come learn more about the technique and art of blacksmithing while watching them create various pieces. To learn more about their organization please visit [www.sofablacksmiths.org](http://www.sofablacksmiths.org).
- Bill Evans of Evans Bakery will be leading workshops on the art of bread making, specifically Irish Soda Bread. Come join as he shares the steps, ingredients, and process of making this Irish favorite. Evans Bakery, Dayton family owned and operated since 1969, is located in Old North Dayton and serves fresh baked breads, pastries, and various other treats daily. Visit them on Troy Street or check out their Facebook page to learn more.
- Celtic Marketplace
- Whiskey tastings on Saturday and Sunday
- Children's Area
- Parade of Kilts, Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m., Sunday following Gaelic Mass
- Gaelic Mass on Sunday, July 29 at 10 a.m.
- Celtic Breakfast on Sunday, July 29 starting at 9 a.m.
- 50/50 Raffle

#### Accommodations

Special festival rates are available at the Crowne Plaza Downtown Dayton, 33 East Fifth Street, 937-224-0800.