

Weekly Update from O'Shea Irish Dance Administrator

Friday, May 1, 2020

Important Dates - Mark Your Calendars

- **From their living rooms to yours. Special virtual concerts!**
 - **May 2 - [Harpist and Singer Hannah Flowers](#)**
 - Grab a cup of tea, or something stronger, your quarantine pal or furry friend, and settle in for a relaxing evening. Join her (virtually) on the CJAC FB Page live at 7:30pm and leave thoughts of pandemics and toilet paper shortages behind for an hour and be transported by songs telling tales of love and loss and uplifted by her favorite traditional melodies and tunes.
- ***May 9 - OID Spring Recitals ONLINE 2-6pm, by age/class!***
 - VIRTUAL Recitals - by class (**see attached schedule and instructions**). Immediate families will join the Zoom recital and all loved ones can watch a recording of their dancer's recital after the recital is complete!
 - We are going to show off our fabulous dancers in our PreSchool, Beginner and Primary level classes in a VIRTUAL recital this year. We will record each recital and share links to the videos on our OID Families Facebook group and will provide links to videos that can be shared with Grandmas, Grandpas, Aunties, Uncles and friends who want to see you DANCE!

Latest Guidance on COVID-19

While Governor Walz has allowed some businesses to return to work, schools remain closed through the end of the school year and the stay home order has been extended until May 18. As most of you know, OID follows St. Paul Public Schools regarding school closings. As such, we will also remain online through May assessing when and how we'll be able to open for live classes. We continue to monitor information from the state, the City of Saint Paul and the CDC. State info can be found [here](#) and the City of Saint Paul's info is [here](#).

CJAC Online: Free "Celtic Cuties" class & Summer Irish Language Classe

CIM plans to offer their weekly Celtic Cuties class online via Zoom this summer. If you would like to be notified when registration opens, please send your email address to admin@centerforirishmusic.org.

What is Celtic Cuties? Celtic Cuties is for ages 0-4. Little ones will learn rhymes (written by CJAC's Irish Language instructor Lavinia Finnerty (more on her classes below), finger plays and songs that will introduce them to Irish music and dance. This is a parent/grandparent participation class, and a great way to connect with other families who are interested in Irish culture.

CJAC's Irish College of Minnesota will be offering a beginning Irish language course for the summer. Stay tuned for details, out Tuesday!

Eoin McKiernan Library Story Time!

If you haven't seen them already, children of all ages (three to 103!) should check out the [Celtic Junction Arts Center Facebook page](#) for Natalie's daily readings of children's stories from the Eoin McKiernan Library collection.

Links to Online Classes and Info

Links to class specific info and the weekly schedule of Zoom classes can be found on the following pages on the Damhsa site:

- [Class Levels](#)
- [Schedule of Online Classes](#)

Pointers for Online Classes

Thanks to dancers and families for working to make our online classes work. We recognize that this temporary solution is new, and perhaps some extra work, but the results have been great. Please note the following:

- Please try to position your dance space as near to your wifi source as possible. It really helps to have clear video for dancers and for your teachers so they can see your feet moving in time with your rhythm.
- Finally, please work to be warmed up and ready for class before the Zoom session starts.

For other details, please see our "[Family Guide to Zoom classes](#)" which contains most of the details we had thought of before classes started online (i.e. make sure they have water bottles near their screen, so we can take water breaks together).

LOOK FOR YOUR NEXT WEEKLY UPDATE ON FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2020