



Failte Festival
March 15-17, 2019
Charles A. Brown Ice House
Bethlehem, PA



Timlin & Kane have been playing for audiences throughout the East Coast and beyond for over 38 years. Gerry was born in Ireland where he developed an early interest in traditional Irish music and Tom Kane, born in Philadelphia of Irish/Welsh stock, heard the music from his earliest remembrances. Over the years, Gerry's love of music expanded to include Scottish, American, Canadian, and Australian folk music as well. He moved to the USA in the early seventies where he teamed up with Tom. While playing the clubs and pubs of that time, Gerry and Tom played popular folk music and began to incorporate more Irish traditional and folk music that their audiences continue to enjoy. <http://www.gerrytimlin.com>



Robert Watt The world champion piper, who hails from the small town of Maghera Ireland, has achieved many of the highest awards for solo piping and pipe band playing. His diversity and talent represents Celtic music from the ancient Piobairechd to the modern day. As well as the Great Highland Bagpipe, Robert also plays a range of Irish whistles and the bellows blown Lowland and Border Pipes. Some of his achievements for solo piping competitions and performances include the prestigious Highland Society of London's Silver Medal for Piobaireachd, a record seven times winner of the MacCrimmon Trophy at the world's greatest Celtic Festival in Lorient Brittany, several 'All Ireland' titles and many others throughout the USA, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Africa and Asia. Robert has also played for a number of years as part of the world famous Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band at the highest level in band competition. When not on the road performing and teaching he enjoys living in Austria on 'The Green Hills of Tyrol,' where he finds much inspiration for many of his compositions. <http://www.robertwatt.co.uk>



Seamus Kennedy was first influenced by the legendary Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem. From them he learned the importance of being a solid musician and an all-round entertainer. With a thorough knowledge of the traditional and contemporary songs of Ireland and Scotland, he is equally proficient with American music. Originally from Belfast, but now based in Annapolis, MD, he has been entertaining audiences all over the United States from Alaska to Florida, from Maryland to California for more than four decades. An accomplished guitarist with a ready wit and a vast store of songs, he travels the country making folks laugh, sing and forget their cares

for a while. Kennedy's ability to combine a total command of the music with humor makes him unique in the industry. His many recordings (16 at last count) show his diversity, and feature something for everyone, from the silly to the serious, from instrumentals to a capella vocals, with a healthy dose of humor thrown in. Daft ditties, children's songs, and tongue twisters are all grist for his mill. <http://www.seamuskennedy.com>



Alison Gillespie has been performing and teaching Celtic fiddle and classical violin for over thirty years. She performs currently with Celtic groups Blackwater and Banna Lach, and in a duo with Celtic harpist Joanna Mell, as well as with the award-winning band Big Valley Bluegrass. She teaches in the Music Department at Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA, where she directs the Moravian College Celtic Ensemble, and also at the River Valley Waldorf School in Bridgeton, PA, and at her home-based studio in Center Valley, PA. Alison hosts a monthly traditional Celtic music session at Braveheart Highland Pub in Hellertown, PA, and is founder of the Celtic Classic Fiddle Competition, now in its 22nd year. She is also in demand as a workshop technician, recording artist, and lecturer.



Joanna Mell has been playing and singing Celtic music since the age of 4 years old, when her mother brought home a record of Celtic folk songs. She played guitar, mandolin and keyboards and sang in a Celtic band in the 1980s and 1990s, performing at Celtic Classic in Bethlehem, PA, the Philadelphia Ceili Group Irish Festival in Philadelphia, PA and many folk clubs and Celtic festivals throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware. In 1985, she discovered the Celtic harp and has spent the last 34 years performing as a harpist, singer and storyteller all over the United States. She has been a featured performer and workshop presenter at the Somerset Folk Harp Festival, HarpCon, South Eastern

Harp Weekend, and Harp in Worship Conference, as well as many other venues throughout the Lehigh and Delaware Valleys and California. She was a featured artist with Kerry Irish Productions in California from 2013 through 2017, and performed with the John Alexander Singers at the Segerstrom Center in Orange County, California. She has recorded six CDs and published 14 books of harp music. She enjoys performing with Alison Gillespie at numerous festivals and other venues throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Joanna has also been a therapeutic harpist for hospice organizations and hospitals since 1993. <http://www.joannamell.com>

