



IDTANA DANCER NEWSLETTER

Issue 1: July 2020



WELCOME!

TO THE INAUGURAL ISSUE OF THE IDTANA DANCER NEWSLETTER

For all of us who are part of the IDTANA, this marks a very important step in our ongoing efforts to reach out to all Irish Dancers in North America. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these efforts are more important than ever. We know dancers (and teachers) across the continent are missing in-person classes. We also understand the heartbreaking loss of significant events like St. Patrick's Day performances and parades, local feiseanna, and major championships from Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne to our very own North American Irish Dance Championships. We are very hopeful that this unique newsletter will help us keep everyone informed about exciting developments across our Irish Dance community. It also gives us a chance to share with all of you fun facts, cultural history, and so much more.

This is YOUR newsletter! To that end, start brainstorming on a newsletter name – we'll choose a Top FIVE from the entries and then allow you to VOTE. Submit your ideas via [THIS LINK!](#) We know that Irish dancers are creatives so check out "The Rising Step" space and send us your Irish dance related poems, artwork and short stories to be highlighted.

Special thanks to Allison Weber Erickson, ADCRG, our Corresponding Secretary, who has done a truly amazing job in developing this newsletter and preparing the first edition to share with you. We know that communication is so important in our fast-paced world, where so much is happening, and we hope that you find our evolving newsletter informative and useful.

Enjoy!
Russell J. Beaton
President, IDTANA, Inc.



**CONNECT WITH
IDTANA**

www.idtana.org

Like Us on Facebook!
[@irishdanceteachers](#)

Follow Us on Instagram
[@idtana](#)

Visit our YouTube Channel
[IDTANA Irish Dance](#)

IDTANA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Congratulations to our 2020 scholarship recipients who hail from every region across North America and embody academic success!

The Peter J. Smith SDCRG Award (\$2,000)

Mia Torrance (McTeggart, CO)

The Dennis Dennehy SDCRG Award (\$2,000)

Carly Hoy (Rochester Academy, NY)

The Eddie Irwin ADCRG Award (\$2,000)

Ryan Benevento (Anam Cara, CT)

The Tim O'Hare ADCRG Award (\$2,000)

Hannah Dwyer (Doherty Petri, NY)



2020 IDTANA
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS

[View the
2020 IDTANA Scholarship Video
on our YouTube Channel!](#)



CYRIL MCNIFF ADCRG AWARDS (\$500)

Abigail Smith (Brady-Campbell, OH)

Aidan Murphy Zink (Griffith Academy, CT)

Amanda Johnston (Watters, FL)

Annie Fyfe (Brady Academy, Saskatoon CAN)

Cami Tovin (Flanagan-O'Hare, FL)

Charlotte Granahan (VA)

Elyse Wills (Casey-O'Loughlin, Calgary CAN)

Emma Coning (Celtic Academy, OH)

Gabriella Mezzich (Doherty Petri, NY)

Haleigh Twomey (NY)

Hannah Logar (Whelan Academy, CA)

Jessica DeBuse (Southern Academy, TN)

**IDTANA, WITH THE SUPPORT OF NORTHWEST
DESIGNS, HAS AWARDED OVER \$250,000 IN
SCHOLARSHIPS OVER THE LAST EIGHT YEARS.**

Jordan McCarthy (PA)

Kate McCarthy (McTeggart, CO)

Kinsey Walker (Hurley, MD)

Margaret Alexander (Scoil Rince Ni Riada, UT)

Meg Ulrich (Coyle, PA)

Molly Laumakis (O'Shea, MN)

Rose Schnabel (Richens Timm, IN)

Sasha Nelson (Tara Academy, WA)

Savana Martin (Hooley, PA)

Shannon Booth (Bell, PA)

Shannon Lyne (O'Donnell, Toronto CAN)

Therese Salamone (O'Kennedy-Holland, OH)

The scholarship program was named for named for **Cyril McNiff, ADCRG.**

He was a very talented dance teacher in the New York area, originally from Northern Ireland.

TRADITIONAL SET CHALLENGE

The IDTANA Board is happy to announce the IDTANA Traditional Set Dance Proficiency Project for all IDTANA dancers!

Our GOAL is for dancers from IDTANA dancing schools to LEARN a Traditional Set Dance and be able to perform it accurately from beginning to end with music at the approved tempo.

We CHALLENGE all dancers, regardless of training level or competitive level, to work with their dance teachers to learn one or MORE of the seven Traditional Set Dances to a level of proficiency.

This is NOT a competition, and dancers will NOT be compared to one another!

The IDTANA Traditional Set Proficiency Project is about celebrating tradition and having fun while doing so. IDTANA dancers will receive a certificate after demonstrating proficiency in a Traditional Set Dance. Any dancer who receives a certificate of proficiency in all seven Traditional Set Dances will then receive the Presidential Award for Proficiency+, signed by the IDTANA President, and will be featured in IDTANA publications.

Interested dancers should reach out to your teacher for more information!

IDTANA TRADITIONAL SET PROFICIENCY PROJECT A TRADITIONAL SET CHALLENGE FOR IDTANA DANCERS!

Our GOAL is for dancers from IDTANA dancing schools to LEARN a Traditional Set Dance and be able to perform it accurately from beginning to end with music at the approved tempo.

We CHALLENGE all dancers, regardless of training level or competitive level, to work with their dance teachers to learn one or MORE of the seven Traditional Set Dances to a level of proficiency.

**HEAVY SHOES ON
LET'S GET STARTED!**



WWW.IDTANA.ORG

CELEBRATING TRADITION

- The primary goal of IDTANA is "to promulgate the culture generated by Irish dancing."
- One of the most important components of Irish Dance is the group of dances known as the Traditional Set Dances.
- Traditional Set Dances are a major part of the overall history of our treasured art form.
- They were created by a variety of dance masters over a period of many years to showcase skill sets that represent most of the building blocks of hard shoe dancing, which is so important in our unique art form.
- Although contemporary choreography in hard shoe dances includes a great many additional skills and techniques, the basic elements of the seven traditional set dances help dancers to perform all hard shoe dances with more precise execution and greater rhythmic accuracy.

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR'S TABLE

Ever wonder what items an adjudicator **MUST HAVE** to perform their job? Once an adjudicator sits down at the judging table, the focus is on the dancers and the dancers alone. However, like any professional, there are certain "tools of the trade" that an adjudicator **MUST HAVE** on or at the adjudicator table. We asked adjudicators from each North America region to share their **MUST HAVE** items when judging. Enjoy their answers and some of their funny insights as well!

Mid-America

John Timm, ADCRG – Richens Timm



- Eye glasses
- High quality pen that doesn't smudge
- Pad folio with note pad for personal notes
- Gum...so I don't have to drink too much water, which in turn helps reduce bathroom breaks
- Bell...for any mishaps or when I need to get the attention of the stage monitor

Mid-Atlantic

Karen Petri, ADCRG & Lisa Petri, ADCRG
Doherty Petri



Karen's Must Haves

- Chapstick
- Tissues
- Water
- Wrap for chilly temps
- Pen

Lisa's Must Haves

- Coffee
- Wrap for chilly temps
- Big button calculator
- Coffee
- Grid sheet
- Handwarmers
- Highlighters
- Did we mention coffee?

New England

Attracta Quinn, ADCRG



- Pen
- Scrap paper
- Grid sheet for large competitions like the Oireachtas
- Glasses
- Water



Southern

Mary McGinty, ADCRG - Inis Acla

- Good stages
- Great musicians
- Competent stage hands
- A working pen
- Organized judges sheets
- Prompt runners
- A well-planned and well-run feis makes a judge's life easy. Anything else is a bonus- water, goody basket, food trays!



Western US

Anne Hall, ADCRG - McTeggart

- Phone. I keep my phone in airplane mode and inside my purse. After completing a championship, I use my phone to scan my adjudication sheets into Dropbox; so I have a record of my results and comments, should there be any questions or discrepancies.
- Healthy snacks. Having some trail mix, nuts, dried fruit, etc. is really helpful in keeping me energized and focused on the dancers.
- Soda and water. Staying hydrated is a must especially when traveling. While I don't normally drink soda, I have to admit that it's a refreshing pick-me-up in the middle of a long afternoon.
- A good chair. A decent chair with some padding and a proper back is a lifesaver.
- A friendly, accessible stage manager. I really appreciate it when the stage manager comes over to introduce themselves before the start of the day. It's nice to be able to communicate, and work together to keep things running smoothly for the dancers.

Eastern Canada

Brian Grant, ADCRG
Butler Fearon O'Connor

- Pens
- Comfortable chair
- Water
- Scrap paper for side notes
- Grid sheet for Majors with 100+ dancers, especially when judging only one round

Western Canada

Linda Possak Anderson, ADCRG
Possak Hampshire Academy

- 'My' Pens: I find that certain pens write with more ease, especially if I am watching dancing and writing at the same time.
- Calculator: I always have at least one in my bag. Usually I will add everything up in my head. And then there are times when I like to double-check my final championship results with a calculator.
- Accomplished Feis Music: A must-have for any feis - top notch feis music brings spirit to competitors' performances and completes every feis atmosphere.
- Positive Attitude: A feis can be stressful for the dancers, the operating teacher and feis committee - a light touch can make the day easier for everyone.
- Killer Heels: Ok this one's a bit selfish, and definitely a must-have. As a teacher running to watch my students at a competition, I wouldn't wear heels too often. But sitting at a judging table all day? Well that's my chance to show off a pair of gorgeous shoes or boots !

THE RISING STEP

The Rising Step is one of the first dance moves taught to beginning Irish dancers. As a basic jig rhythm, the step connects the dancer to the music and serves as a jumping off point to all Irish dance has to offer. Irish dance is about **so much more than dance** -- it's friendship, teamwork, beauty, strength, resilience, athleticism, culture, tradition!

The goal of The Rising Step page is to celebrate the shared love of the "so much more" through Irish dance related poems, artwork, and short stories.

Thank you to Kari Evens for "The Spirit of Dance" which celebrates hope for our Irish dance community during the pandemic.



***We want to feature
your creativity!***

If you would like to be featured on this page, SEND your Irish dance related poems, artwork, short stories (anything creative) to:

dtanadancers@gmail.com

THE SPIRIT OF DANCE

by K. EVENS

The great halls stand silent,
No backdrops or stages.
No music, no voices,
No flipping of pages.

The podium empty,
The judges not here.
The dancers are home,
The World is in fear.

Yet something is present,
A faint sound perchance.
The echo of something,
The rhythm of dance.

The click of a toe,
The strike of a heel.
The unmistakable,
Jig or a reel.

The halls come alive.
Though we still are apart.
The dancers are there,
They have each sent their heart.

A short year will pass,
And the dancers will rise.
They will gather once more,
To follow the prize.

But it won't be the globes,
That will beckon them on.
It's the love and the passion,
The spirit's not gone.

They will smile and be ready,
To vie for the chance.
To show the whole world,
The Spirit of Dance.



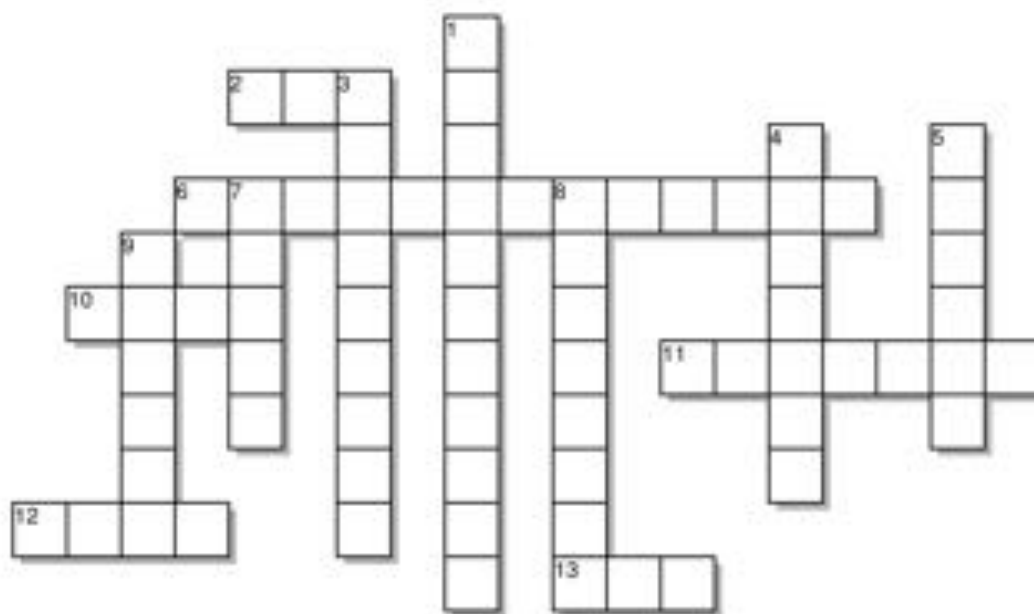
Kari Evens, from Calgary, Alberta, Canada is a mom of a Championship dancer who recently retired after 20 years of competing with the Possak Hampshire Academy. She is so proud of all the dancers who are working so hard during the pandemic and are keeping up their skills and love of dance.

THE PUZZLER

The Puzzler will challenge your Irish dance brain and knowledge! It could be a Word Search, a Scramble or a Crossword. This time, we're "Mad for Trad(itional) Sets"



Mad for Trad(itional) Sets



ACROSS

- 2 Hard Work
- 6 An Irish dancer's favorite day
- 10 Festival
- 11 A white flower with a yellow middle
- 12 Not a queen
- 13 Like an ocean, but smaller

DOWN

- 1 Travel Job
- 3 Not a crow or a raven, title of Beatles song
- 4 Small, magical beings
- 5 Rider on racehorse
- 7 Number of leaves on a shamrock
- 8 In charge of the ship (plural)
- 9 It can be full of flowers or vegetables

CLUE WORDS

Blackbird

Garden of Daisies

Job of Journeywork

Jockey to the Fair

King of the Fairies

St. Patrick's Day

Three Sea Captains

DID YOU KNOW? "The traditional set Saint Patrick's Day is also known as St. Patrick's Day in the Morning."

The Saint Patrick's Day melody has been danced and marched to in North America for some two hundred years."

From **Jigs to Jacobites**, by Orfhlaith Ni Briain and Mick McCabe

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are over 1,200 registered IDTANA Members.
- Teachers registered with IDTANA must also be members of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha (CLRG) and a North American region.
- IDTANA Members are vetted as part of the CLRG registration process and also complete a Child Protection Course. American and Mexican teachers receive completion certificates from the U.S. Center for SafeSport. Canadian teachers took the "Commit to Kids" course through the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.
- IDTANA offers Professional Development seminars for teachers. **ARDÚ**, meaning **RISE**, is IDTANA's Professional Development program. Our belief is that by coming together through education, we can rise to meet any challenge.
- The most recent Ardú seminar was held Sunday, July 12th and covered a variety of topics from "Competing in a Pandemic" to "Motor Development in Dancing".

NOW YOU DO!



NAME THE NEWSLETTER!

DEADLINE AUGUST 15TH!

This is YOUR newsletter!

Start brainstorming on a newsletter name — be creative, think outside-the-box, be funny, be punny!

We'll choose a Top FIVE from the entries and then allow you to VOTE.

[Submit your ideas via THIS LINK!](#)



Russell Beaton, ADCRG
President

Lisa Petri, ADCRG
Vice-President

Michael Smith, ADCRG
Recording Secretary

IDTANA Executive Board

Allison Weber Erickson, ADCRG
Corresponding Secretary, Interim Treasurer

Margaret Cleary, ADCRG
Sergeant-at-Arms