

Class Descriptions

January 10th-April 26th

All School Recital on Sunday, April 29th

**ALL CLASSES TAKE PLACE AT THE CHARLOTTESVILLE WALDORF SCHOOL
120 WALDORF SCHOOL RD (OFF RIO RD, ACROSS FROM PEN PARK)**

**TO ENSURE PROPER CLASS PLACEMENT, PLEASE EMAIL TO
brimstunes@yahoo.com or call 434-409-9631**

****Important note about Performance with BRIMS**:** Students enrolled in any paid BRIMS class have the opportunity to take part in BRIMS' traditional music and dance ensemble (the performance arm of BRIMS) for no additional fee. *Trad. Ensemble* requires an interest in performance and in honing stage presence and related skills. Attendance on Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 is required for participation. More details below.**

Children's Introductory Class

Scoil Sampler, Beginners, Ages 6-11, Alex Caton, Marina Madden and Lori Madden, plus guest instructors

Tuesday 4:00-5:30 p.m: \$250, BRIMS Member \$230

A "Sampler" for the younger student new to Irish music and dance. Instruction will include dance, singing, language, beginning fiddle (students must already play fiddle) **or** beginning tin whistle (students choose one). No previous experience necessary. Students just need to have an interest in Irish music and/or dance and a desire to develop that interest through hands on learning. Stagecraft and performance skills will also be a focus. As they advance in the program, students will be encouraged to hone their specific skills and interests and gradually advance into the next level of class offerings. BRIMS students enrolled in the *Scoil Sampler* will have occasional opportunities to perform alongside *Trad. Ensemble*. Consistent attendance required for participation in performances.

Fiddle

Irish Fiddle II, Intermediate/Advanced, Ages 12 to adult, Alex Caton

Tuesday 6:00-7:00: \$265, BRIMS Member \$245

Students will increase their repertoire in this class by learning tunes by ear. Specifically we will focus on stylistic and technical aspects of Irish fiddle music including ornamentation, intonation and tone. We will also delve into various ways to bring out the rhythm and phrasing of the tunes.

Irish Fiddle I, Beginner, Ages 12 to adult, Alex Caton

Tuesday 7:00-8:00: \$265, BRIMS Member \$245

Students should already play some violin and be familiar with the instrument. Students will learn tunes by ear and we will discuss what makes Irish fiddle music sound Irish. We will also work on improving our fiddle sound by focusing on tone, rhythm and intonation. In addition, we will learn various types of tunes that correspond with Irish dance. **Not for those learning to play from scratch, students must already play violin and know their way around the instrument. See below for absolute beginner class.**

Whistle/Flute

Tin Whistle/Irish Flute, Beginner, Aaron Olwell
Tuesday 6:00-7:00 \$265, BRIMS Member \$245

Tin Whistle/Irish Flute, 7 weeks Intermediate, Aaron Olwell
Tuesday 7:00-8:00 p.m.: \$125, BRIMS Member \$105
****This class alternates Tuesdays with "Learning Irish Music by Ear"**
Dates: Class meets: Jan 17, 31, Feb 14, 28, March 13, 27 & April 17

Bodhran (Irish frame drum)

Bodhran Class, 6 weeks Beginner, All Ages Berkeley Harner
Tuesday 6:00-7:00 pm: \$105, BRIMS Member \$95
Beginners welcome. We will have some drums available for students to rent.

Bodhran Class, 6 weeks Intermediate, Berkeley Harner
Tuesday 7:00-8:00 pm: \$105, BRIMS Member \$95

Session Workshop, All Instruments **(This Class alternates Tuesdays with "Learning Irish Music by Ear")**

Session Workshop, Led and taught by Stu James & Guest Instructors
Tuesdays 7:00-8:00 p.m.
This is a 7 week class, which will alternate with "Learning Irish Music by Ear"
Class meets: Jan 17, 31, Feb 14, 28, March 13, 27 & April 17
\$125, BRIMS Member \$105

This seven-class intermediate course, taught by Stu James (Guitar/Mandolin) and guest instructors, focuses on the wonderful tradition of playing Irish music in a group setting with the goal of improving your ability to play confidently and comfortably with other traditional musicians. Every other week, we will introduce a new set of tunes (jigs, reels, polkas, slides, slip jigs), so that by the end of the class, you will have the opportunity to learn 10-15 new tunes. We will also provide pointers on how to assemble sets of tunes, start and lead tunes, transition from one tune to the next, and manage key changes. Prior to class, students will be asked to send Stu a tune list so that a list of common tunes can be compiled and incorporated into our sets.

Learning Irish Music by Ear, All Instruments
(This Class alternates Tuesdays with "Session Workshop")

Learning Irish Music by Ear, Aaron Olwell

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

This 8 week class meets: Jan 10, 24, Feb 7, 21, March 6, 20, April 10 & 24

\$140, \$120

What aspiring musician wouldn't want to be able to pick up melodies on the spot after only hearing them a few times? I believe this is one of the most useful and pertinent skills in any kind of music, and it's practically the foundation that Irish and many other folk musics are based on. Musicians with little or no theoretical understanding of music (often not even knowing a single note by name) have for centuries relied only on their ears to learn hundreds of tunes!

In this class, which will be open to all instruments and ages, we will surprise ourselves with latent talent and accomplish feats of "learning on the fly" that we previously thought were beyond us. Skill level is not important, although the class will be geared towards students who are already somewhat familiar with their instrument. So, if you have been playing for years but still feel like you struggle with this aspect of music, this class is for you. If you are comfortable as long as you have a page in front of you, but get anxious as soon as it's taken away, this class is for you. If you are musically illiterate and maybe never even touched an instrument until some time within the last year, then you guessed it; this class is for you.

Dance

Although we will be taking special care to warm up and cool down at each dance class meeting, please consider that Irish step dance is, at times, a high impact, aerobic activity and may not be appropriate for individuals with foot, ankle, knee or hip problems.

IMPORTANT NOTE: FOR DANCE CLASS PLACEMENT

PLEASE CONTACT LORI MADDEN AT brimstunes@yahoo.com

Or call 434-409-9631

BRIMS NOW HAS DANCE SHOES FOR SALE! CONTACT LORI MADDEN FOR MORE INFORMATION.

"This Little Jiggy: Part II" Irish Step Dance, Youth Beginner, Ages 6-8, Lori Madden

Thursday 4:00-5:00 pm: \$265, BRIMS Member \$245

For students who took "This Little Jiggy" in the fall. Students will continue to explore the basic building blocks of Irish step and Irish social dance in a fun and relaxed environment. Emphasis is on building skills while enjoying dancing with others.

"Rock & Reel: Part II" Irish Step Dance, Intermediate, Ages 7-12, Marina Madden

Thursday 5:00-6:00 pm: \$265, BRIMS Member \$245

For students who have mastered technique for reel, jig and slip jig and are ready to move at a more advanced pace. Students in "Rock & Reel" in the fall semester should take this class.

Irish Hard Shoe: Basic Rhythm & Technique, All Ages Carrie Brubaker

NOTE: 45 minute class

Thursday 4:45-5:30 pm: \$199, BRIMS Members \$179

For the student at any level from beginner-intermediate. Focus will be on perfecting sounds and basic rhythms. All youth and beginner students must complete this basic class before advancing to teen/adult hard shoe.

"Garden of Daisies" Irish Step Dance, Youth Beginner, Ages 6-11, Lori Madden

Thursday 5:00-6:00 pm: \$265, BRIMS Member \$245

Complete beginners will explore the basic building blocks of Irish step and Irish social dance in a fun and relaxed environment. Emphasis is on building skills while enjoying dancing with others.

Beginner Hard Shoe (30 Minute Class), Ages 7-12

Thursday 5:30-6:00, \$135, BRIMS Member \$123

This class is for the student who's already done some soft shoe and is putting on their first pair of hard shoes

"Blackbirds" Irish Step Dance Youth Advanced, Ages 7-14, Marina Madden

Thursday 6:00-7:30 p.m.: \$345, BRIMS Member \$325

Students must have enough skills to assimilate new material quickly, and a working knowledge of light shoe reel, jig, and slip jig to join this fast paced class. Form and technique will be fine-tuned, and we will use existing skills to create new choreography for group dancing.

Instructor permission required for enrollment in this class

Irish Step Dance, Advanced, Ages 14-Adult, Carrie Brubaker

Thursday 6:00-7:30 p.m.: \$345, BRIMS Member \$325

Dancers with a minimum of two years' experience with Irish step dance will work on refining technique, style, and musicality. In addition to more intricate soft shoe steps, we will also focus intensively on hard shoe technique, working on hornpipe, treble jig and treble reel steps.

Instructor permission required for enrollment in this class

Irish Step Dance, Teen/Adult Absolute Beginner, Ages 12-Adult, Lori Madden

Thursday 6:00-7:00 p.m.: \$265, BRIMS Member \$245

Complete beginners will explore the basic building blocks of Irish step and Irish social dance in a fun and relaxed environment. Emphasis is on building skills while enjoying dancing with others.

Irish Step Dance, Teen/Adult Beginner Part II, Ages 12-Adult, Lori Madden

Thursday 7:00-8:00 p.m.: \$265, BRIMS Member \$245

For students who took Teen/Adult beginner in the fall. Students will continue to explore the basic building blocks of Irish step and Irish social dance in a fun and relaxed environment. Emphasis is on building skills while enjoying dancing with others.

TRAD ENSEMBLE

****Trad. Ensemble Alex Caton, Marina Madden & Lori Madden**

Tuesday 5:00pm-6:00pm: Students enrolled in any paid BRIMS class have the opportunity to take part in BRIMS's traditional music and dance ensemble for no additional fee. *Trad. Ensemble* requires an interest in performance and in honing stage presence and related skills. Focus, and a detailed knowledge of common repertoire are also highly recommended. **Note:** Younger BRIMS students enrolled in the *Scoil* Sampler will have occasional opportunities to perform alongside Trad. Ensemble. Consistent attendance (no more than 2 unexcused absences) required for participation in performances.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Carrie Brubaker (Dance): Carrie began Irish dancing in 1995 with the O'Neill-James School in Falls Church, VA, there she studied under Laureen O'Neill-James and assisted with the beginning adult classes. In 2002 she joined the Culkin School which has a large and active adult dance group. At the Culkin School she studied with Sean Culkin, Nicki Sack and Caterina Earle. While dancing with the Culkin School she competed as a member of the National Championship adult ladies ceili team.

Alex Caton (Fiddle, Trad & Scoil): Alex first put bow to hand at the age of five and continued her studies in violin through college. Since then she has dedicated her life to passing on the tradition of Irish fiddle and has been teaching privately for 12 years now. Alex founded and is director of the Mountain Road Fiddle Camp in Mingo WV. She has also been involved with the Blue Ridge Irish Music School as a teacher and board member for several years. When Alex is not teaching or planning for fiddle camp, she is playing Irish and Old Time music across the country and globe as a solo artist. Alex also loves playing with Odd Legged Jenny, with partners Pat Egan and Pete Winne, and also gypsy music with various musicians. Outside of fiddle, Alex enjoys singing and performing on guitar, banjo and piano.

Stu James (Session Workshop): Stu has been playing traditional music in one form or another since his Mom brought home a piano when he was 15. He currently plays rhythm guitar and mandolin in the local Charlottesville band, King Golden Banshee. Stu has had the pleasure of studying Irish Traditional music with Eamon O'Leary, Angelina Carberry and John Doyle at Swannanoa.

Berkeley Harner (Bodhran): Berkeley has been studying all things percussion for the past 21 years including concert percussion instruments, hand drums, drum set, and rudimental drumming. He is also an active local performer and drum maker. Berkeley has also had the pleasure of studying bodhran with Matthew Olwell and Albert Alfonso at the Swanna Gathering in Swannanoa, NC.

Lori Madden (Dance, Trad & Scoil): Lori has been providing instruction in Irish Step, Irish Social, Ceili, and Set Dance to children and adults for over ten years through BRIMS. In addition, Lori has Irish dance in Scottsville and Lynchburg, and at the Mountain Road Fiddle Camp in West Virginia and Terpsichore's Holiday dance camp, also in West Virginia. Lori has performed with the Humorous Abandon Irish dance ensemble at Floyd Fest and the Lake Eden Arts Festival and also in the full length Irish dance productions Drowsy Maggie and Robin Hood. In 2003, Lori served as Irish dance consultant for the Paul Wagner film *Angels*.

Marina Madden (Dance, Trad & Scoil): Marina has been Irish step dancing since the age of four and performing since she was six. Marina has studied Irish dance with Emily Oleson, Matthew Olwell, Kara Butler and Donny Golden. Marina also taught step dance at the BRIMS Summer Camps in 2009, 2010 & 2011

Aaron Olwell (Irish Flute & Tin Whistle): Aaron has played Irish music on whistle and flute since he was a boy. He also plays concertina as well as Irish and old time fiddle. Aaron works as a flute maker in Nelson County; Olwell flutes are in great demand and played world wide. Aaron is well known & highly regarded on both sides of the Atlantic for his musical abilities .

