

## Cultural Events Center Stage

**Aran Daughters, Celtic Harp Duo** - Aran Daughters perform traditional Irish folk tunes, songs in Gaelic as well as English, bringing the humor and wistfulness of the Irish people to audiences. Harper's Barbara Evenson and Kristin Maahs have played together since attending the Cairde na Cruite harp school, Termonfeckin, Ireland, in 2005.

**The Iowa Scottish Pipes & Drums** - based in Des Moines, IA, and founded in 1975, they have played for many high profile events, including the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Iowa, opening for "Scottish Rocker" Rod Stewart in 2007 and the Inaugural Ball for the Governor of Iowa. In addition, the band has competed in competitions as far away as California and performs at parades and concerts around the state of Iowa.

**Trinity Irish Dancers Workshop** - Chicago, Illinois - Founded by Artistic Director Mark Howard, a two-time Emmy Award-winning choreographer, Trinity Irish Dancers is one of the most renowned Irish dance programs worldwide.

**The Sons of the Mist** - The Sons of the Mist are a historical performance group. Our cadre performs a presentation of Scottish History, culture, motives and tactics followed by a series of comedic swordfights. Founded in 2008 by Matt Hill and Rob Roy, the group has made appearances at the Iowa Renaissance Festival in the Amana Colonies, the Dubuque Renaissance Festival, the Highland Games at Living History Farms and the Des Moines Renaissance Festival.

**Tir na nOg Children's Theatre** - Presents: "TBA", a retelling of the Irish folk tale. "Theater experiences help children learn to express themselves, and being involved in a show is just plain fun," says Sarah Kiani, founder of Tir na nOg Children's Theatre in Cedar Falls. Sarah has performed at the MN Irish Fair for ten years. Folk tales are a rich piece of Irish history that Tir na nOg Theater is sharing with the next generation. The name is Gaelic for "Land of Youth."

**Irish Musician/Historian** - Derek Warfield is an Irish singer, songwriter, historian, author and a founding member of the musical group Wolfe Tones. He has written and recorded over 60 songs and ballads and now tours with his new band, Derek Warfield and The Young Wolfe Tones who are also performing at this year's fest. He is the author of "Celtic and Ireland in Song and Story" and "The Irish Songster of the American Civil War".

**The OK Factor, Alternative Folk Duo with Violin and Cello** - Classically trained musicians from the Midwest, Olivia Hahn and Karla Dietmeyer began collaborating in 2012. They joined forces with the goal of creating musical experiences that would challenge their formal training. The result of this collaboration is The OK Factor, a duo experimenting in a number of genres, including bluegrass, jazz and folk.

**Irish Gaelic Language Workshop** - Many of our ancestors came from Ireland. How about yours? So why not learn the language that they spoke, and perhaps get a feel of what kind of people they were. Classes for those interested in learning the Irish language are available in the Cedar Valley. All are welcome to attend; classes are free and offer fluency from beginners to advanced levels.

**Irish Stew Cook-off and Soda Bread competition** - Sponsored by Cara, Friends of the Iowa Irish Fest. 12 contestants vie for the title of "Best in Stew and Soda Bread" with samples for fest goers after the winners are selected.

**Tallymoore "Unplugged"** - The band Tallymoore will perform some of their music in a more acoustic setting.

**Irish Wolf Hounds** - Irish wolfhounds will be back thanks to owner Jamie Wilson of Hudson. Their dogs Fen and Freyja will be our honored guests at this year's Cultural Events Center stage.

**Author and Storyteller David McDonnell, ClanDonnell: A Storied History of Ireland** - ClanDonnell is the epic story of Ireland told in a unique way - through the lives of the people in Celtic Ireland's McDonnell clan and their descendants into the 20th century. This appearance will feature a book signing by the author.

**Our Local Bagpipers** - Local pipers Russ Clarke & Ross Schupbach for your listening pleasure.