



Hibernians announce return of WNY's largest St. Patrick's Day party

Annual event returns to Convention Center; renowned Irish musical acts, McCarthy School of Irish dance to perform

Following a two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Ancient Order of Hibernians Rev. James J. Browne Division 1 announced the return of the region's largest St. Patrick's Day celebration. This anticipated event will once again take place March 17 at the Niagara Falls Convention Center, located at 101 Old Falls St.

"We are very excited to once again host this fun-filled celebration of Irish culture and heritage," said Kevin O'Brien, president of Division 1. "In 2020 as we were setting up for the party, we received word that the public health situation would force us to cancel this beloved event. We never expected that circumstances would force us to also cancel 2021. That's why we are so excited for today's announcement and hope that this is a sign of a greater return to normalcy for all of us."

The celebration kicks off at

4:45 p.m. when the "World's Shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade" steps off from the corner of Old Falls and Second streets in Niagara Falls. The parade ends at the front of the Conference Center, when doors will officially open to the public. Patricia Mahoney, a longtime member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, will serve as this year's parade grand marshal.

This year, renowned Irish musical acts Poor Ould Goat and Crikwater will perform for attendees. The award-winning dancers from the McCarthy School of Irish Dance will entertain guests, once again, with a display of traditional Irish step dancing between performances.

Irish food and drink will be available for purchase. Doors will be open from 4:45-11 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or online at aohnf.com/tickets. Tables are



The McCarthy School of Irish Dance at the AOH Niagara Falls St. Patrick's Day celebration. (Photo by Terry Duffy) available on a first come, first served basis. Interested in becoming a Hibernian? Email info@aohnf.com More information can be found at <https://www.aohnf.com> or by visiting the Niagara Falls Ancient Order of Hibernians Facebook page.

Greater Niagara Ballet Company auditioning for spring show

The Greater Niagara Ballet Company will hold auditions for its spring performance, "Scenes of Spring," on Sunday, March 13. Auditions begin at 10 a.m. for dancers ages 7-11, and 11 a.m. for dancers ages 12 to adult. More information about auditions can be found at greaterniagaraballetcompany.org.

"Scenes of Spring" features several family-friendly short ballets that radiate the warm ambiance of spring. "Peter and the Wolf," a narrated symphonic fairy tale for children with music composed by Sergei Prokofiev, tells the story of a young carefree boy named

Peter who cannot help but go out into the meadow on a lovely day. He is joined by his friend, the graceful Bird, along with a silly Duck, and a prowling Cat. After a while, a hungry and dangerous Wolf arrives in their midst. Although a rather large and inept hunting party has been pursuing the Wolf the entire time, it is ultimately Peter (with a little help from his animal friends) who outwits and captures the Wolf.

"Degas," with music composed by Gabriel Urbain Faure (Dolly Opus 56), is inspired by the famous Edgar Degas painting "The Dancing Class." A beautiful scene

unfolds when ballet dancers from the Paris Opera gather for dance class with a famed choreographer. Artistry, music, Impressionism and Parisian dance merge to create this lighthearted and masterful ballet.

"Pas de Trois," with music composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, is a dance from Act I of "Swan Lake." It cen-



"Peter and the Wolf" file photo.

Two performances are scheduled of "Scenes of Spring" on May 20. There will be an on-school-time performance at 10 a.m. for local school children, and an evening performance at 7:30 p.m. Both shows will take place at the Niagara Falls High School Performing Arts Center, 4455 Porter Road, Niagara Falls.

Discounted tickets are available for school groups for the morning performance. For additional information, or to reserve tickets, call or text 716-713-9735. Tickets for the evening performance can soon be purchased online at greaterniagaraballetcompany.org and will also be available at the door.

ters on the festivities on the eve of Prince Siegfried's birthday. "Pas de Trois" features guest dancer Dominic Giambra, as well as artistic directors Mary Schnepf and Molly Vine.

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Niagara Arts Guild March meeting

The Niagara Arts Guild presents art quilter Carol Miller of Lockport talking about "How Quilters Choose Color" at its March meeting.

Miller, long a microbiologist for Cornell University, found quilting a good way to counter dreary winter weather. She has since devoted

ed herself full-time to the emerging field of art quilts.

Event organizers said, "Thanks to a resurgence of interest sparked by the abstract quilts of enslaved African Americans of Gee's Bend, Alabama, artists are quietly embracing the comfort of quilts."

Miller will show images and examples of applying color theory to quilt making.

The Guild meeting takes place at 7 p.m. March 11 at the Dale Association, 33 Ontario Ave., Lockport.

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