



Irish American Heritage Museum
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MICHAEL CORNELIUS CLARKE
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM ANNOUNCES TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

IAHM to Recruit Regional Irish Cultural Ambassadors To Partake in Rich, Regionally Diverse Irish Heritage Experiences

ALBANY, N.Y. - The Irish American Heritage Museum's Board of Directors announced today the creation of the first of several cultural scholarships, where recipients will become "IAHM Regional Irish Cultural Ambassadors." IAHM Regional Irish Cultural Ambassadors will be given an opportunity to share their Irish knowledge and artistic talents to an area in the United States that has its own rich, unique Irish cultural scene. The scholarship recipients will learn; exchange styles, art, knowledge and tunes; will experience the "trad culture and life" from another part of the country; and finally bring those experiences back home to share. IAHM's Regional Cultural Ambassador Scholarship Program will provide geographically diverse opportunities to participate in artistic educational programs; each ambassadors will be provided with opportunities to explore the broad regional impact of the Irish in America through music and arts education. These scholarships have been funded by a anonymous benefactor of the Irish American Heritage Museum.

The first Regional Irish Cultural Ambassador Scholarship will be offered to an alumni of O'Flaherty's Irish Music Retreat/Traditional Irish Music Education Society in Texas ("TIMES"), which has grown over the decades into a powerful traditional Irish cultural and educational organization focused on the continuing of our rich heritage. With full tuition reimbursement and a stipend for travel and lodging, the IAHM Regional Irish Cultural Ambassador will participate at the pre-eminent Catskills Irish Arts Week ("CIAW") in New York State from July 13-19, 2025.

"Our world - especially that of the Irish cultural community - has become remarkably small in this age of social media and AI," said Liam McNabb, Chair of IAHM's Board of Directors. "With this generous donation and the designation of IAHM's Regional Irish Cultural Ambassadors, the Irish American Heritage Museum will greatly further its goals to foster dialogue and cultural exchanges, to create connections, and to bring even closer the community of the Irish and Irish Americans."

IAHM's Executive Director Michael C. Clarke added: "The Irish American Heritage Museum is thrilled to announce IAHM's Regional Irish Cultural Ambassador Scholarship program. The fact that the first IAHM ambassador will come from the rich Irish community in Texas and experience New York's Catskills Irish Arts Week will foster an amazing, organic and lasting sharing of culture between these two important regions in the United States."

"The encouragement of a regional exchange of education, culture and arts by the Irish American Heritage Museum will provide a fantastic opportunity for the Irish in both Texas and in the Northeast," said Ken Fleming, the Executive Director of TIMES. "We are grateful that IAHM's has

selected TIMES for this inaugural scholarship. It is exciting to think how the IAHM Regional Irish Cultural Ambassador from the O'Flaherty's/TIMES family will both experience and learn, then return to Texas and share the rich Northeast U.S. traditional Irish experiences."

"CIAW - and its sponsoring organization the Michael J. Quill Irish and Cultural Sports Centre ("MJQ") - is grateful that the Irish American Heritage Museum has chosen CIAW to be the first recipient of IAHM's new ambassador scholarship program," said Terry Patterson, President of the Board of Directors of MJQ. "We are sure the first IAHM Regional Irish Cultural Ambassador will return home from CIAW with an expanded tune set list, and will be energized after playing and spending time with CIAW's world-class trad masters and instructors."

Details about the scholarship and application process are provided below.

ABOUT IAHM'S REGIONAL IRISH CULTURAL AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The May 2025 IAHM Regional Irish Cultural Ambassador Scholarship Program is designed to expose recipients ("Ambassadors") to Irish arts, heritage, culture and communities in different regions of the United States. It is intended that IAHM Regional Irish Cultural Ambassadors - through the opportunities of learning and collaborations, and through the exchange of creative, Irish heritage-based educational programs - will return home and share their experiences with their own regional Irish cultural communities.

The requirements for IAHM Regional Irish Cultural Ambassador Scholarship Program's applicants are:

- Applicant must be eighteen (18) years of age, or older.
- Must have attended O'Flaherty's Irish Music Retreat as a student in the past five years.
- Must not have attended Catskills Irish Arts Week as a student in the past.
- Must submit a one hundred (100) word description of why the applicant believes they will be a suitable candidate to be an IAHM Regional Irish Cultural Ambassador.
- Must fully participate in CIAW classes and activities.
- Must agree to notify the Irish American Heritage Museum immediately if for whatever reason it is determined the applicant can/will not attend CIAW.

The IAHM Regional Irish Cultural Ambassador Scholarship includes:

- Reimbursement for one (1) full-time tuition to Catskills Irish Arts Week, July 13-19, 2025 (\$500 value).
- \$500 stipend for travel to/lodging at Catskills Irish Arts Week.
- Associate Membership to Irish American Heritage Museum (for IAHM Regional Irish Cultural Ambassador and family)(\$100 value).
- Transportation to and from and guided tour of Irish American Heritage Museum (value: priceless).

ABOUT THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

The Irish American Heritage Museum (IAHM) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation founded by the New York State legislature in 1986 and permanently chartered in 1992 by the Board of Regents of New York as an educational institution. Through exhibitions, first-person narratives, and cultural programming, IAHM tells the story of Irish immigrants and their descendants - from U.S. presidents and cultural icons to nameless soldiers and factory workers.

In addition to exhibitions, IAHM hosts a robust series of programs, including traditional Irish music sessions and performances, lectures, cooking demonstrations, once a month traditional and folk (“Trad/Folk”) Irish performances, film screenings, and assorted one-person shows, plays, and busking experiences. To learn more, visit www.irish-us.org, follow IAHM on [Facebook](#), and see programming on [IAHM Eventbrite](#).

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