



Irish American Heritage Museum

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**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM ANNOUNCES
FALL 2026 CULTURAL PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE**

*Dozens of Programs, Performances, Exhibitions and Cultural Activities
That Include Film Screenings, Theater, Music, Storytelling,
Genealogy, Lectures and Traditional Irish Arts
Scheduled For Remainder of 2026*

ALBANY, N.Y. – The Irish American Heritage Museum (IAHM) today announced an ambitious cultural programming schedule, with a wide variety of innovative performances and other cultural and educational activities planned from August through December 2026. IAHM continues to bring to downtown Albany internationally and regionally recognized musicians, actors, filmmakers, historians, genealogists, storytellers and traditional artists for five months of concerts, film, theater, lectures, traditional music sessions and special cultural events.

Highlights include performances by the Mari Black Band, Cécilia, The Strayaways (featuring Irish fiddle legend Kevin Burke), Get Up Jack, Gerry O'Connor, Ellie Egan, Seamus Noonan, Richard Hearn and Kate Knudsvig. Also included is a special local screening (followed by discussion with writer/director/actors) of the film "American Wake;" a one-woman performance on the life and impact of Jeanne Robert Foster by Eileen Mack; a performance of the winning play from IAHM's 2026 One-Act Play Competition; Samhain storytelling with Claire Nolan; free monthly genealogy workshops at IAHM; twice-monthly traditional Irish music sessions; as well as numerous presentations in communities throughout the Northeast United States as part of IAHM's "Take the Museum to our Communities" program. IAHM will also present programming which examines the Irish and the United States' indigenous peoples.

A calendar of events is included as part of this release.

IAHM's reach extends well beyond its physical location in Quackenbush Square in downtown Albany. Through generous donors, IAHM funded in 2026 seven cultural scholarships in Canada and throughout the United States. In August, IAHM participated at the presentation of the Michael Flanagan Banjo Award to the legendary performer and recording artist Cahill Hayden at the 2026 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, in Belfast UK. In October, Denise Murphy McGraw (Chairwoman, IAHM's Board of Trustees) will receive the Belfast International Homecoming Ambassador Medal in October in recognition for her leadership in strengthening the relationship between Ireland and the global Irish diaspora. IAHM will also participate at Project Children events in County Monaghan and in Belfast and Derry later this year. Through these efforts and events, IAHM continues to create direct cultural connections between Irish communities in the Americas, Ireland, the United Kingdom and the EU.

"The Irish American Heritage Museum is what a twenty-first century Irish American heritage and cultural center should look like," said IAHM Executive Director Michael C. Clarke. "Here, our rich heritage and culture can be heard, performed, discussed, questioned, learned, shared and passed on to future generations."

"Some of the most important work we do happens when people become participants rather than spectators," said Denise Murphy McGraw. "A person researching a great-grandparent, a young musician sitting in a session, a scholarship winner being given the opportunity to experience Irish arts at an Irish cultural camp, a family attending a performance, or someone hearing an Irish story for the first time is actively engaging with heritage. The Irish American Heritage Museum's programs create those opportunities."

The breadth of IAHM's events reflect IAHM's growing emphasis on connecting the historical Irish American experience with culture being created, practiced and shared today. IAHM's programming underscores the Museum's efforts to provide full support to Ireland's diaspora, and to engage all in the richness of our shared heritage. These events also underscore IAHM's strong and proud connection with the Irish government, which was evidenced by a visit this year by Deputy Consul General Róisín Leonard, where IAHM discussed its full commitment and passionate intent to support and engage the Irish and Irish-connected, and to foster new generations with a sense of belonging to the rich Irish cultural experience.

IAHM's fall programming is open to Museum members and the general public, with individual admission and registration requirements varying by event. Additional programs, guests and event details will be announced throughout the remainder of 2026.

Details about IAHM's programs and events are provided, [here](#).

Details about the Irish American Heritage Museum are provided, [here](#).

Information about becoming an IAHM member and supporting IAHM's programming is provided, [here](#).

About the Irish American Heritage Museum

The Irish American Heritage Museum (IAHM) is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation created by the New York State legislature in 1986. IAHM is an educational institution which provides critical educational services to not only its membership, but to local school districts, educational institutions and communities in both New York State and across the world. The IAHM fosters dialogue and exchanges of ideas between America and Ireland. Through this sharing, IAHM creates connections and community among all Americans in the context of both the appreciation and the study of the universality of the immigrant story in America. IAHM provides significant cultural opportunities and support in the United States.

IAHM has a fabulous 60-seat performance space in the midst of the Museum. Irish and Irish Americans in the northeastern United States frequently attend many events at IAHM's performance space, which is called Flanagan Theater after Michael Flanagan, a member of the famous Flanagan Brothers, who were true global influencers with their music and recordings in the early 1900s. Michael Flanagan settled and lived most of his adult life in Albany.

Flanagan Theater was nominated in 2026 for the *Best Alternative Venue* Award by the Capital Region Thomas Edison Music Award and Hall of Fame. IAHM hosts many Irish artists as part of its monthly IAHM Traditional and Folk Music Concert Series. In addition to these concerts, IAHM presents "large" acts - true legends in the Irish music space - on a quarterly basis in order to bring that caliber of talent to the northeast United States (these performers include Andy Irvine [Planxty, Patrick Street]; Kevin Burke [Bothy Band]; and, Karan Casey [Solas]). Also, IAHM has a "Celtic Influences Performance Series," wherein non-Irish performers with a strong "Celtic feel" present their art and discuss how they were influenced by Irish arts. These performers have come from Canada, Finland and Sweden.

As well as the world class Irish musicians that perform in IAHM's Flanagan Theater, workshops in music are given, as well as presentations, lectures, and literature readings.

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LISTING OF IAHM EVENTS

August - December 2026

August

- 08/02/2026 - Music Haven (Schenectady)
- 08/06/2026 - Michael Flanagan Award (Belfast, Ireland)
- 08/17/2026 - IAHM Golf Outing
- 08/18/2026 - IAHM / United Irish Societies of the Capital District Celtic Cruise

September

- 09/02/2026 - Monthly IAHM Lecture / Informance: Wildwood Programs
- 09/02/2026 - Free Genealogy Workshop at IAHM (5:00 - 7:00 PM) * **Sign-Up Required**
- 09/09/2026 - LECTURE: Jack McEneny and Dennis Foley, "Lock 1 of the Erie Canal: Rediscovered 2026." IAHM Historical Lecture Series
- 09/13/2026 - CONCERT: Mari Black Band "Fiddling Around the World" (IAHM's Celtic Influences Performance Series)
- 09/16/2026 - Free Traditional Irish Music Session at IAHM (7:00 - 9:00 PM)
- 09/19/2026 - FILM: American Wake Film Screening and Discussion (6:30 PM)
- 09/20/2026 - PERFORMANCE: "VOICE OF THE MOUNTAINS: Jeanne Robert Foster, an Adirondack Legacy" written and performed by Eileen Mack (3:00 PM)
- 09/25-26/2026 - IRISH TENOR BANJO SUMMIT / Flanagan Brothers Events: Baltimore MD
- 09/26/2026 - PERFORMANCE: Production of IAHM's One Act Play Contest Winner
- 09/28/2026 - CONCERT: Noonan, Egan & Hearn (IAHM's Trad / Folk Performance Series)

October

- 10/02/2026 - CONCERT, IAHM Glen Hansard Tribute (7:00 PM, Location TBA)
- 10/07/2026 - Monthly IAHM Lecture / Informance: Wildwood Programs
- 10/07/2026 - Free Traditional Irish Music Session at IAHM (7:00 - 9:00 PM)
- 10/9-10/2026 - Ireland and First Nations/Family Fall Day Events (film/music/dance)
- 10/14/2026 - CONCERT, Cecelia (IAHM's Celtic Influences Performance Series)
- 10/21/2026 - Free Genealogy Workshop at IAHM (5:00 - 7:00 PM) * **Sign-Up Required**
- 10/21/2026 - Free Traditional Irish Music Session at IAHM (7:00 - 9:00 PM)
- 10/22/2026 - CONCERT: The Strayaways (IAHM's Special Event Performance Series)
- 10/25/2026 - STORYTELLING: Samhain Storytelling with Claire Nolan
- 10/30/2026 - CONCERT: Get Up Jack - Unplugged (IAHM's Trad / Folk Performance Series)

November

- 11/04/2026 - Monthly IAHM Lecture / Informance: Wildwood Programs
- 11/04/2026 - Free Genealogy Workshop at IAHM (5:00 - 7:00 PM) * **Sign-Up Required**
- 11/04/2026 - Free Traditional Irish Music Session at IAHM (7:00 - 9:00 PM)
- 11/06/2026 - LECTURE / INFORMANCE: "Gerry O'Connor: A Life in Photos and Music." (7:00 PM)

- 11/07/2026 - WORKSHOP (Fiddle) Techniques - Gerry O'Connor - 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
11/07/2026 - WORKSHOP (All Instruments) Tunes from the South Ulster / Oriel Tradition
- Gerry O'Connor - followed by Traditional Irish Music Session. 2:00 PM -
5:00 PM
11/16/2026 - CONCERT: Richard Hearn and Kate Knudsvig (IAHM's Trad / Folk
Performance Series)
11/18/2026 - Free Traditional Irish Music Session at IAHM (7:00 - 9:00 PM)

December

- 12/02/2026 - Free Genealogy Workshop at IAHM (5:00 - 7:00 PM) * **Sign-Up Required**
12/02/2026 - Free Traditional Irish Music Session at IAHM (7:00 - 9:00 PM)
12/09/2026 - "A Child's Christmas in Wales" performance
12/16/2026 - Free Traditional Irish Music Session at IAHM (7:00 - 9:00 PM)
12/17/2026 - CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Stringwynde (IAHM's Trad / Folk Performance
Series)