



Dayton Celtic Festival Features Seven Headliner Bands

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The United Irish of Dayton Celtic Festival, presented by the United Irish of Dayton in partnership with Five Rivers MetroParks, returns July 28-30 at RiverScape MetroPark in Downtown Dayton. The event will feature seven headliner bands and several regional performers on various stages of continuous entertainment, in addition to cultural exhibits and food and merchandise vendors. The festival will take place, rain or shine. Admission is FREE!

This year's headliner bands are Gaelic Storm, The Fitzgeralds, Doolin', Boxing Banjo, Socks in the Frying Pan, Davy Holt, and The Drowsy Lads. Information on the headliner bands is available on the festival website at www.daytoncelticfestival.com.

It's hard to imagine a band just coming into their own after 20 years of success, but that's exactly what makes a true anomaly in Gaelic Storm. This multi-national, Celtic juggernaut grows stronger with each live performance. With their latest release, *Go Climb a Tree*, their music has never sounded more representative of themselves as musicians and as live performers.

The band attributes their continued success to their fanatic audience. The country-music folks adore the storytelling, the bluegrass-heads love the instrumentals, Celtic fans love their devotion to tradition, and the rockers simply relish the passion they play their instruments with. Each band member, in their own way, expresses a deep gratitude for their fans, but it's best summed up in the words of Patrick Murphy: "The fans are the ones that have given us this life. We're here for them."

The Fitzgeralds also return to the Dayton Celtic Festival in 2023. Rooted in Canada's old-time fiddle tradition, the Bancroft-based fiddle and step dance ensemble combines a variety of musical styles in eclectic programming that delivers Celtic, bluegrass, western swing, French Canadian, pop, jazz and novelty items in its precisely choreographed and accurately presented step dancing routines. Julie, Tom and Kerry, all champion fiddlers and award-winning step

dancers, have extended their dance routines to include other dance variations, such as tap and Irish dancing, both as part of Everything Fitz and more recently as The Fitzgeralds.

Doolin' is a six-piece French band from Toulouse, and they make Irish traditional music. The Irish Times says they do it "brilliantly". They have solid credentials - brothers Josselin and Jacob Fournel are tin whistle and bodhran laureates in Ireland, but they've brought in jazz and rock riffs to create a sound that's very much their own. The band's fourth album, Doolin', was inspired by the 1845 Irish potato famine, and they have released their newest album Circus Boy in March 2023.

Another returning group, the young band Boxing Banjo, is one of the new Ireland traditional bands that amazes with their talent and musical maturity at such young ages. Brothers Dara and Mick Healy hail from Castlebar, County Mayo and were playing from the time they could walk. Both are certified classroom teachers who are taking a break to devote their full time to the music. Dara, a multi-instrumentalist, is a master of the button-box, dances, and composes. Mick, who also has mastered many instruments, plays a dynamite banjo, is a well-known Irish dancer, and has an enjoyable and calming voice. Joe McNulty is a star on the bodhran, fiddle and guitar, and Sean O'Meara is masterful on the guitar and bass. Together, they have been awarded 20 All Ireland titles!

Socks in the Frying Pan, another returning band, consists of a multi-award-winning trio from County Clare on the West coast of Ireland, the universal hub of Irish traditional music. Their dynamic vocal harmonies, virtuosic musical ability and their onstage wit has captured and captivated audiences around the world. One of the most sought-after groups in Irish music today, the worldwide 'Sock Invasion' continues!

Davy Holt performs traditional, original, and contemporary Scottish folk music in an upbeat and energetic style that has seen him become a well-known and popular entertainer throughout Scotland. Performing in pubs, festivals, hotels, theatres, Burns suppers, and Corporate Events, Davy's music has also seen him tour throughout Europe, The Middle East, and North America. Davy is a true ambassador of Scottish folk music to audiences worldwide through his frequent Facebook Live Lockdown Gigs.

The festival also welcomes back The Drowsy Lads, who thundered onto the Irish music scene in the US over 15 years ago. The group brings unique energy and pure friendship to their live show that is rarely seen. Named as the 2018 "The Best Irish-American Band", the 20 year performing veterans have galvanized their place among Irish and folk music's must see acts. You'll have a blast... and the band will be arm in arm beside you!

The festival committee is also looking for additional volunteers to help during the weekend of the event. Areas requiring the most support are setup, which occurs primarily on Thursday, July 27, and teardown on Sunday, July 30.

For more information on the festival or volunteer opportunities, visit our Facebook page or our website at www.daytoncelticfestival.com.