



## **DAYTON CELTIC FESTIVAL FEATURES FIVE 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 25-27 at RiverScape MetroPark in Downtown Dayton. The festival will take place, rain or shine. Admission is FREE, and plenty of shaded seating is available! Festival hours are 5:30-11 pm on Friday, July 25; 11:30 am-11 pm on Saturday, July 26; and 9 am-6 pm on Sunday, July 27.

The festival features five headliner bands, including fan favorite Gaelic Storm. This multi-national, Celtic juggernaut grows stronger with each live performance, and as you can imagine, after two decades and over 2,000 shows, it is a true force to be reckoned with. With their latest release, *Go Climb a Tree*, their music has never sounded more representative of themselves as musicians and as live performers. Gaelic Storm's storytelling, thrilling instrumentals, and devotion to traditional Celtic music have captivated their legion of fans for over 20 years.

Socks in the Frying Pan, another returning festival favorite, 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 & Contemporary Scottish folk music in an upbeat and energetic style that has seen him become a well known and popular entertainer throughout Scotland. Davy's music has seen him tour throughout Europe and North America.

The festival also welcomes back critically acclaimed Irish-American Traditional Folk powerhouse, The Drowsy Lads, who are the epitome of “we dare you to sit still” Irish music. Named as the 2018 “The Best Irish-American Band”, the 20 year performing veterans have galvanized their place amongst Irish and folk music’s must-see acts. From headlining festivals to packing out theaters, The Lads deliver a performance steeped in traditional roots with a fervor that leaves audiences wanting more. 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 as a must see performance.

Another returning headliner is JigJam. Described as ‘The best Irish band in bluegrass’ and ‘sparkling, infectious’ these lads have been hailed as ‘Ireland’s answer to New Grass Revival’. JigJam made its Grand Ole Opry Debut in Nashville in March 2023 to critical acclaim, receiving a standing ovation from a sold-out crowd on Country Music’s biggest stage. This Offaly and Tipperary-born band has started the first wave of attack in the new Irish invasion of Americana. When virtuoso Irish playing jumps the pond running naked through the wide open fields of bluegrass/Americana, JigJam is born. Bluegrass and American Folk music originated from the group’s home, and now JigJam is here to take it back!

The festival will also feature several regional and local musical groups, including Dulahan, Father Son and Friends, Jameson’s Folly, Miami Valley Pipes and Drums, Kennedy’s Kitchen, Dogwood Road, The Pints, na Skylark, and The Roving Rogues. In addition, festival goers will enjoy dance performances from several Irish Dance groups throughout the weekend: Celtic Academy of Irish Dance, McGovern Irish Dance, and Dwyer School of Irish Dance.

For more information on the festival, including the performance schedule, or volunteer opportunities, visit our Facebook page or our website at [www.daytoncelticfestival.com](http://www.daytoncelticfestival.com).