



DAYTON CELTIC FESTIVAL FEATURES FIVE HEADLINER BANDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SHAWN KAIN, 937-416-5498,
SHAWN4544@ATT.NET

The United Irish of Dayton Celtic Festival, presented by the United Irish of Dayton in partnership with Five Rivers MetroParks, returns July 24-26 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 24; 11:30 am-11 pm on Saturday, July 25; and 10 am-6 pm on Sunday, July 26.

The festival features six headliner bands, including fan favorite Gaelic Storm. This multinational, Celtic juggernaut grows stronger with each live performance and is a global Celtic phenomenon known for unforgettable live shows, unmatched energy, and award-winning musicianship. Their dynamic blend of traditional Irish music and raucous modern flair makes them a perennial festival favorite. The band has topped the Billboard World Chart six times, made appearances at mainstream music festivals, and headlined the largest Irish festivals across the United States!

The Elders also return to the Dayton Celtic Festival in 2026 after several years. Renowned for their rich storytelling, masterful instrumentation, and emotionally charged performances, The Elders bring heart, heritage, and high-octane Celtic rock to every stage they touch. Their accolades include an Emmy Award-winning DVD, a televised PBS concert broadcast nationwide, and induction into the Kansas Music Hall of Fame.

Socks in the Frying Pan, another returning festival favorite, consists of a multi-award-winning trio from Ennis, County Clare, on the West coast of Ireland, the universal hub of Irish traditional music. This award-winning trio blends virtuosic musicianship with tight harmonies and

quick-witted charm, delivering a fresh, lively, and deeply authentic sound adored across the Celtic world. To date, the band has released four studio albums. One of the most sought-after groups in Irish music today, the worldwide 'Sock Invasion' continues!

Another returning headliner, 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, North America, and the Middle East.

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. The band includes two brothers, a father and son. Named as the 2018 "The Best Irish-American Band", the 20 year performing veterans are known for their driving rhythms, infectious camaraderie, and foot-stomping traditional Irish music. Their stage presence rivals their musicianship, and both are exceptional.

New to the Dayton Celtic Festival in 2026 are the Bastard Bearded Irishmen. These high-energy Celtic punk rockers from Pittsburgh bring an explosive fusion of tradition, grit, and infectious party spirit guaranteed to ignite the crowd and keep the celebration roaring.

The festival will also feature several regional and local musical groups and 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.