



STRATEGIC PLAN: 2019-2022

MISSION

To hand down the tradition to the next generation of musicians in our community.

VISION

To inspire and support the traditional Irish music community and promote a love for music and lifelong learning.

VALUES

Joy: We believe that Irish music is fun, creative, social, and uplifting.

Challenge and Artistry: We equip students with the skills to be original, humble musicians.

Irish Tradition: We share a passion for Irish culture, history and the living traditions of song and instrumental dance music.

Community: We build community through music programs for all ages.

Inclusion: We foster an environment that is welcoming, supportive, and intergenerational.

WHO WE SERVE

The only traditional Irish music school of its kind in the state of Minnesota, the Center for Irish Music enriches the state's artistic and cultural landscape by providing quality instruction for 16 instruments including song, as well as occasional classes on related topics that our music instructors have expertise on such as Irish language, history, literature and mythology. The following statistics reflect the 2018-19 school year.

- 350 individual students, with 200 students attending regular classes every trimester.
- 55% of CIM's weekly students are adults, while 45% percent are youth & young adults.
- 40% of our private lesson students are also enrolled in a performing ensemble.
- 12% of CIM's students use the financial aid program.
- 10% of CIM students take advantage of our affordable instrument rental program.
- Minnesota Irish Music Weekend, the premier traditional Irish music festival in the Midwest brings over 125 students to our facility at the Celtic Junction every year.



The Center for Irish Music • 836 Prior Ave N, Ste. 400, St. Paul, MN 55104 • 651-815-0083 • www.centerforirishmusic.org

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Build the Center for Irish Music team

- Invest in our passionate, committed staff team with effective administrative systems
- Enhance capacity in the Board of Directors through training and recruiting
- Instructors: Retain, train and recruit excellent teaching artists
- Volunteers: Retain, train and recruit dedicated volunteers

Increase capacity through strong fiscal stewardship

- Advocate and fundraise to foster long-term sustainability through individual donor program, grants, & foundations
- Increase organizational capacity through better internal systems & quantitative evaluative measures

Raise the profile of Center for Irish Music

- Connect and collaborate with like-minded organizations and individuals
- Increase CIM's visibility through effective communications, outreach, advertising & improvements to our space
- Collaborate with, and support the Celtic Junction Arts Center (CJAC) NPO & LLC

Deliver inspirational programming

- Offer quality Irish music instruction in private and group contexts
- Expand our student-base with new program offerings
- Invest in curriculum development and increase course offerings for children ages 3-8
- Pursue opportunities for imaginative, innovative ways to teach Irish music, including explorations of cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural programs

HISTORY

The Center for Irish Music (CIM) is a traditional music school committed to “handing down the tradition” of Irish music and song in St. Paul’s Creative Enterprise Zone. First founded in 2004 as a project of the St. Paul Conservatory of Music, the Center for Irish Music (CIM) quickly grew into an independent music school with an enthusiastic community of music learners and lovers of all ages and from all walks of life.

Officially recognized as a 501(c)3 nonprofit in 2008, the CIM soon moved to its permanent home at St. Paul’s Celtic Junction, a move that enabled the organization to grow and engage a wider audience across the region.

Now beginning its 16th year, the Center for Irish Music has established a track record of success, teaching students of all ages who qualify to compete at the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil, and who are equipped to perform alongside Irish music luminaries at the Ordway and the O’Shaughnessy Theatre. Adult student groups perform at senior’s centers, festivals and Irish cultural events around the metro area. In the spirit of its mission, the CIM is dedicated to developing and mentoring young instructors, helping them to develop skills in pedagogy, and community leadership.