

TRUENORTH Irish Arts



TRUENORTH CULTURAL ARTS

Mission:

TrueNorth Cultural Arts is a multidisciplinary arts organization committed to building and strengthening individuals and the communities through the performing, visual, and the literary arts.

The Irish Arts Program is dedicated to building community with artists and audiences of all backgrounds, forging and strengthening cross-cultural partnerships, and preserving the stories, music, dance and traditions of Irish culture. The program is centered around three core areas: performance—music, dance and story telling; visual arts—including presentations and cultural exhibitions; and education—with classes focusing on Irish language, history, music, and dance.

Our Teachers



Brian Bigley

Brian Bigley has studied the Irish uilleann pipes for nearly 25 years as a player, as well as a maker, of the instrument. He has toured North America and Europe extensively as both a musician and a dancer, appearing in shows such as Tomàseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas, the Omaha Symphony's Celtic Journey, and has also performed and recorded with Grammy winning baroque orchestra Apollo's Fire, Parma Symphony and has performed the Brendan Voyage with TrueNorth Chamber Orchestra. In 2002 and 2003 Brian competed with great distinction at the World Irish Dance Championships held in Glasgow and Killarney. He has released four recordings of traditional Irish music. Brian is a full time musician and pipe maker and lives in Strongsville, Ohio, with his fiddler wife, Kristen, and their dancing children, James and Kathleen.



KristenBigley

Violinist Kristen Bigley has been playing the violin for 23 years. She has studied classical violin/music education at the University of Akron and Youngstown State University. Kristen often performs with small local ensembles in both classical and folk genres, including Parma Symphony and TrueNorth Chamber Orchestra. Most of all Kristen loves teaching violin/fiddle and has worked as a private violin/fiddle instructor and ensemble coach for 12 years. Kristen and piper husband, Brian, live in Strongsville, Ohio with their dancing children, James and Kathleen, where they have formally started a family business sharing their love of music, producing musical acts and manufacturing traditional Irish instruments, The Bigley Music Workshop LLC.

Class Descriptions

* All students at TrueNorth Irish Arts will learn a common repertoire so that they will be able to play together as they grow in their skills. All students are encouraged to join ensembles, as it is a great way to practice tunes outside of lesson time.

Tin Whistle – Beginner through Advanced.



The tin whistle is closely associated with Irish music and is a great beginner instrument if you are new to Irish music. There are many different whistles pitched in many keys. **Preregistered students can order their instrument through TrueNorth.

Beginner: This class is for students who have just started on the whistle. The focus in these classes will be on learning the notes of the instrument, learning tunes by ear and practicing scales, marches, and polkas. New students should have a whistle in the key of D.

Intermediate: Students will continue to learn tunes by ear. The class will focus on jigs, reels and beginning emphasis on ornamentation and style.

Advanced: Students in this class should be able to play a number of tunes on our repertoire list at a high level of competency with increased emphasis in traditional ornamentation and style.

Irish Flute – Beginner through Advanced.



The Irish flute is a simple system wooden flute with a warm earthy sound. **Preregistered students can order their instrument through TrueNorth.

Beginner: This class is for students who have just started on the Irish Flute or those who can play flute but are starting to learn Irish music. If you have not played flute before, it would be recommended that you start in Whistle class, as the fingering is identical. The focus in these classes will be on learning the notes of the instrument, learning tunes by ear and practicing scales, marches, and polkas.

Intermediate: Students will continue to learn tunes by ear. The class will focus on jigs, reels and beginning emphasis on ornamentation and style.

Advanced: Students in this class should be able to play a number of tunes on our repertoire list at a high level of competency with increased emphasis in traditional ornamentation and style.

Class Descriptions

Uilleann Pipes – Beginner through Advanced.



The Uilleann Pipes, Ireland's indigenous bagpipe, take their name from the Irish word for 'elbow' which operate using an air-bag and bellows powered by the elbows instead of blowing into them. Air is pumped from the bellow into the bag and then from the bag into a reed in the chanter. Piping is considered a very important part of the Irish tradition. The solo playing of the pipes has a special place of its own in the tradition and to a large extent developed separately from the rest of the tradition.

**Preregistered students can order their instrument through TrueNorth.

Beginner: It is recommended that you start in beginner Whistle class, if you have never played Uilleann Pipes before as the pipes are quite complicated. If you do not already own a set of pipes there is an option of renting or buying a set through your instructor. The focus in this class will be learning the notes of the instrument, learning tunes by ear and practicing scales, marches, and polkas.

Intermediate: Students will continue to learn tunes by ear. The class will focus on jigs, reels and beginning emphasis on ornamentation and style.

Advanced: Students in this class should be able to play a number of tunes on our repertoire list at a high level of competency with increased emphasis in traditional ornamentation and style.

Irish Style Guitar Accompaniment



Beginner: This class is for students who have just started on the guitar and the focus will be on learning the guitar chords that accompany most Irish tunes. If you are just starting to play guitar and cannot smoothly change chords, then you should start in the Beginner class. The instructor will be able to let you know when to move up to the Intermediate class.

Intermediate/Advanced: This class is for students that already play the guitar and want to learn Irish accompaniment style in standard and DADGAD tuning. The focus will be on learning the school tunes by ear and the style of accompaniment for the different types of Irish tunes.

Class Descriptions

Irish Style Piano Accompaniment

This class is for students who can already play piano. The focus will be on learning the school tunes by ear and the style of accompaniment for the different types of Irish tunes.

Irish Fiddle – PreBeginner through Advanced.



PreBeginner: This class is for all students who are new to the instrument, who have never played violin or fiddle. The class will cover starting technique, care of the fiddle and bow and be an introduction to Irish music.

Beginner: This class will be for students who have played the instrument before and have limited skills on the instrument and on bowing technique.

Emphasis will be on learning the tunes by ear and practicing technique. If you have played violin in the past, even well, but are unfamiliar with the bowing techniques in Irish fiddling, you should start here. With experience in violin, you may move up to other classes sooner. This class will start with bowing techniques for polka and move to jigs.

Intermediate: Students are introduced to other bowing techniques, including Irish reels and hornpipes. Students learn various left hand techniques, including cuts and rolls, which are prevalent in Irish music.

Advanced: This class is for students who have been recommended to move up by the instructor. There will be more emphasis on bowing styles, left hand techniques and students learn about bowing pressure skills. This class focuses on a high level of competency of school tunes with increased emphasis in traditional ornamentation and style.

Classical Violin/Fiddle Crossover – If you already play classical violin and can read music, this is the class for you! Irish music in general is very social and is a great way to play music and have fun doing it. In this class we will learn tunes starting with sheet music and gradually introduce learning music by ear. Students will develop an Irish aesthetic to their playing, including bowing styles and basic ornamentation styles. Once you have acquired skills you can move into one of the fiddle classes where you will start learning school tunes and have the ability to join bands and start working towards competitions if you wish.

Class Descriptions



Ensemble Coaching

As student skills grow and they start to form ensembles with their classmates, any ensembles (Ceili Bands, Grupa Cheoil, Duets and Trios) that are interested in competing at the Fleadh must sign up for Ensemble Coaching that will ensure they are ready to compete and improve the students ability to rehearse tunes and improve musicianship skills. Any groups may sign up for coaching even if not interested in competing.



Irish Instrument Making Workshops

Are you someone that loves wood working and wants to learn the craft of making handmade instruments. Take one of our instrument making workshops. Possible projects might include reed making, turning wooden flutes, tin whistles, and bagpipe chanter and parts.



Beginning Recreational Irish Dancing

Irish dancing is a an immensely popular part of Irish culture, and has a great impact on the music that accompanies it. It is rhythmical, exciting, social and fun as displayed by the long running show 'Riverdance.' Students learn the basic form and steps of Irish dancing that can be applied to Ceili Dances (Group Dances like a square dance) or competitive solo dancing. A 'Feis' is an Irish dance competition of which one or two are held every weekend throughout the country and the world. The ultimate goal of a competitive dancer is the World Dance Championships that happen every year.

*More classes, masterclasses, and workshops will be offered throughout the year. To keep up with our class offerings and events go to <http://www.TNCArts.org>

School Activities and Community

Throughout the year, TrueNorth will host potluck kid friendly sessions, student/faculty recitals and workshops. Traditional Irish "sessions" or seisiún in Irish, are jam sessions where students can get together and play the new tunes they've learned for everyone to hear. Sessions are a fun way to watch our students enjoy making music with their friends as well as demonstrate what they've learned. And of course there will be snacks!

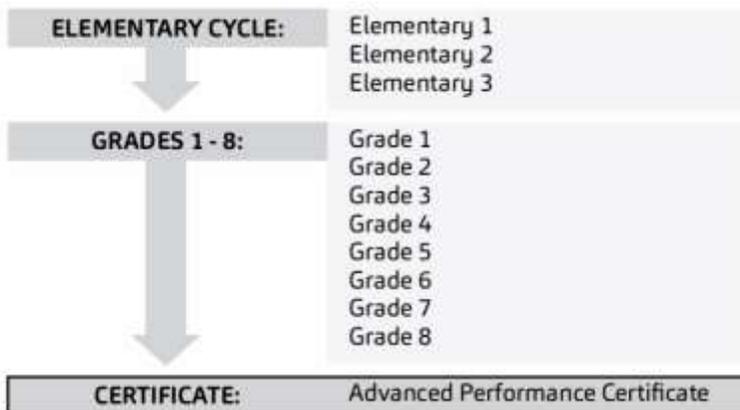
School Curriculum

TrueNorth Irish Arts' curriculum is based on the SCT (Scrúdu Ceol Tíre) Syllabus. This syllabus is provided by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, the largest group involved in the preservation and promotion of Irish traditional music. They are a non-profit cultural movement with hundreds of local branches around the world.

There's more to Irish traditional music than just playing tunes. Musical works have histories and stories, just as musicians today stand on the shoulders of giants from the past. The SCT program is a graded series of exams designed to take you as a musician from basic proficiency in tune-playing through to a mastery of the tradition.

Along the way you'll learn about music theory, improve your ear and research the history of musical pieces, styles and players. Oh, and play tunes, of course!

The SCT program includes 12 levels of competence:



MARKING SCHEME	
Elementary 1 - Grade 5	
A) Performance	60
B) Aural Awareness	15
C) Discussion & Repertoire	15
D) Literacy	10
Grades 6 - 8	
A) Performance	60
B) Aural Awareness	10
C) Research Project, Discussion & Repertoire	20
D) Literacy	10

At the early Elementary levels, candidates play just two tunes and complete some basic music theory exercises. At the Senior levels, these advanced musicians are expected to play selections from a broad range of musical types, including appropriate ornamentation and other embellishments. Senior candidates also submit written submissions on a topic from the SCT syllabus. Qualifying senior candidates will receive an Advanced Performance Certificate and may move on to instructor training if they wish.

For more information on the SCT examination syllabus go to:

https://comhaltas.ie/images/press_room/sct_syllabus_2016_english.pdf

Fleadh Cheoil Competition

Comhaltas also runs a definitive system of competitions for Irish music, called the “Fleadh Cheoil” (literally “feast of music”). At the regional level (Midwest is usually in Chicago, Illinois) musicians compete in a series of qualifying rounds, (both in solo competitions on their instruments and in ensembles) culminating in the annual All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann where qualifying students are invited to compete in Ireland.

For more information on the Fleadh Cheoil go to: <https://comhaltas.ie/events/competitions/>

Class Schedule, Tuition, and Registration

All classes are offered by quarter. There is an annual membership fee of \$35 dollars, per program year. This fee applies at the time of registration through the end of the program year which runs from September through August. Single membership should be under the student’s name. Family memberships are also available for \$60 per family. The TrueNorth Membership grants access to all classes and ensembles.

Students that are new to Irish music are heavily encouraged to start in both Whistle and Dance class. This gives students a better understanding of rhythm as it applies to both the dancer and the musician. Because Irish Arts

knows from experience that this is an integral part of becoming an excellent musician and/or dancer we are offering these two classes taken together at a discounted rate:

Whistle Private Lesson and Dance Class Package Cost:

Fall Quarter \$375

Winter Quarter \$321

Spring Quarter \$160

Summer Quarter \$267

Fall Quarter: Sept. 1 – Dec. 21st (16 weeks)14 sessions

Winter Quarter: Jan. 6th – Apr. 4th (13 weeks)12 sessions

Spring Quarter: April 20th – June 6th (7 weeks)6 sessions

Summer Quarter: June 8th – August 22nd (11 weeks)10 sessions

*Private Lessons are \$29.50 per 30 min lesson, paid each quarter

\$42.50 per 45 min lesson, paid each quarter

\$54.00 per 60 min lesson, paid each quarter

*Dance classes are \$13.50 per class, paid each quarter

*Ensemble Coaching (may be scheduled on an as needed basis) and

Group Classes are \$15 per class, paid each quarter

*Workshop and Masterclass sessions - prices will vary based on the class offered.

Registration

To Register for classes please email Rick Fortney at rfortney@tncarts.org or call 440-653-5353 x1111