

Weekly Update from O'Shea Irish Dance Administrator

Friday, April 17, 2020

Important Dates - Mark Your Calendars

- **From their living rooms to yours. Special virtual concerts!**
 - **April 19 - [Danny Diamond and Anna Lethert](#)**
 - Music and Dance wedded together! Join us as we listen to one of our former OID dance teachers perform Sean nos hard shoe dancing alongside with her fiddling, Irish husband, one of our original show cast members of Get Up Your Irish. Two of the dearest folks we know!
 - **April 25 - [An Acoustic Evening with Pete McCauley](#)**
 - Not necessarily trad! Pete is a local talent on vocals and guitar, part of the group known as Mac and Cheese (with his friend Tim Cheesborough). Not only can you enjoy a lovely Saturday of music, but you have the opportunity to help Celtic Junction support our neighborhood Food Shelf!
- **STILL AVAILABLE:**
 - **[OID with Ireland's Famous entertainer Daniel O'Donnell](#) at Celtic Junction!**
 - Not sure what this is? It is worth 20 minutes of your time to watch O'Shea Irish Dance together with Hooley & Kickin' It Irish favourite musician Todd Menton welcome one of Ireland's superstar singers to YOUR Minnesota dance studio. Watch out - he may jump in and join us in a broom dance!
- ***May 9 - OID Spring Recitals ONLINE!***
 - VIRTUAL Recitals - by class. ALL loved ones are welcome!
 - We are going to show off our fabulous dancers in our PreSchool, Beginner and Primary level classes in a VIRTUAL recital this year. Watch for the upcoming schedule so you can invite Grandmas, Grandpas, Aunties, Uncles and friends to see you DANCE!

Links to Online Classes and Info

Links to class specific info and the weekly schedule of Zoom classes can be found on the following pages on the Damhsa site:

- [Class Levels](#)
- [Schedule of Online Classes](#)

Special Messages from your teachers...

Some feedback we are getting from families and students is that keeping a regular schedule, seeing dance friends, and joining in our exercise programs are helping most right now. Here is some more support for you in the midst of our stay-at-home stretch:

1. STEPS - Our basic steps all the way up through Primary 2 are written out in words [HERE!](#)
2. VIDEOS - As promised - here are OID Youtube videos to support your dance training. These are just a start - we'll have more next week, and will plan to get them laid out more comprehensively on the website, too. Feel free to do these anytime!
 - ALL dancers and Families - [Stretch together!](#)
 - Primary dancers - [Easy Treble Jig](#)
 - Intermediate Dancers - [Warm-up](#)
 - Advanced, Adult & Champ Dancers - [Warm-up](#)

Pointers for Online Classes

Families with stage sections at home for Zoom class and practice are finding them very handy. We are trying to wrap up delivery of sections this week so please consider whether you need any sections and text Cormac at 612-703-2147 as soon as possible if you do. We'd like this weekend's deliveries to be the last ones.

Thanks to dancers and families for working to make our online classes work. We recognize that this temporary solution is new, and perhaps some extra work, but the results have been great. Please note the following:

- Please try to position your dance space as near to your wifi source as possible. It really helps to have clear video for dancers and for your teachers so they can see your feet moving in time with your rhythm.
- Finally, please work to be warmed up and ready for class before the Zoom session starts.

For other details, please see our "[Family Guide to Zoom classes](#)" which contains most of the details we had thought of before classes started online (i.e. make sure they have water bottles near their screen, so we can take water breaks together).

Eoin McKiernan Library Story Time!

If you haven't seen them already, children of all ages (three to 103!) should check out the [Celtic Junction Arts Center Facebook page](#) for Natalie's daily readings of children's stories from the Eoin McKiernan Library collection.

Spring Recital - Online Fun for All!

Dancers will perform in their own homes with friends and family joining in on Zoom from their own homes. Teachers will be prepping dancers in class. WE will work on a schedule for the day, which will give your dancer an opportunity to practice with their teacher before they perform for you. Details to follow!

Latest Guidance on COVID-19

Governor Walz and the MDH are working toward reopening MN following the stay-home order currently scheduled to end on May 4. We anticipate a gradual reopening that will still include social distancing recommendations and protocols. We continue to monitor information from the state, the City of Saint Paul and the CDC. State info can be found [here](#) and the City of Saint Paul's info is [here](#).

LOOK FOR YOUR NEXT WEEKLY UPDATE ON FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020