

Maldon Meehan



Maldon Meehan is a performer, teacher and scholar of Irish Sean-nós and set dance. Maldon holds a BA in Irish Studies/Theater Arts from The Evergreen State College and a MA in Ethnochoreology from the University of Limerick, Ireland. Maldon has over 18 years experience dancing, teaching and performing. She is a 2008 Regional Arts and Cultures grant recipient.

As a sean-nós dancer Maldon has appeared on the nationally televised 2005 Oireachtas at the Cork Opera House in Cork City (TG4) as well as on Connemara Community Radio and Raidió na Gaeltachta (RTÉ). Maldon placed 3rd in the 2005 Comórtas Chóilín Sheáin Dharach, a sean-nós jig competition held annually in Connemara. In 2005 Maldon and Ronan Regan released an instructional DVD of Sean-nós dance. Today the DVD has been sold in more than 17 countries.

Maldon has studied sean-nós dance with Róisín Ní Mhainín, Pádraig Ó hOibicín, Mulkerrin, Mairéad Casey, Pádraig and Gearóid Ó Dubhain. She has performed on stage with Johnny B Connolly, Dale Russ, Hanz Araki, Kevin Burke, Danu, Jackie Daily, Ronan Regan and Kieran Jordan.

Maldon has performed and or taught at the Boffin Arts Festival (Ireland), the Friday Harbor Irish Music Camp (Washington), Aladdin Theater (Oregon), Irish Connections Festival (Massachusetts), Sean-nós Milwaukee (Wisconsin) and the Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College (Massachusetts).

Maldon is a founding member of Sean-nós Northwest, a non-profit organization dedicated to presenting dance, song and language in the Pacific Northwest. Maldon Meehan currently lives in Portland, Oregon where she teaches weekly classes, performs and tours nationally.

Discography

2007 CD: Kick the Fiddle

2005 DVD: "Dance Sean-nós instructional DVD

2004 CD: Riff Raff: Whisky fingers & Happy feet



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PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Boffin Arts Festival, Boffin, Ireland
Friday Harbor Irish Music Camp, WA
Aladdin Theater, Portland, OR
Irish Connections Festival, Canton, MA
Sean-nós Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI
Cutler Majestic Theatre, Boston, MA
Opera House, Cork City, Ireland
Irish World Music Centre, Limerick, Ireland
Yachtas Celtic Music Festival, Yachtas, OR
Music Fest NW, Portland, OR
Northwest Folklife, Seattle, WA
Alberta Street Public House, Portland, OR
Artichoke Music, Portland, Oregon
Connemara Community Radio, Ireland
Raidió na Gaeltachta (RTÉ), Ireland

WORKSHOP HISTORY

Friday Harbor Irish Music Camp, WA
Lady of the Lake Dance Camp, Coeur d' Alene, Idaho
Irish World Music Center, Limerick, Ireland
Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR
The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA
Portland Community College, Portland, OR
Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland, OR
Portland Ceili Society, Portland, OR
Vashon Ceili Society, Vashon Island, WA
Vancouver Ceili Society, Vancouver, BC
Sally Mack Dance Studio, Portland, OR
Kake Studio, Boulder, CO
Casper Community Center, Casper, CA
Lincoln High School, Portland, OR
Albion Grammar School, Albion, CA
George Middle School, Portland, OR
Binnsmead Middle School, Portland, OR



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Maldon Meehan offers performances, lectures, workshops, residencies and calling for traditional dances. All workshops listed below can be offered as 45 minute to 2-hour sessions or residencies. All workshops are adapted to suite the individual venue, age level and/or dance experience.

SET DANCING

Explore the most popular form of traditional social dancing in Ireland today. We will learn the basics of Irish Set Dancing. Sets are dance in square formation with intricate and rhythmic footwork. Learn to dance to reels, jigs, slides, polkas and hornpipes.

CÉILÍ DANCE

Céilí or figure dances were originally danced at house dances in Ireland. *Céilí* dances range in the number of participants (2 hands, 4 hands, 6 hands, 8 hands, 16 hands or more). The majority of the dances are dance in jig or reel time. This workshop will cover a variety of traditional *Céilí* dances and their background.

SEAN-NÓS DANCE

Sean-nós dance is very different from the Irish step dance most people are used to seeing. *Sean-nós* literally meaning old-style is a highly improvisational, low to the ground, rhythmic dance form. Unlike Irish step dancers, *Sean-nós* dancers swing their hips and use their arms as forms of expressing the music. Traditionally a dancer danced solo on the hardwood of a half door or the round top of a barrel; as a result the steps are confined to a small space. In *Sean-nós* dance, the dancer is tied closely with the musician and the music. The dancer interprets the music.

AN IRISH CEILI DANCE

An Irish social dance gathering is called a *Céilí* Dance. *Céilí* Dances can have either Set dances and/or *Céilí* Dances at them. Similar to a contra dance, a *Céilí* Dance has live music and a caller and each dance is walked through before it is dance to live music.

LECTURE DEMONSTRATION IN THE HISTORY OF IRISH DANCE

Explore the rich history of Irish dance. We will cover the history of Irish dance from the earliest records to the present. We will explore the individual dance genres: *Céilí* dance, Set Dance, *Sean-nós* dance, Old-style Traditional and Step Dance, as well as 'Riverdance'. This demonstration will utilize video material, handouts, lecture, demonstration and performance.



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TESTIMONIALS

“Rhythm should be Meehan middle name.”
-Renira Pachuta, News Graphic, February 15, 2007

"Let me just say that as a musician, playing for Maldon is like being a platelet coursing through the heart of traditional Irish music and dance; the rhythm of the sean-nós steps in concert with the music is as it was meant to be and when in flight, all is right in the world." - Dale Russ, Fiddler, Seattle, WA, 2001

"Maldon's education and background in ethnic dance make her an ideal instructor and performer. She not only knows the physical dance inside and out, but knows and has a love for the dance history, which she happily communicates to her students."
- Nancy Jarrell, Portland Community College, 1998

“Maldon is a visionary and is unafraid to challenge herself. Pushing the limits of Sean-nós dance while still preserving its traditional core...”
-Alesha Arscott, West African Dancer and colleague, 2006

“I genuinely believe that [Maldon] is a gifted scholar and dancer, and the amount of knowledge of sean-nós dance that she has already accumulated in her body is extraordinary.” -Seán Williams, Professor of Ethnomusicology/Irish Studies, Evergreen State College, 2006

“I have always found Maldon to be a fresh, vibrant and honest collaborator. She has worked with some of the biggest talents in the industry and (luckily for me) some of the smallest. I never got a sense from her that she ever delivered anything other than her very best at whatever it was she happened to be doing. I've watched her deal with a wide variety of people ranging from age 80 to 4. Everyone always got the same genuine and helpful attention from her.”
-Dean McCrea, Executive Vice President, Planet Productions inc, June 7, 2006

“Words to describe Maldon are dedicated, passionate, focused, skilled, and committed. These attributes support her desire to learn as much as she can about traditional dance forms from around the world with an emphasis on the sean-nós style and put these into practice.”-Carol Spellman, Oregon Historical Society, July 2006

