

GENEVA CONCERTS



PRESENTS

Darrah Carr Dance

Ceilidh: An Evening of Irish Music and Dance



Saturday, September 23, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.
Smith Opera House

GENEVA CONCERTS

2023-2024 SEASON

Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 7:30 pm
DARRAH CARR DANCE

Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 7:30 pm
THE FISK JUBILEE SINGERS

Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 3:00 pm
SYMPHORIA!
Lawrence Loh, conductor; Rachel Barton Pine, violin

CLYNE *This Midnight Hour*
BRAHMS Symphony No. 3 in F major, Op. 90
VIVALDI *The Four Seasons*

Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 3:00 pm
SYMPHORIA!
Lawrence Loh, conductor; Julian Schwarz, cello

TCHAIKOVSKY Variations on a Rococo Theme for Cello
and Orchestra, Op. 33
MAHLER Symphony No. 5 in C-sharp minor

Performed at the Smith Opera House, 82 Seneca Street, Geneva, NY

Geneva Concerts programs are made possible, in part, with funds from the Williams Family Foundation; the Wyckoff Family Foundation; Hobart and William Smith Colleges; the Ontario Arts Council; the New York State Council on the Arts Statewide Community Re-grants Program administered by Auburn Public Theater; and The Audience Building Project, a program of the Lake Placid Center for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

The preferred lodging partner of Geneva Concerts is Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott,
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Darrah Carr Dance

Ceilidh

An Evening of Irish Music and Dance

Darrah Carr Dance

Michelle Esch Kendal Griffler Trent Kowalik
Julia Manwaring Laura Neese Jack Puluka Sadi Weir

The Band

Liz Hanley Jefferson Harmer Niall O'Leary
Kieran McCarthy-Fell

**All tunes traditional*

- 1) Round Up Reels – *full company*
- 2) Hard Shoe Jig – *Trent Kowalik*
- 3) Figure Dance – *full company*
- 4) Musical Interlude
- 5) Ag Criost an Siol – *Laura Neese*
- 6) Four Hand Reel – *Trent Kowalik, Laura Neese, Jack Puluka, Sadi Weir*
- 7) Traditional Set Dance – *Kendal Griffler*
- 8) Hard Shoe Treble Jig – *full company*
- 9) Musical Interlude
- 10) Tell Me Ma – *Trent Kowalik, Jack Puluka, Sadi Weir*
- 11) Rattlin' Bog
- 12) Wild Rover – *Trent Kowalik, Laura Neese*

13) Musical Interlude

14) Over 2-3 Time – *Michelle Esch, Trent Kowalik, Laura Neese, Jack Puluka, Sadi Weir*

15) Trad Step – *full company*

~ Intermission ~

1) RhythMOTION – *full company*

Acappella Quartet:

Michelle Esch, Julia Manwaring, Laura Neese, Sadi Weir

Acappella Soloist:

Trent Kowalik

Acappella Duet:

Kendal Griffler, Trent Kowalik

Wallflower Waltz:

Michelle Esch, Laura Neese, Sadi Weir

Reel Time:

Sadi Weir, Trent Kowalik

Polka Party:

Michelle Esch, Laura Neese, Jack Puluka, Sadi Weir

Spoons:

Kendal Griffler, Niall O'Leary

Acappella Soloist:

Trent Kowalik

Water is Wide:

Trent Kowalik, Sadi Weir

Brush Dance:

Jack Puluka

2) Musical Interlude

3) Step Dance Suite – *full company*

ABOUT DARRAH CARR DANCE

The Bessie Award-nominated company **Darrah Carr Dance** brings a bold new twist to conventional Irish dance. Their acclaimed performances draw from Irish music, step dance footwork and spatial patterns to create high-energy, rhythmically based work that is accessible to a broad audience. In commemoration of the company's 15th Anniversary season in 2013, Macater Press published *ModERIN: Contemporary Irish Dance Works - Darrah Carr Dance*. This impressive artist's catalogue documents the company's lasting impact on the field of Irish dance and features stunning images and in-depth descriptions of their major repertory works. Recent performance highlights include: *Good Morning America*, a return appearance on NBC's *The Today Show*, a performance with The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, a benefit performance at Jazz at Lincoln Center, *Victory Dance* at The New Victory Theater, *The Yeats Project* at the Irish Repertory Theatre, The Duke Theater on 42nd Street, Celebrate Brooklyn, Jacob's Pillow, MASS MoCA, The Yard at Martha's Vineyard, Dublin's Bank of Ireland Arts Center, and the company's annual New York City season at Irish Arts Center. Darrah Carr Dance is represented exclusively by Siegel Artist Management.

www.siegelartist.com

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

DARRAH CARR BYRNE (ARTISTIC DIRECTOR) holds a PhD in Dance from Texas Woman's University. She received her MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wesleyan University. Named one of the "Top 40 Under 40" by *The Irish Echo*, one of the "Top 100 Irish-Americans of the Year" by *Irish America Magazine*, and one of the "Most Influential Women of 2010" by *The Irish Voice*, Carr has been active for twenty years in both the Irish and modern dance communities as a choreographer, dancer, educator, and writer. In addition to her work as the Artistic Director of *Darrah Carr Dance*, she and her Irish step dance partner, Niall O'Leary, have performed their duet act in locations ranging from Disney World to the Osaka Festival Hall in Japan. They are featured dancers in *Absolutely Irish!* a PBS documentary directed by Academy Award winner Paul Wagner with a cast of the finest traditional Irish musicians led by Dr. Mick Moloney. Carr served as the assistant choreographer to Seán Curran for the TONY award-winning Broadway musical, *James Joyce's The Dead*, and has set original works on Trinity Irish Dance's Junior Company (Chicago) and the Mise Eire Irish Dancers (Long Island). Carr is a respected dance scholar

and has presented her research at the Dance Studies Association, the Congress on Research in Dance, the World Dance Alliance, Dance Research Forum Ireland, the Popular Culture Association, and New York University's Percussive Dance Symposium. She has written extensively for *Dance Magazine*, *Dance Studio Life*, *Dancer* and the *Dance Insider*. Carr has also contributed chapters to *Close to the Floor: Irish Dance from the Boreen to Broadway* and *Contemporary Irish Dance Works: Darrah Carr Dance*, published by Macater Press. Carr is an Assistant Professor and the Interim Director of the Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College.

MICHELLE ESCH (DANCER) graduated *magna cum laude* with a BFA in dance from the Rutgers University Mason Gross School of The Arts, and studied Jazz/Musical Theater at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. She is a company member with Darrah Carr Dance which is known for creating a unique blend of traditional Irish step and contemporary modern dance. Michelle has also taught and choreographed for the Discover Opera graduate program at Manhattan School of Music, The Buck Hill Skytop Music Festival, Arts Horizons, The Laurie Berkner Band Greatest Hits Tour and several music videos. Michelle has worked with Syncopated City Dance Company/Swing FX, Flexicurve, Meagan Woods & Company, and EDP Dance Project. Additional dance credits include *A Jazz Happening* with Chet Walker, *Flightless Birds* at The Joyce Soho, Cirque du Soleil's *Poetic Social Mission*, Jazz at Lincoln Center Spring Gala, Monday Night Entertainment at The Rainbow Room, Microsoft's Launch Party for X-Box Kinect, *Midsummer Night Swing* at Lincoln Center, *Frankie 100 Celebration* at the Edison Ballroom, and *Dance Legends* at the Hammerstein Ballroom.

KENDAL GRIFFLER (DANCER) New York native Kendal Griffler began dancing at the age of four and hasn't stopped since! She danced competitively for the Early Mcloughlin School of Irish Dance where she found success on the regional, national and world level. Kendal began her professional career with The American Company of Irish Dance at the age of 20 and has since toured extensively throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. Kendal debuted as a company member with Darrah Carr Dance in their 2018 fall season. Career highlights include being cast as a featured role in *Fáinne Óir*, a contemporary dance and music production choreographed by Ciara Sexton and touring as lead dancer in *Celtic Rhythms* direct from Ireland. Most recently, Kendal was the principal female understudy with *Celtic Illusion*. Kendal teaches performance-based Irish dance and Pilates. She has been an instructor the past two summers at Camp Rince Ceol, the original Irish dance camp. Along with teaching and performing, Kendal is also a social media manager and digital content creator.

JEFFERSON HAMER (MUSICIAN) is a guitarist, singer, and songwriter from Brooklyn, New York. He has toured and recorded albums with Anais Mitchell (*Child Ballads*, winner of a BBC2 Folk Award), Sarah Jarosz (as guitarist and harmony singer on her Grammy-nominated *Blue Heron Suite*) and with Session Americana. The Murphy Beds, his long-running traditional folk duo with Eamon O’Leary, has released two self-produced albums, about which the *Huffington Post* wrote, “(the album) bears repeated listening from start to finish, with ten beautiful, crystalline songs.” His original songs and lead guitar work are featured on *Alameda*, an acoustic and electric collaboration with bassist Jeff Picker and drummer John Fatum, featuring special guests from the NYC folk community and beyond.

LIZ HANLEY (MUSICIAN) is a Brooklyn-based, Boston-born singer and fiddle player. Recognized as a “versatile performer” by *The Irish Echo*, Hanley was trained in classical violin and voice, marinated in Irish and American folk traditions and tumbled in the rock n roll dryer. *Vents Magazine* states “Liz Hanley is a singer with the sort of crystal-clear, instantly ingratiating voice that has always been a hallmark of progressive folk-rock” and *Irish Music Magazine* writes “Liz Hanley has that uncanny knack and the distinctive voice to reawaken our interest in the familiar...” Hanley has toured globally and recorded with groups such as Frogbelly and Symphony, Green Fields of America, The Mighty Oaks, and Emanuel and the Fear. Hanley’s debut album *The Ecstasy of St Cecilia* was hailed a “gentle work of beauty” by *FolkWorld* and features Eamon O’Leary and Jefferson Hamer.

TRENT KOWALIK (DANCER) was just 3 years old when his parents enrolled him at DSD, the local dance studio. There he took ballet, jazz, and tap classes, but having seen a video of *River Dance*, was eager to explore Irish dance and rhythms. Trent won the Irish Dancing World Championships for his age group when he was 12. Shortly afterwards, he played the lead in *Billy Elliot the Musical* on the West End and Broadway, winning a TONY award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical. Trent studied ballet throughout high-school at ABT’s JKO school. He holds a degree in philosophy and a certificate in dance from Princeton University. Trent is a proud member of Darrah Carr Dance. He has also toured with Michael Lóndra and recently finished a season with *Celtic Fyre* at Busch Gardens. Trent has a passion for music production and is currently helping a number of artists independently release music.

JULIA MANWARING (DANCER) has trained with Griffith Academy in Wethersfield, CT and currently studies dance at Hofstra University. She has performed in works by Larry Keigwin, Robbie Cook, Fredrick

Earl Mosley, Pablo Ruvalcaba, and Livia Vanaver. Thanks to my family, friends, and professors at Hofstra for always supporting me.

KIERAN MCCARTHY FELL (MUSICIAN) is a flute and whistle player from Long Island, New York. She began her musical studies on guitar at 8, and took up classical flute at 9, which led to an undergraduate degree in music performance from UNC Chapel Hill. In middle school, Kieran taught herself tin whistle, and in 2013 began learning Irish flute as part of an independent research fellowship studying the overlap and divergence between the worlds of classical and Irish traditional music. This research resulted in a paper, published in a peer-reviewed journal in December 2014, and a lasting love for playing traditional music. Kieran performs regularly at sessions and gigs in the NYC area, has taught group whistle classes at the Irish Arts Center in Manhattan since 2019, and has several private students on both flute and whistle.

LAURA NEESE (DANCER) is a dance artist and educator from Staten Island, NY, where she developed a love for dance under the mentorship of Rosemary Cappozalo and studied Irish dance with Niall O’Leary. Described as “ethereally romantic” by the *Dance Enthusiast*, Neese has performed works by artists including Darrah Carr, Melissa West, Sean Curran, Ann Carlson, Maho Ogawa, and KitchenSink Collective, among others. Performing credits range from Jacob’s Pillow to the *Today Show* to Wexner Center for the Arts. Neese presents her own stage- and site-based choreography at venues in New York City and nationally. Recent activities include a PASS Artist Residency at Snug Harbor Cultural Center, and research presentation at the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science. She holds an MFA from The Ohio State University, BFA/BA from SUNY Buffalo, and Pilates certification from Kinected. Neese is currently on faculty at the University of Kentucky Dept. of Theatre and Dance. Teaching credits include Irish Arts Center, Hofstra University, Kinected, The Ohio State University, and the University of Kentucky. lauraneese.com

NIALL O’LEARY (MUSICIAN) is a former All-Ireland and World Champion dancer from Dublin, Ireland. His teachers included Kevin Massey, proclaimed by Michael Flatley to be the greatest ever Irish dancer, and Rory O’Connor, the first man to do Irish dancing on radio, and Rory’s daughters Breda and Ann. The Niall O’Leary School of Irish Dance has been community building and training champions since 1995, and currently has locations in New York City, Miami in Florida, and Mexico. O’Leary choreographed the first-ever multi-national team for the World Irish Dancing Championships (1996), featuring dancers from Germany, Finland, Switzerland, Belgium, Australia, Botswana, USA and Ireland. Based in New York City for over twenty years, O’Leary performs

regularly as a solo artist, in duet with Darrah Carr, with Mick Moloney's Green Fields of America, and with his professional company The Niall O'Leary Irish Dance Troupe. He is in constant demand across the USA, as well as Canada, Ireland, and Asia as a performer, choreographer, master instructor and adjudicator in Irish Dance, and most recently also as a performer and instructor in a new genre that he himself has created: *Celtic Tap Improv*. He has recently recorded a new video: *Celtic Tap Improv: Introduction, Instruction and Deconstruction*. O'Leary is a regular *feis* adjudicator and musician, playing piano-accordion and keyboards; he also plays spoons, spoon-horn and bodhrán, and teaches Irish mouth music, Irish whistling, Irish singing, sean-nós dancing, Irish language and body percussion at workshops across America. His Irish Dance Music CD *Can You Irish Dance to This???* is available exclusively from his website. He was founding Chairperson of Úll Mór CCÉ, the first Manhattan branch of Comhaltas (1997), and served as President of the Irish Business Organization of NY Inc. (2010-11). He is founding President of the new Manhattan branch of Conradh na Gaeilge (2017). Additionally, O'Leary practices as an architect. O'Leary has been honored by *Irish America Magazine* as one of the "Top 100 Irish-Americans of the Year," and by the *Irish Echo* newspaper as a "Community Champion." www.nialloleary.com

JACK PULUKA (DANCER) is a Central Jersey native from Somerville. Jack's artistic journey began with local musical theater productions. This stage time quickly turned to studio time at the Lynn Academy of Irish Dance. Here, Jack found his love for teaching and choreography. These hopes were brought to light by the Somerset County Vocational School, leading him to study at Montclair University for his BFA in dance, BA in film, and BA in dance education. Throughout his career, Jack has worked with artists such as Garret Coleman, Jessie DiMauro, Christain Von Howard, Steffanie Batten Bland, Darrah Carr, and Seán Curran. Jack intends to never stop learning about movement exploration and the art of amplifying storytelling with multimedia.

AMANDA K. RINGGER (LIGHTING DESIGNER) has been designing locally, nationally, and internationally for over 20 years with artists such as Darrah Carr, Faye Driscoll, Cynthia Oliver, Doug Elkins, Leslie Cuyjet, Molly Poerstel, Laura Peterson, Kyle Marshall, Antonio Ramos, Alexandra Beller, Deborah Lohse, Kota Yamazaki, Sean Donovan, and cakeface, among others. She received a BA from Goucher College in Baltimore, MD and an MFA from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. She is the recipient of a Bessie Award for her collaboration on Faye Driscoll's *837 Venice Boulevard* at HERE Arts Center. Mandy thanks Darrah for over 20 years of friendship and artistic collaboration.

SAUL ULERIO (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR) is a Dominican-American choreographer, musician, and performer. Ulerio has been seen in the works of Heather Kravas, RoseAnne Spradlin, Rebecca Lazier, Kota Yamazaki amongst other, and currently performs in the works of Antonio Ramos, Daria Fain, Ivy Baldwin. Ulerio was a 2011-2012 New York Live Arts Fresh Tracks Artist and a 2012-2014 Movement Research Artist- in-Residence.

SADI WEIR (DANCER) grew up in Saint George, Utah and has been singing, dancing and acting ever since she was 4 years old. She is now a New York City-based artist and recently graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in May of 2023 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance and a minor in Business of Entertainment and Media Industries. Sadi has worked with choreographers such as Sidra Bell, Bill T. Jones, Andy Blankenbuehler, Elizabeth Parkinson and Scott Wise and is also represented by Bloc Talent Agency in New York City.

Geneva Concerts Outreach

During the 1991–92 season, Geneva Concerts began an educational outreach program which continues to grow. In recent seasons we have reached more than 1,000 school children annually. This program helps to build our future audience base by exposing our children to a wide variety of concert and dance performances, and it assists the Arts-in-Education programs for Geneva and surrounding school districts by providing high-quality performers for school programs.

The Geneva Concerts outreach program, with support from the Wyckoff Foundation, featured Darrah Carr Dance performing two lecture-demonstrations yesterday morning in the Geneva High School gymnasium. The two assemblies were performed for over 1000 students in Geneva's high school and middle school. The company's founder, Darrah Carr, explained about two types of dance music that are used in Irish Dance-- jigs and reels-- and the history, costumes and traditions related to this classic dance art form. Ms. Carr invited students to take a quick lesson on the gym floor, then taught them a classic example of a foot/leg movement that is a basic part of the Irish dance tradition.

Following these assemblies, the company performed a masterclass for Hobart & William Smith students during a dance class at the Gearan Center.

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