

Murphy Roche School and Club at the Midwest Fleadh



Members of the Murphy Roche School of Irish Music and Club enjoyed a special time at the 2012 Midwest Fleadh, a major traditional Irish music competition held this past April at Chicago's Irish

American Heritage Center.. All worked hard preparing for the event, and each performed enjoyable traditional music with confidence and poise. The judges were impressed, awarding Murphy Roche musicians and singers 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in 35 events. In 25 of these events, the Murphy Roche entrants placed 1st or 2nd, qualifying them to compete in the All-Ireland Fleadh for the world championships in August.

It wasn't all about competition, though. Robyn Jedlicka shared a story that conveys the power of Irish music to bring people together for an enjoyable time, virtually anywhere, anytime. In Robyn's words --

"After all of the competitions were over, Kaylen, Bridget, Shannon and I started a session in the front hallway downstairs. Eventually a boy from another school joined us on bodhran, and we had a nice little session off in the corner there. Somebody came over and asked if we wanted to move onto the stage in the other room. Obviously we said we'd love to, so we moved to setting up microphones for us. Then somebody else started rounding up and by the end of the night, we were dancing counted, on playing fast enough for them to dance."



Robyn's father Tim added, "I was so impressed and proud of 'our kids' starting a session just for the joy of playing, welcoming in more musicians and taking charge of the band, and playing tunes for 32 adult dancers."



At the All-Irelands, the Murphy Roche club will sponsor a new trophy for the world champion of the under age 18 banjo competition, in honor of famed Irish musician Maurice Lennon, who has done so much to inspire the club's younger members.

The Midwest competitions and the All-Irelands are key milestones for musicians on their individual pathways to musical

excellence. Lasting friendships often form with musicians from many parts of the world during the the competitions, plus through the formal educational events and informal

sessions that occur spontaneously around the music competitions.



The Murphy Roche Irish Music School and Club are proud of all who took part in the Midwest Fleadh, all who qualified for the All-Irelands, and all who continue to develop their talents so that their families, friends and

communities can enjoy traditional Irish music.

To raise funds for students to compete in Ireland, the Murphy Roche Club is hosting a champions performance on August 5, 2012, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at the Irish Legend in Willow Springs. For more information, please visit the club's Web site at www.murphyroche.org.

Joe Martin, Public Relations Officer, Murphy Roche Irish Music Club