

Boulder Irish Workshop

\$2,000 Grant from the Alex Wilson Legacy Fund - April 2022

Irish music sessions, where experienced musicians gather to jam and socialize, take place all over the world. The Boulder Irish Session is a longstanding tradition in Boulder area; in fact, Alex Wilson attended the session periodically with his box of harmonicas and sang at the home jams.

The Boulder gatherings paused during the pandemic and eventually resumed at the Avalon, where the applicant for this project used one area of the building to teach a youth group while the regular session went on in another room. In spring 2022, as the adult session was preparing to move back to its historic venue, they applied for an AWLF grant that would allow the workshop project to continue, with the help of a Kickstarter campaign, to pay for Avalon rent, teachers, guest artist(s), scholarships, and other expenses.



Report by Nicolette Anfdres
Submitted July 28, 2022

The Boulder Irish Workshop has hosted ten classes so far with the help of the Alex Wilson Legacy Fund. The Boulder Irish Workshop was created to hold a place for young people and adults to learn Irish music by ear. Typical Irish sessions are held in pubs, where young students aren't allowed, and there are not many group opportunities to *learn* music by ear. The Boulder Irish Workshop intends to fill a need for a place where people can come learn without sheet music and screens, and connect to their community. Folk music can be for everyone. There is also a need to keep Irish music alive, since it is a by-ear tradition.





Classes began April 3rd and ran each week except for Memorial Day weekend. Classes have been held at the Avalon Ballroom. Nicolette Andres (myself) taught five of the classes, and the remaining were taught by Willie Crook (long-time Irish session player and concertina builder) and Adam Cecil (raised from a young age as an Irish and Scottish fiddler). Over the 10 classes, 15 different musicians attended, and at least five more have added themselves to our email list. Many participants attended two or more classes. Feedback from guest teachers and participants has been very positive so far, and the network is growing. Two parents have shared that they love the chance for their children to learn alongside adults. One participant wrote: “Thank you for doing what you are doing. It’s changing the way I learn music. I have been dependent on the dots [sheet music] for way too long.” Our mission is to help people know music in their heart, and have a place to learn and play.

Classes will continue this fall. Participants will be asked to sign up for four consecutive classes, where one tune will be taught per week, and the fourth week will be review and time to share other tunes. Guest teachers will continue to be part of the project, and there is much more to come! Check out the website here: boulder-irish-workshop.mailchimpsites.com

Boulder Irish

Workshop

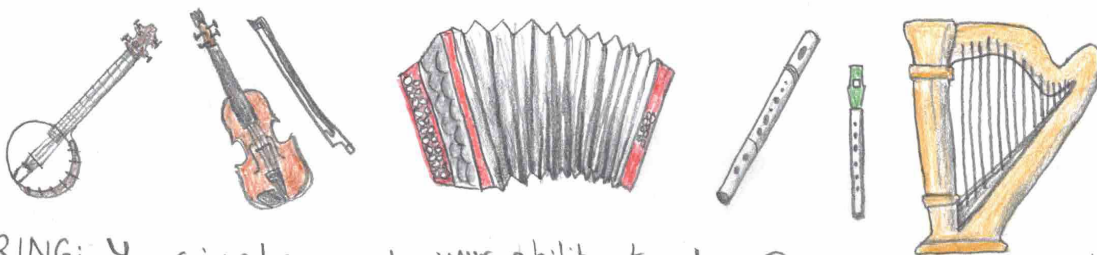
AGES 12 +

Supported in part by the

ALEX WILSON LEGACY FUND

Learn to play tunes that will make people dance!
With your melody instrument- fiddle, cello, flute, viola,
pennywhistle, recorder, harp, accordion, etc. - join us in
learning a tune a week by ear. No homework,
no sheet music needed.

SUNDAYS, May 1, 8, 15, 22 7:30-8:30pm
\$50/4 weeks • Avalon Ballroom *foyer of Tango Room*



BRING: Your instrument, your ability to play D+G scales, and
the desire to make new music friends!

ENROLL: email → boulderirishworkshop@gmail.com