



McKeever School of Irish Dance Newsletter

January -April 2021

First Ever Western US Regional Digital Feis



WESTERN US REGIONAL ONLINE FEIS
VIDEO UPLOAD:
FEB 22 – FEB 23 - 2021

Online Feis hosted by
VideoFeis
www.videofeis.com

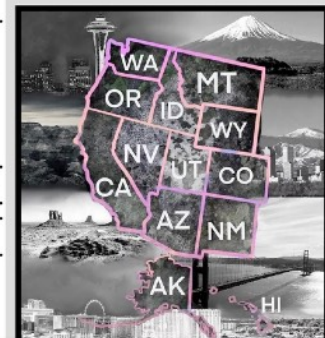
Online registration and fabrication with
QuickFeis
www.quickfeis.com
Online registration ends on Feb 21

THIS IS A REGIONAL FEIS OPEN ONLY TO DANCERS FROM THE WESTERN US IRISH DANCE REGION

IMPORTANT DATES
Feb 21online registration CLOSES
Feb 22Uploading videos BEGINS
Feb 23Uploading videos ENDS
Feb 24Adjudication BEGINS
Feb 25Adjudication ENDS
May 01Results posted on QuickFeis



WESTERN REGION



This past February, the CLRG Western US Region of Irish Dance hosted its first ever Regional online Feis. Every region around the World also hosted a similar event, and this was the first large championships that dancers were able to attend in our area. Last year saw countless Feisanna cancelled, as well as two World Championships, the 2020 Western US Regionals and 2020 North American Championships for all our dancers.

The online feis was an incredibly historic event for Irish dance since it was the first CLRG sanctioned competition on a digital platform ever! This was important to dancers in all levels, but especially to our Preliminary Champions who need three first places to move up to the highest and final level of Open Champion.

We saw 47 McKeever win over 212 awards and 4 sashes. We had the largest number of entries of any school in the entire Western USA, which includes 13 states!! Quality and Quantity! Way to represent everyone!

All dancers received such incredibly heartfelt, detailed and constructive commentary from a huge international panel of adjudicators.

A shout out to Devin P., Sarah L., Eleni K. And Ruby K. who all competed for the first time as champions and beat many of their competitors the first time right out of the gate!

Congrats to Eva S. for placing 5th in a huge Prelim competition and getting her first sash! To Miss Natalie who placed 8th in a large 16 and over Prelim competition and to Morgan M. And Amy D. For representing the school so well as Open Champions and getting amazing feedback! (Amy's first Open competition!)

Finally congrats to Sophia T., Olive K., and Savannah C. for each earning a first place in Preliminary championships for the first time in their respective age groups! You girls beat so many dancers that already had multiple wins under their belt and it was such a huge and well deserved success!!

Congrats McKeever Dancers and thank you for doing so well on the world's first ever digital stage!



If you competed we have sent your certificates off to the printers and there has been an unfortunate delay. But they are very beautifully designed and we can't wait to get them to you!

No Parade? No Problem! Parking Lot Party #3

As March approached with no signs of a parade or any performance opportunity we planned for what we know and love during these times.... A third parking lot party! The event took place the Saturday before Saint Patrick's Day in the CLARA Parking lot and this time there were more dancers and more family members than ever! The most amazing thing was so many grandparents were in attendance after receiving the vaccine. Dancer's grandparents have often been the friendly faces bringing students to class in the past, so it was nice to see you all again. We also got to meet some dancers for the first time in person as well as others for the first time in over a year. We had a fun poster parade, a stamina challenge and a never ending jig challenge! It was a beautiful day and one we will never forget.



McKeever School of Irish Dance Sacramento



Park your car, wear a mask and dance with us at the CLARA parking lot!

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARKING LOT PARTY

SAT. March 13th
Park from Noon to 12:30
Celebrate from 12:30 - 2pm

Dancing, Friends, Social Distancing, Dance Challenges, Crystal Trophies, Brazilian Food AND MORE!
PLUS Live Music from Stepping Stone Irish Band at the end!



Making the News Twice in One Month!



March brought us two opportunities to perform LIVE on camera! One with GoodDay Sacramento and reporter Ashley Williams and another with ABC10 and reporter Mark S. Allen.

GoodDay covered us on March 17th, 2020 right after we announced moving to a digital platform. So having them back in the studio after a year triumphing over every challenge under the sun was a celebratory day.

For ABC10 dancers woke up for the earliest call time we have ever had yet....5am. They danced for almost a solid period of two hours between short segments and repeated performances.

I am always impressed with how professional and equipped my dancers are on these type of days. We have to just go with the flow, listen and be willing to change our plan and perform at the drop of a hat. THANK YOU DANCERS!!!

Champion Devin P. In 2017 and in 2021 with Mark S. Allen!



Open Champion, World Qualifier and Kerry Productions Lead Dancer Moriah Payne captivated us with these beautiful shots in the fog. Taken by her boyfriend Tyler (her cheerleader on and off the stage). Moriah is studying for her final CLRG grade exam and eventually will sit her TCRG exam all while holding down a demanding job in the field of Dentistry. You go Moriah!



Dancers Earn A Prestigious Awards From IDTANA

With competitions cancelled, The Irish Dance Teachers Association of North America knew dancers needed a prestigious goal to drive them. So they created the Traditional Set Dance Proficiency Project. There are seven recognized and promoted traditional set dances in CLRG. They are Saint Patrick's Day, The Blackbird, Three Sea Captains, Garden of Daisies, Job of Journeywork, Jockey to the Fair, and King of the Fairies. These are historical dances that have been choreographed by dance masters more than a century ago and set to specific tunes. The dances are passed down from teacher to student and can not be changed or altered. The set dances all have different styles to them and depending on where your teachers and their traditions in dance come from, some versions will vary slightly.

We had 19 dancers pass over 74 trad sets and the esteemed Judge Lisa Power Steinmetz ADCRG helped officiate the exams via our digital class feis in December.

Three of our dancers earned all 7 awards and were given the Presidential Award for Proficiency Plus. This meant they received special certificates signed by the IDTANA President Russell Beaton and were recognized on social media. Amy D., Arabelle J., and Devin P. All earned this Presidential Award which was not an easy feat and we can not be prouder.

Congrats to the following dancers who were recognized as proficient in 2 - 5 Set dances! Lina R., Ruby K., Chiara K., Christie H., Willow S., Hannah D., Savannah C., Millie K., Sophia T., Olive K., Erica, J., Murrone P., Eleni K., Sarah L., Dhalia G., and Nora O.

Also check out the cool certificates below! Those were designed by Miss McKeever who was commissioned by IDTANA to contribute some of her original artwork to the project.



Congratulations!

These IDTANA Dancers from the
McKEEVER SCHOOL
 completed ALL 7 Traditional Sets
 for the IDTANA Proficiency + Certificate!

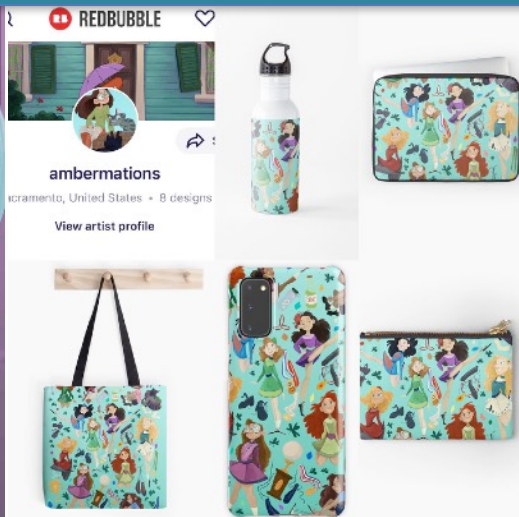
A Heartfelt Return to Retirement Community Performances

We were so incredibly excited when we got the call from Oakmont of East Sacramento and Oakmont of Folsom that we could return and perform for their community on Saint Patrick's Day! Their residents had all been vaccinated and were eagerly awaiting live entertainment. Oakmont of Folsom has been part of our Saint Patrick's Day tradition since 2015 and the new East Sacramento location has not had any entertainment or celebrations yet in their beautiful new facility! So we were the first!

Dancers performed a full set of routines at each location and had the audience clapping, yelling "WOW!" And even shedding a joyful tear or two. It was a memorable and heartwarming experience for the audience and the performers reminding us that bright times are truly ahead. We were humbled to be able to share our talents with this community and hope to do even more shows like this in the future. Thank you Kailey G., Libby G., Dahlia G., Rose L., McKenna B., Lucy B., Allie S., Harkin M., Madilyn G., June M., Erica M., and Brooklyn A. For dancing your hearts out!



McKeever Dancer Amber Rankin's Illustrations Make us Jump for Joy!



If you don't already know about our adult dancer Amber Rankin's amazing art now you do! She is a professional illustrator and animator and has sold her awesome Irish Dance related items at the McKeever feis, Christmas market and parking lot party. Check out her shop on redbubble under ambermations. She also does custom portraits like this beautiful one of McKeever Champion Morgan Martin and her mom Elaine!

Dancing for Your Neighbors When The Shows Are Cancelled!



Pictured to the left, dancer Alannah S. takes the initiative to perform for her neighborhood in a safe outdoor solo show. Alannah's dad built her the beautiful stage that has been a fun spot for Alannah to practice her dancing on. She has been with us since a little tiny tot and we are so proud of how she has excelled this year. She has learned her final two hard shoe dances all via zoom and we can't wait to see what the future brings for her!



Check out these awesome shirts! Part of another dance school in Ireland's creative way to unite all the dance schools around the World with one team uniform! Every CLRG Irish Dance School in the World is listed here and we right in the middle back section! Pre-orders are now here if you didn't receive yours and if you didn't order you can from this site <https://www.alanscariffdesigns.com>

LAST
WEEK
TONIGHT
WITH JOHN OLIVER



Making it on PBS and HBO in One Month



Featured Gifts



In March the McKeever School made it on PBS and HBO! Can you believe it?

We donated private lessons and access to our digital learning center to KVIE as part of their Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show Promotion. Hopefully you were inspired if you caught the show on PBS. 25 years ago that's what inspired me to make Irish Dance my entire life!

The John Oliver Show on HBO did a montage of all the reporters across the USA doing silly fake Irish accents and a clip of our segment was seen! So many people recognized the logo and messaged me I was so surprised. Even a few McKeever's that had no idea other people had the same last name as them! Now they know! Check that off your bucket lists dancers!

Private Dance Lesson + 3-month access to curated video catalog

Installments not available

Sustaining not available

Credit Card only

ADD TO CART

Private Lesson Description: Receive a Private Lesson in Irish Dance with Nicole McKeever, past Riverdance cast member. Lessons are available for children and adults, and can be provided either virtually or in-person based on preference of donor. The specific details and coordination of the private lesson will be determined between Nicole McKeever and the donor once the donation has been made. The McKeever School of Irish Dance is located in Sacramento.

This donation level includes 3-month access to an online catalog of instructional dance videos, which have been specifically curated the McKeever School of Irish Dance. This curated video catalog is exclusive to PBS KVIE donors.

Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show

Special | 1h 50m 8s

Celebrate the magic of Irish music and dance in this reinvention of the groundbreaking show.

GO Irish Dance Contest Winner



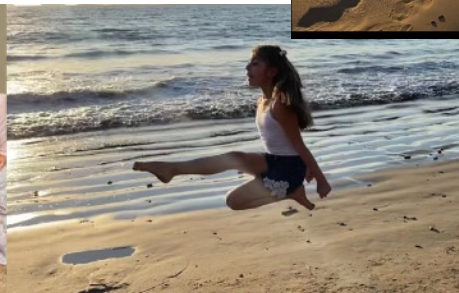
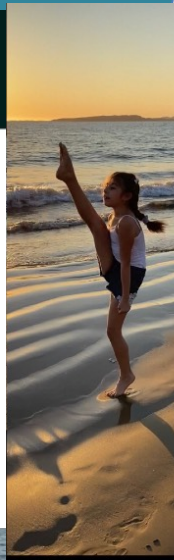
EACH of these three winners will get their life story heard by fans of dance and trad music, worldwide, via Irish Dancing Magazine!

Winners are:

- Niamh Brennan from Essex, United Kingdom
- Sophia Elizabeth Teves from California, USA
- Keeva Kinsella-Alba from Wisconsin, USA

TikTok Location

TikTok Location			Best Choreography		
Keeva Kinsella-Alba	Wisconsin	USA	Merve Didi	Ontario	Canada
Erin Mayo	Delaware	USA	Caitlin Hartman	Pennsylvania	USA
Sophia Elizabeth Teves	California	USA	Roslin Kinsella-Alba	Wisconsin	USA
London Wood	Alberta	Canada	Declan Kinsella-Alba	Wisconsin	USA
Garet Zagorski	Virginia	USA	Aine Mahony	Georgia	USA
			Caleb Popko	Alberta	Canada
			Sophia Elizabeth Teves	California	USA
			Garet Zagorski	Virginia	USA



We are so proud of Champion Sophia T. who entered the Global Digital Irish Dance Talent Search presented by Irish Dancing Magazine called “Go Irish Dance”. The contest also benefitted UNICEF. Sophia submitted three videos and received awards for location and choreography in her age group. She was also one of three dancers chosen to be interviewed and have their life story told in the magazine this Summer! Sophia recorded her videos while visiting her family in Mexico and they are full of color and joy! Thanks for sharing your talents and representing the McKeever School on a global stage!



Champion Performs in Global Digital Concert

Our Open Champion and Kerry Productions Lead Morgan Martin represented the McKeever School along with dancers from 11 other Bay Area schools this past March! They filmed a virtual Saint Patrick’s Day performance called “Paint the Bridge Green”. This production supported the United Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco and included top Irish Music artists from across the Globe. We are excited for Morgan as she trains for the US National Championship in Phoenix, AZ this July! All while holding down a full-time job, traveling from Reno for classes, and being a plant and fitness enthusiast. You can follow her on Instagram @irish_dance_fitness

