



IRISH FAIR FOUNDATION, INC.

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A 501C(3) NON-PROFIT CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Press Release

What: 33rd Annual Great American Irish Fair & Music Festival
Where: Irvine Meadows Fairgrounds, 8800 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine, California
When: Saturday & Sunday, June 21 & 22, 2008 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
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See Website: www.irishfair.org Photos available on request or from Website.

The Irvine Meadows Fairgrounds, formally the Lion Country Safari, located between the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater and the Wild Rivers Waterpark, will host the 33rd annual Irish Fair. With its lakes and streams, grassy meadows and trees, it emulates the Emerald Isle as closely as possible. The Great American Irish Fair and Music Festival is the largest festival of its kind in the Western United States. The Fair has **16 entertainment areas** featuring the very best in the music, song, dance, and sport of the Irish, along with over 100 shops, arts and crafts vendors, and sheep herding shows, Irish horse shows, Irish dog shows, and one of the largest Irish Stepdancing (Riverdance-style) competitions in California. There is something Irish for everybody at the Great American Irish Fair and Music Festival. Here are some of the main areas of interest:

THE FENIANS & BROTHER WILL STAR ON THE SHAMROCK BOWL STAGE

Orange County's own **Fenians** will be featured on the **Shamrock Bowl**, a shaded, cool cement amphitheater. Sharing the Bowl will be Brother, Irish Australian lads that have brought together Irish and Celtic music and blended it with their down under style, and special appearances by **Ken O'Malley and the Twilight Lords**.

The other large stage, the **Emerald Bowl**, will have the sing-along music of **American Wake**, and the foot-stomping music of **Sligo Rags**, selected as Orange County's best Irish Band for 2006. Also appearing will be **Dublin 4**, with music for the younger crowd.

IRISH UILLEAN PIPES & HARPS

The fair is pleased to have several performances of the Uilleann pipes on our Traditional Stage, which is located on Innisfree Island in the middle of the lake, reserved for our harps and pipes.

FAIRDANCE FEIS - IRISH STEP DANCING AT THE IRISH FAIR

The Fairdance program brings the popularity, style, and talent of the world-famed Riverdance shows to the Irish Fair, in an international competition. Fairdance will also feature Celtic dancing, Irish ceili dancing, Scottish country dancing, and American clog dancing; fairgoers are welcome to join in the ceili dancing.

BAGPIPE BANDS, PARADES, AND PAGEANTRY

Both days, enjoy the Grand Parade of the Irish, with bagpipe bands, historical flags, marching bands, medieval Irish clans, and hundreds of other costumed performers.

IRISH FAIR MARKETPLACE

Over **100** Irish import and gift shop vendors. Waterford crystal, Beleek china, jewelry, hand woodcarvings, imported Irish food, fine Irish lace, and much, much more.

TRADITIONAL IRISH FOODS AND DRINK

The Irish Fair will feature Irish and American foods, with emphasis on traditional Irish "pub grub" of corned beef sandwiches, Irish sausage rolls, scones, Irish soda bread, and teas.

CHILDRENS DELIGHT IN LEPRECHAUN KINGDOM

Leprechaun Kingdom, a magic world of costumed story-tellers, pony rides, face painting, and more.

HISTORY AND LANGUAGE

"Gaelic," the ancient, but still living language of Ireland, will be featured in song, poetry, and verse. Learn a few phrases and enroll in Irish language classes. Genealogy booths will trace heritage, and teach the history and meaning of names.

ROYAL TARA VILLAGE

Ancient Tara Village gives a sense of the Ireland of medieval times, with the melodies of maidens playing their harps, and Celtic warriors in battle. Leather, wood, wool, and metal are transformed into beautiful, useful, and durable goods to wear or use.

SPORTS AT THE FAIR

The athletic field will host a Gaelic football tournament, featuring players from Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

ART AND PHOTO SHOW

The Irish Fair Irish Art Show showcases fabulous oils, watercolors, and photos of all things Celtic.

IRISH DOG SHOW

The largest exhibition of all-breeds Irish Dog Show in western America. Specially featured is the Irish Wolfhound. Come watch as the Wolfhounds are "coursed," chasing a lure on a motorized string.

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

The Irish Fair will host both Catholic and non-denominational Protestant Church services at **10:00 Sunday morning**.

ADMISSION AND DISCOUNTS

<u>ADMISSION</u>	<u>GATE</u>	<u>ADVANCE</u>	
Adult	\$18.00	\$15.00	*Seniors 62 and older *Students 13 years to 21 with student ID
Adult 2 Day Ticket	\$28.00	\$22.00	
Senior & Student*	\$15.00	\$12.00	
CHILDREN FREE	12 years old and under are free when accompanied by an adult		

ADVANCE TICKETS We will have a ClicknPrint icon on our Website when tickets are available for sale.

SALUTE TO OUR TROOPS - IRISH FAIR YELLOW RIBBON SALUTE

The Irish Fair will admit free of charge all active duty military personal IN UNIFORM and their immediate families. Military I.D. required.

FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Sunday morning between 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. the Irish Fair will offer \$4 off the full adult admission to each person donating 4 cans of food or more. Food contributions go to the **Orange County Second Harvest program for the Homeless**. *Sponsored by the Irish Fair Foundation and the AOH LA County Board*

NOTE: Only one discount will apply.

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