

## Irish tunes have downtown Madison dancing Outdoor concert series will continue July 29



□ Photo by Judi Whiting

The Irish tunes of the Ballycastle Band and cooler temperatures generated a great mood at the band's performance Friday evening, June 15, on the lawn of the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts. Giving the Irish jig a try on the museum lawn, from left, are siblings Jack Kennedy, 7, and Norah Kennedy, 4, of Madison. Norah plans to take Irish Step Dancing classes in the fall.



□ Photo by Judi Whiting

Susan Cavanagh of Madison holds her daughter, Arwen, 3, as they dance round and round to the Irish music of the Ballycastle Band on Friday evening, July 15, on the lawn of the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts in downtown Madison.



□ Photo by Judi Whiting

Eloise Mulvihill and Lachlan Russell, 3, of Madison, have the beat as the Ballycastle Band plays one of its favorite requests, "Whiskey In The Jar," in the band's Downtown Concert Series performance Friday evening, July 15, outside Madison's Museum of Early Trades and Crafts.



□ Photo by Judi Whiting

Claire Fox and her son Patrick, 3, of Madison, clap along to the tune "Welcome to Limerick" as the Ballycastle Band played Friday evening, July 15, on the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts lawn in this summer's free Downtown Concert Series.



Photo by Judi Whiting

The Ballycastle Band and its Irish tunes drew a large, enthusiastic audience to downtown Madison on Friday evening, July 15, in the Madison Downtown Concert Series; from left are Andrew Koontz on fiddle, Bill O'Neal on guitar, and Chris Finnegan on Uilleann pipes and penny whistle.

**MADISON** – Irish tunes had downtown Madison dancing in a free performance last Friday.

The Ballycastle Band provided the music from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 15, in a free outdoor concert on the lawn of the **Museum of Early Trades and Crafts** at 9 Main St. at Green Village Road.

The finger-snapping, toe-tapping, upbeat tunes -- plus cooler temperatures as afternoon turned into evening -- drew a large crowd to the museum lawn, and many who attended found they couldn't help but dance.

The performance by the popular Irish band from South Jersey was the second show in this summer's Downtown Concert Series, presented by the museum and the borough's Downtown Development Commission (DDC).

The Ballycastle Band is known for its mix of traditional jigs, reels and ballads. The band's musicians are Chris Finnegan, Andrew Koontz and Bill O'Neal, who sings tenor and plays harmonica and guitar. Koontz sings baritone and plays violin. Finnegan sings baritone and plays many instruments, including whistles, Uilleann pipes, highland pipes, bodhran, and many stringed instruments. He is also a member of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh pipe band. All three musicians have performed extensively both in the U.S. and in Ireland.