

KVMR PRESENTS THE 22ND ANNUAL

# Celtic Festival

MARKETPLACE & ROYAL TOURNAMENT

COME FOR THE MUSIC  
STAY FOR THE MAGIC

FRIDAY-SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 28-30  
2018

Hi,

The KVMR Celtic Festival draws over 6,000 people to the Nevada County Fairgrounds for headline music and festivities featuring hundreds of musicians performing on 8 stages along with camping, full-contact jousting, workshops, Renaissance guilds and more.

It's the biggest single fundraiser for community radio KVMR - a stunning event and a defining moment for the community.

Please contact me for a feature story on the event. I'll gladly provide press passes and line up advance interviews with headliners. LOTS of colorful high resolution photos are available.

THANKS,

Peter

Peter Wilson  
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WHO: Community Radio KVMR 89.5 FM

WHAT: 22nd Annual KVMR Celtic Festival

WHEN: Friday, Saturday & Sunday, September 28 through 30

10:00 am to 10:00PM on Saturday

10:00 am to 8:00PM on Sunday

Seniors are admitted at 9:00 am on Sunday only for complimentary coffee, scones and preferred seating.

Friday, September 29, 4:00 to 7:00PM - FREE Youth Arts Program

7:30 to 9:30 – Royal Tournament & Gathering of the Clans

8:00 to 11:00 – Ceilidh Dance with Live Music by the Galen Fraser Trio

WHERE: Nevada County Fairgrounds

11228 McCourtney Rd, Grass Valley, CA 95949

TICKETS: \$21 - \$55, Camping and RV hookups are available

Tickets at: <http://kvmrcelticfestival.org/tickets/>

or by calling 530-265-9073

Information at [celtfest@kvmr.org](mailto:celtfest@kvmr.org) or 530-265-9073

WEBPAGE: [www.kvmrcelticfestival.org](http://www.kvmrcelticfestival.org)

<http://kvmrcelticfestival.org/press-room/>

CONTACT: Peter Wilson, [peter@stringsconcerts.com](mailto:peter@stringsconcerts.com), 530-913-3345

HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS - <http://kvmrcelticfestival.org/press-room/>

LOTS of great photos available

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**The 22nd annual KVMR Celtic Festival and Marketplace** mixes Celtic music and magic September 28 through 30 in Grass Valley, California at the Nevada County Fairgrounds, a bucolic setting on 100 acres among giant ponderosa pines. There are eight stages and performance areas. Our main stage hosts many of the best Celtic musicians on the world stage.

The Nevada County Fairgrounds is transformed into a Celtic Village and headline concert venue. Mainstage musical headliners for this year include festival favorites **The Elders**, **Seamus Egan Project** featuring **Moira Smiley**, **Heron Valley** from the Scottish Highlands, Irish stars **The Black Brothers**, **Galen Fraser Trio**, **House of Hamill**, **Mathew Byrne** and Irish quintet **Connla**.

Shopping and dining opportunities abound with over 50 vendors and a complete Irish Pub. Hundreds of regional performers, singers, bagpipers, actors, jugglers and storytellers roam the fairgrounds.

Friday night includes pageantry and jousting with the Royal Tournament and Gathering of the Clans, Free Friday Youth Arts Program, and the Friday night Ceilidh – a Celtic party with music, dancing and revelry under the stars.

Musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments and join in with jam sessions and workshops scheduled throughout the weekend. History buffs can explore several encampments of "Guilds" who re-create points and places in time. Exciting and educational, the Celtic Animals exhibit houses falcons, hawks, owls, Irish wolfhounds and ponies.

Revelers make music into the night in the campgrounds complete with tall trees and a lake. Camping and RV hookups are available on-site.

Amateur and professional athletes test their strength and skill in Scottish Games. Children are kept engaged with arts and crafts, story telling, and romping on the straw bales.

We hope you and your family will join us for this year's KVMR Celtic Festival.

## **FREE YOUTH ARTS PROGRAM - Friday, September 28 from 4:00 to 7:00PM**

The Celtic Festival's Friday Youth Arts Program has grown to be a wonderful afternoon of music, magic, dance and arts instruction for aspiring artists. Participants, ages 10-18, learn from world-class artists and festival headliners. Youth participants in the program can take 1-3 consecutive workshops of their choice.

The FREE program includes workshops and a discounted youth day pass for attendees.

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## **ROYAL TOURNAMENT & GATHERING OF THE CLANS**

The three-day KVMR Celtic Festival kicks off with the Royal Tournament & Gathering of the Clans. Chivalry and honor reign on Friday, September 28 with a medieval tournament featuring full contact jousting, dancing horses, sword fights and hand to hand combat presented by the Imperial Knights. Honors to the winners will be presented by the King, Queen and their royal attendants.

The festivities take place in the Nevada County Fairgrounds arena and will include pageantry and a parade with medieval clans and guilds in attendance vying for favors.

The Imperial Knights travel internationally and feature the expert horsemanship of Thomas and Andrea Montgomery. Exhibitions include hand to hand combat and the thrill and excitement of full contact jousting. The company uses authentic medieval weapons and armor along with colorful heraldry and costumes.

Heavy armor jousting was prominent in the 15th and 16th century. The purpose of the competition is for each competitor to try to dislodge the opponent from his/her horse. Armed with 13-foot-long lances, they gallop down the lists toward each other and score points by unseating their opponent or striking the shield.

The Imperial Knights will present jousting exhibitions on Saturday and Sunday at 3:00 pm in the Fairgrounds Arena.

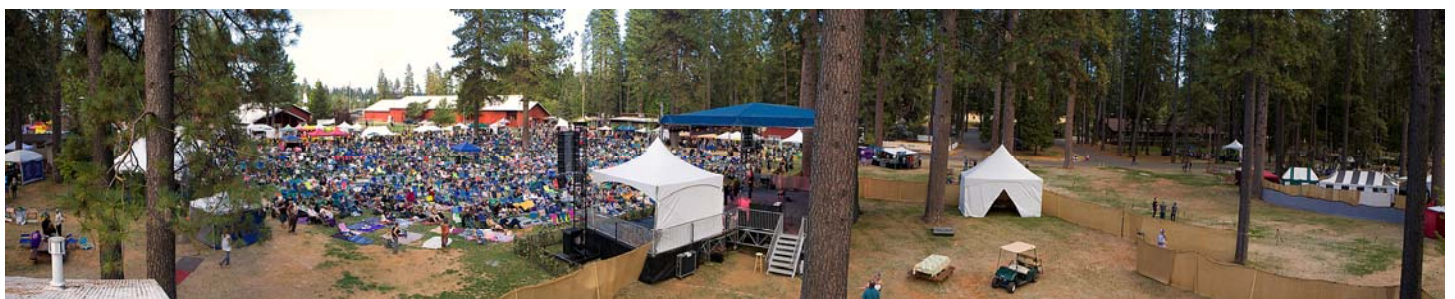
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## **FRIDAY NIGHT CEILIDH - Friday, September 28 from 7:30PM**

This year the KVMR Celtic Festival will get a running start on Friday night with our Friday Night Ceilidh - an evening of Celtic music and dance featuring the Galen Fraser Trio.

There'll be line, circle, and couple dancing for all ages and abilities. No need to come with a partner - it's a great way to socialize and meet friends.

The Friday Night Ceilidh will be held at the Ponderosa Hall at the Nevada County Fairgrounds with indoor space for dancing, an outdoor deck with food and a full service pub, and beautiful garden space for relaxing and enjoying the evening.



# KVMR Celtic Festival - Musical Headliners:

## The Elders

*"The key to the band's success is in its flawless blending of the Celtic storytelling tradition with contemporary instrumentation and, perhaps more importantly, their ability to write original songs that sound as timeless and authentic as the ancient jigs and reels that have inspired them."* – Paste Magazine

Back again to headline the KVMR Celtic Festival are fan favorites, The Elders, making Grass Valley one of their final stops on their 2018 farewell tour.

Since forming in 1998, The Elders have set the music scene on its ear, thanks to a skillful blend of American roots rock and amped-up Celtic folk; a cross-pollination of elements that is high-octane and progressive, yet rooted in tradition. Rightfully regarded as one of the top American Celtic-rock bands, the band employs a variety of instruments including guitars, drums, banjo, accordion, mandolin, piano and fiddle, creating music that transcends the stereotypical notion of Celtic music. Powerful four-part harmonies, blazing instrumentals and songwriting that is unaffected by fads, trends and the giant maw of mind-numbing commercialism – it all adds up to the hottest show in Celtic music today.

[www.eldersmusic.com](http://www.eldersmusic.com)

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## Seamus Egan Project

*"...it really does feel like he's working a magic spell on the audience, in a way I've never experienced from another musician."* – Jackie Dana

It's hard to think of an artist in traditional Irish music more influential than Seamus Egan. From his beginnings as a teen prodigy, to his groundbreaking solo work with Shanachie Records, to his founding of Irish-American powerhouse band Solas, to his current work as one of the leading composers and interpreters of the tradition, Egan has inspired multiple generations of musicians and helped define the sound of Irish music today. As a multi-instrumentalist, he's put his mark on the sound of the Irish flute, tenor banjo, guitar, mandolin, tin whistle, and low whistle, among others. As a composer, he was behind the soundtrack for the award-winning film *The Brothers McMullen*, co-wrote Sarah McLachlan's breakout hit, "Weep Not for the Memories," and has scored numerous documentaries and indie films since.

[www.seamuseganproject.com](http://www.seamuseganproject.com)

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## Connla

*"A New Musical Powerhouse is among us. It is from Northern Ireland, and it is Connla. Wow!"* – Irish Music Magazine

Hailing from the cities of Armagh and Derry and labeled as the Hottest New Group out of Northern Ireland, (Chicago Irish American News) Connla have been quickly making an impact on the folk/traditional scene. Their sensitive and innovative arrangements of traditional and modern folk songs and tunes, have helped them create a sound which is very identifiable as Connla.

Since the release of their EP in April 2015, and album *River Waiting* in July 2016 they have received fantastic reviews at home and internationally with a growing audience in the UK, Ireland, Europe and the USA.

Songlines magazine made Connla their "must see act" for the tour of the UK and stated "A band this young shouldn't be this good".

## Heron Valley

*"They draw on their Scottish and Irish traditional music roots, with little nods in the direction of other styles, such as country and bluegrass to give a sound that is at once distinctly Scottish and traditional, yet modern and eclectic."* – Living Tradition

Heron Valley are an energetic, young traditional band from Scotland who have serious enthusiasm for the music they play. Their roots lie in Scottish and Irish traditional music, while taking influence from various Folk, Country and Bluegrass styles.

Heron Valley has made an impact on the folk scene in Scotland. 2016 saw them on their tour of 11 Festival stages over the UK, while 2017 seen them on a tour of over 20 festivals around the UK and Europe. Heron Valley released their debut album, Roam, in May 2017.

[www.heronvalleyband.co.uk](http://www.heronvalleyband.co.uk)

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## Black Brothers

Shay & Michael Black are singing siblings from Ireland's foremost family of song, The Black Family, which also includes their sisters Mary & Frances, & brother, Martin. Hailed in the Irish Echo as "one of the most impressive groups of Irish singers to be found anywhere; exquisite, exhilarating and nothing short of thrilling" they raise their sibling rivalry to revelry, The Blacks adroitly accompany themselves on banjo, cittern & guitar.

The musical lineup also features fiddle virtuoso, Bobbi Nikles and keyboardist, Eamonn Flynn. Expect to hear Irish traditional ballads, Dublin street songs, music hall ditties, contemporary folk compositions, rollicking reels & joyful jigs, all interspersed with comic stories, jokes & humorous childhood anecdotes that invariably have audiences smiling broadly & joining in on the choruses.

Shay and Michael are close harmony singers, with a special fondness for songs that includes their audience in chorus, and many of the songs are narratives with stories.

[www.black-brothers.com](http://www.black-brothers.com)

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## Na Rósaí

*"This is a killer debut from a young band on the scene with a lot of new ideas and talent to spare. Be sure to catch this one!"* – Devon Leger, Hearth Music

Na Rósaí performs traditional Irish, Appalachian, Scottish, and Breton tunes and songs featuring fiddle, flute, uilleann pipes, bouzouki, and whistles. Their focus has been exploring the links between the musical traditions of the Celtic regions and North America by arranging tunes from the two regions with a traditional sensibility. Na Rósaí is Irish Gaelic for "The Roses" in honor of Portland, the City of Roses.

In 2010 Erik Killops returned to Portland, Oregon after studying Irish Fiddle at the University of Limerick in Ireland. Shortly after his homecoming he met recent New Hampshire transplant and bouzouki player Richie Rosencrans and California native and piper Preston Howard at sessions around town. After realizing common musical interests they began a weekly performance at a local pub. In the autumn of 2012 flute player Conor Ó Bryan moved to Portland from Chico, California and immediately joined the ranks of the group.

[www.narosai.com](http://www.narosai.com)

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