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MAD Week in The Irish Echo - May 20, 2015

By Daniel Neely

...One of the most interesting [traditional music summer camps] in the Mid-Atlantic region is the Musical Arts and Dance Week – known to most as “MAD Week” – which is sponsored by the O’Neill-Malcom Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and will take place July 6-10 at the Cedar Lane Unitarian Church in Bethesda, Md.

MAD Week is a day-oriented “commuter” camp for locals directed by fiddler Mitch Fanning. Under Fanning, the week has developed a stellar reputation and attracts some of the music’s best teachers.

This year’s MAD Week staff will feature one of it’s best lineups to day. On staff, they will have John Carty, MacDara Ó Raghailigh, Brendan Mulvihill, Rose Flanagan, Sean Cleland, Kevin Crawford, Linda Hickman, Jerry O’Sullivan, Zan McLeod, Donna Long, Billy McComiskey, Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin, the Devane brothers and many more. It should be quite a week.

A hearty congratulations is due to MAD Week for two reasons. First is that this summer the camp will celebrate its 10th anniversary. What a milestone! Secondly, they recently received word that they were awarded a substantial grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. It’s very important that Irish music continues to get federal arts funding and it’s great to see it going to the right place. Congratulations, MAD Week – keep up the excellent work!

If you live in the area, MAD Week definitely worth checking out. For more information, visit www.ccepotomac.org

Daniel Neely is the Irish Echo’s traditional music correspondent.