

Musicians explore Celtic roots

By **LISA K. ZELLNER**

Booster Reporter

A fledgling Irish folk band is taking its music on the road this month with performances on the West Side, the OSU campus and a local coffee shop.

Knot Fibb'n will celebrate St. Patrick's Day Tuesday from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Larry's, a bar at 2040 N. High St.

Shows are also scheduled at St. Cecilia Church on the West Side at 8:30 p.m. Monday, Common Grounds at Hudson Street and Indianola Avenue March 20 and Glocca Morra in Hilliard March 21.

Knot Fibb'n brings together five musicians who share an interest in Celtic-flavored music.

Members include Beth Hicks on flute and penny whistle, Renilda Marshall on accordion, Karl Wohlend on guitar, Richard Smith on fiddle and tenor Tim O'Neill on vocals and bodhran, a traditional Irish drum.

"I had been getting into the Irish music scene, going to pubs and listening to lots of groups and decided it would be fun to play," said Hicks, a Clintonville resident and massage therapist.

Hicks' decision to form a Celtic band grew out of an interest in her own heritage.

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Knot Fibb'n member

that," she said.

Celtic or Irish folk bands have enjoyed gains in popularity recently, nationally, internationally and locally.

Hicks said she thinks as Americans explore their own heritage, interest in a wider variety of backgrounds increases.

"We celebrate Native Americans and African-Americans and even Asian backgrounds. But a large amount of us are Celtic. So we've decided to celebrate ourselves, not to diminish the other minorities," she said.

Irish immigrants were the second largest ethnic group to enter the United States between 1850 and 1950, she said, driven here by such forces as the potato famine of the late 1800s and displeasure over British rule.

The popularity of Celtic music is also attributed to the tunes themselves, Hicks said. "It's great folk music," she said.

Irish jigs, reels and ballads are among the types of tunes on the Knot Fibb'n song list.

Hicks said the name was derived from Celtic artists' habit of introducing a song by telling a story. They will say, "Tis a true story," she said.

One member was telling the rest of the band a story and attempted to convince the others it was true by saying she was not fibbing, which was condensed to Knot Fibb'n, Hicks explained.



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KNOT FIBB'N

CELTIC WITH A KICK!

Renilda Marshall, Beth Hicks, Karl Wohlwend & Tim O'Neill

for booking, call 614-470-5551 or visit www.knotfibbn.com