

Notes on St. Patrick's Day

from the desk of Kristin Springer, Music Teacher

What did we learn about St. Patrick, Ireland, and the Irish culture?

Ireland is a small country island in Northern Europe. The terrain is very mountainous with lots of grass and rain. Sheep herding and potato growing are their main agricultural pursuits. In modern times, pharmaceuticals are also a primary industry.



St. Patrick was born in Scotland. But, and enslaved in Ireland to herd sheep. He escaped to England to learn Christianity. He returned as missionary who freed the slaves of Ireland and taught them Christianity.

We celebrate the day of his death, March 17th, in the year 461.

He taught the Holy Trinity using the three leaf clover.

The four leaf clover (shamrock) is associated with Leprechauns, Smurfs, Disney, or Pokemon?

Irish dancing is a combination of tap dancing and ballet. The most famous group is called "Lord of the Dance" or Riverdance. They performed at President Trump's Inauguration.

True or False? Irish stepping using lots of arm motions in the choreography. FALSE

Celtic music uses the same major and minor scales as music from the U.S. No. DORIAN

In the Hobbit movies, which characters were patterned after the Irish? Elves, Orcs, or Hobbits

Who was Molly Malone? Fishmonger, she sold cockles and mussels, she died young of a fever. Her ghost is said to still push a cart through Ireland's capital city of Dublin.

Popular music artists from Ireland include U2 (Bono), Sinead O'Connor, Enya, and The Cranberries. Contrary to his album, and popular belief, Ed Sheeran is British, not Irish. (Details at <http://www.billboard.com/articles/list/5937588/top-10-irish-musicians-bands-of-all-time-ever>)