



## Event Press Kit

Experience a day of Celtic culture at the Ceili of the Valley's second annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival. Samhain, pronounced "sow-in" ("ow" like in cow), is a Gaelic festival that marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter or the "darker half" of the year. It is traditionally recognized on November 1 and considered the Celtic New Year.

### **Samhain Celtic New Year Festival**

**When:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017

**Where:** Grant Community School, 725 Market St. NE.

**Cost:** \$10 adult and \$5 students. Free for children younger than 12.

**Tickets:** Purchase online at <https://orcelfest2017.eventbrite.com>

**Information:** [orcelfest@gmail.com](mailto:orcelfest@gmail.com) or visit [www.celticfestival.info](http://www.celticfestival.info)

### **Samhain Concert**

Following the festival, take in a concert with traditional Irish band Dreos.

**When:** 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017

**Where:** VFW Hall, 630 Hood St. NE

**Cost:** \$15. \$5 discount on concert with Festival wristband.

**Tickets:** Purchase online at <https://samhainconcert2017.eventbrite.com>

**Information:** As above

## Event Highlights:

- 2016 was is the inaugural Samhain Celtic New Year Festival
- Only event of its kind (focusing on Celtic culture) in the Willamette Valley
- Hands-on educational event featuring demonstrations, workshops, speakers, live music, vendors and more
- Recognizes the seven Celtic Nations (Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, Galicia and Isle of Man)
- Features headlining band Dreos
- Features traditional foods such as Scottish Cock-a-leekie soup, Welsh Bubble & Squeak soup and Irish Potato Soup, plus scones, shortbread, tea, coffee and more.
- Festival concludes with an special evening concert at VFW Hall featuring traditional Irish band Dreos
- Supported in part by a grant of Transient Occupancy Tax from the City of Salem, and also made possible with support from The Celtic Heritage Alliance, KMUZ Community Radio, Rich Duncan Construction, Inc., and Real Systems.



## Organization Overview:

The Samhain Celtic New Year Festival is organized by the Céilí of the Valley Society, a Salem-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and perpetuating Irish heritage and culture in the Willamette Valley primarily through social events that incorporate music and dance. An all-volunteer organization, the society teaches weekly classes, and holds dances with live music on the second Friday of the month. For more information, visit [www.ceiliofthevalley.org](http://www.ceiliofthevalley.org).

The Céilí of the Valley Society's purpose is:

- To educate the public about Irish dance and culture by providing public access to the same;
- To research the history of Irish dance and preserve that cultural knowledge through educational outreach to the public;
- To nurture and develop Irish dance callers and musicians for the purposes of ensuring the continuation of a vibrant cultural community;
- To enhance the community by creating a cultural organization dedicated to Irish music, dance and other Irish cultural activities;
- To support the local Irish community and to enhance relationships between the local Irish, Scottish and other Celtic cultural communities in the Salem area and the larger Willamette Valley of Oregon.



Learn the social dances of Ireland and Scotland at the Samhain Celtic New Year Festival.



The Samhain Celtic New Year Festival is organized by the Ceili of the Valley Society, a nonprofit organization that can be found dancing and share culture at events throughout the Willamette Valley.

## Contact and Connect:

**Email:** [orcelticfest@gmail.com](mailto:orcelticfest@gmail.com) or [ceiliofthevalley@gmail.com](mailto:ceiliofthevalley@gmail.com)

**On the Web:** [celticfestival.info](http://celticfestival.info)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/orcelticfest](https://facebook.com/orcelticfest)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/orcelticfest](https://twitter.com/orcelticfest)

**Instagram:** [instagram.com/orcelticfest](https://instagram.com/orcelticfest)

# Press Release:

## Celebrate the Celtic New Year

Celtic culture comes alive at the Ceili of the Valley's second annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival, which features a day of hands-on experience 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017, at Grant Community School, 725 Market St. NE.

Honoring the seven Celtic Nations (Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, Galicia and Isle of Man), the event is a day of immersive live music, speakers, workshops and educational hands-on activities that are fun for the whole community.

Learn about the Celtic roots of Halloween. See demonstrations of art, cooking and dance. Take part in a workshop for fiddle, whistle, uilleann pipes and bodhran. Listen to stories of the wee folk and faeries, Celtic history and heritage. Visit the children's area for opportunities in printmaking, clay working, coloring, knot creation and more. New this year, kids can take part in a mini highland games and test their skills at the caber toss, sheaf toss, and welly throw.

Celtic culinary delights, such as potato soup, cock-a-leekie soup, and bubble and squeak soup, will be available for purchase between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Additional items, including salad, soda bread, scones, apples, cookies, tea and coffee, will be available for purchase during the entire festival.

The day's festivities will conclude with an evening concert featuring the day's headlining performers, Dréos, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 630 Hood St. NE, just a block from the Grant School campus. Dréos combines the blazing piping of Eliot Grasso, virtuosic fiddling of Brandon Vance, and powerhouse accompaniment of Glen Waddell to offer listeners exciting, handcrafted music in a living tradition, and brings audiences and students into a centuries-old cultural-artistic dialogue.

Admission to the Samhain Festival is \$10 adult and \$5 students. Free for children younger than 12. Concert admission is \$15. There is a \$5 discount on the concert with a Festival wristband.

Keep an eye on [www.celticfestival.info](http://www.celticfestival.info) for more information about the festival. Interested in being a sponsor, vendor or performer? Contact us at [orcelticfest@gmail.com](mailto:orcelticfest@gmail.com).

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