"Upon reference to notes and papers of my own, and to information afforded me by the emigration agents here, I am disposed to think that about the middle of May the great emigrational torrent ceases to flow from these shores [i.e., Ireland]. Looking backward for the last month, I find that, during the week ending April 11 [1851] the greatest rush for the season took place. The numbers who left Cork that week could not have fallen far short of 1500 souls, and with the emigration of the other ports of Limerick, Waterford, Dublin, and even of Belfast, will give us an approach to 5000 weekly leaving the country. Large as this number may appear, it is well known that it is considerably below the mark when the departures for Liverpool are included. One agent informed me that he himself had booked 600 emigrants in four days, and yet he is but one of many agents who are to be met with not alone in large towns and seaports, but even thickly scattered through each petty town and village throughout the country."

Performing Ireland 2: Music and the diaspora

This course will examine music culture of the diaspora, tracing cultural journeys away from, and back to, Ireland. Through a close reading of selected song lyrics, tunes, popular dances and representative film, the complicated process of cultural emigration and immigration will be explored.

Requirements

- Classes begin on January 15, at 11am in the Seminar Room, at the Centre for Irish Studies. Attendance at class is mandatory.
- There will be assigned readings each week, which you will be expected to discuss in class. Readings will be provided beforehand and/or will be assigned from library sources.
- Assessment will comprise of 3 short reports/reading responses due on Weeks 4, 6 and 8 of class (200 words worth 15% each), and a written paper (1000 words, 55%) due for submission at the end of the Semester.
- All late submissions are subject to penalties, no exceptions. 5% for the first week, or any part thereof, and 1% for every following day.

Verena Commins
Connect Doctoral Research Fellow
Centre for Irish Studies
v.commins2@nuiglway.ie
Office hours: Friday 12-1pm or by appointment
Performing Ireland 2: Music and the Diaspora

Week 1 Friday Jan 15th: Introduction

Week 2 Friday Jan 23rd: Diaspora, Identity and Music 1

Week 3 Friday Jan 30th Diaspora, Identity and Music 2

Week 4 Friday, Feb 5th: American Diaspora
MORRISON, J’AIME (2001) Dancing between decks: Choreographies of transition

Additional:

ASSIGNMENT 1:
Due at class on Friday, 5th February.
Write a reading response (250 words) to the Morrison article above

Week 5, Friday, 12th Feb: Irish Musicians on the American stage

Additional reading:

Week 6, Friday 19th Feb: Musical influences: The Appalachians


ASSIGNMENT 2:
Due at class on Friday, 19th February.
Write a reading response (250 words) to either the Gleeson or Cooper article above, using the guidelines previously provided.

Week 7, Friday 26th Feb: Recording Irish Music in the Diaspora

Additional reading:

Week 8, Friday, March 5th: Come Fill your Glass with Us: The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, from counterculture to hegemony.


ASSIGNMENT 3:
Due at class on Friday, March 5th.
Write a reading response (250 words) to the Blaustein article above.

Week 9 Friday, March 12th: Irish music-making in England

Week 10, Friday, March 19th: Late twentieth Century music-making in England

Week 11, Friday March 26th: Globalization, Exploring Authenticity in the Culture Economy of the Diaspora
