



# Mayo Society of New York

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Founded 1879; incorporated 1891 as Mayo Men's Benefit, Patriot and Social Association of the City of New York; later as Mayo Men's P & B Association and in 1985, gender neutral as the Mayo Society, Inc. of the City of New York.

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*Newsletter*

*October 2021*

**Regular Meeting**      **Tuesday, October 12, 2021**  
**Where:**                **The County Kerry Building,**  
                              **305 McLean, Yonkers, NY 10705**  
**Time:**                **7:30 P.M. Sharp**  
  
Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. There are no meetings July & August.

## Our President's Note

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope this finds you and your family well. It is great to see life getting back to normal again after a difficulty 18 months for us all. Our Society is also coming back too, thankfully.

We held a get together in Donovan's Woodside on June 16th, where we honored our long-time member; Ann Flanagan with the Society's Distinguished Services Award.

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, we held our annual trip to our "Lady of Knock" East Durham and honored our lifetime member John Fitzgerald with the Society's Distinguished Services Award at our luncheon at the Shamrock House.

On September 14th, we held our first monthly meeting of 2021 at St Sebastian's Queens. It was a very productive meeting with lots of suggestions and member participation.

We brainstormed on ways to help promote the Society and better serve our members. Some of the ideas from the floor included:

- i. Expanding events.
- ii. Networking.
- iii. Mentoring
- iv. possible golf outings.
- v. How to get our officers and members to attend our meetings.
- vi. Holding meetings in differ locations to give better access to our members to attend.
- vii. recruit new members.

My sincere thanks for coming up with exciting ways to help promote our Society.

I also reflected on the meeting on April 2019 that was held in Woodlawn-Yonkers, when I was the Vic-President and became a big success. That meeting was an opportunity to reach out to members who originally may not make the trip to Queens, re-connect with the Society, and recruit new members. Reaching into other communities, will in my opinion attract new members and provide the Society with greater exposure in the greater New York Area.

The needs of our Mayo population have changed in the last few years, and our Society needs to pivot too to meet their needs. I encourage our members to come out and attend our meetings and provide suggestions as we continue to build on the great Society that we inherited from our predecessors.

### Upcoming Events.

-Our October meeting will be at 7:30 pm at.  
The Kerry building  
305 McLean Ave  
Yonkers, NY 10705

This location is fully handicap accessible, no stairs, parking available on the street, and next door.

-November 9th meeting will be in St Sebastian's, 7:30 pm

-December 14th meeting will be at T Sebastian's, 7:30pm

-Communion breakfast is scheduled for November 21st 2021 at Connolly's corner; final details to follow.

-Our Dinner dance is scheduled for March 12th 2022; full details to follow.

We still have COVID 19 with us, so please follow CDC guidelines.

Please continue pray for our sick and deceased.

Stay safe,

God bless,

Noreen

## The Influence of Irish Rebel Songs on Bob Dylan

The first time I heard Bob Dylan, it was unlike anything I had heard, particularly the raw and unpolished vocals. This impressed upon me that the message was important than the delivery. The delivery itself was direct, intimate, and honest. We did a school play featuring music from the 60s era that included "Blowing In The Wind".

From then onwards, I ate up any music I could hear from the 60's. A friend had loads of old Beatle albums and popular stuff from that time. This included George Harrison's "Concert For Bangladesh" which featured a strong performance from Dylan. I was hooked.

Around the same time, after my first trip to Ireland other than as a toddler; I developed an interest in Irish history. Previously, the bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence in 1976 gave me an interest in American history. At the end of 1980 was the US broadcast of "Ireland: A Television History." It also kindled a lifelong interest for me.

Now when I heard Irish songs about the history that couldn't be written down, they made total sense. Now when I heard the treasure trove of Clancy Brothers and Willie Brady records my parents had, they were like reading a book I couldn't put down. When they sang about having the pikes together by the "Rising of the Moon" or "The Boys From The County Cork" beating the Black and Tans, I really "got it", and it stuck.

When The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem had a reunion, there was a TV documentary where Dylan spoke of his friendship with them. They talked about how they had started out together in Greenwich Village, a Jewish kid from Minnesota and Irish lads from Tipperary and Armagh. He said Liam Clancy was the best ballad singer he had ever heard and that he was intrigued by their songs that told stories about brave rebels and outlaws like "Roddy McCorley" and "Brennan On the Moor".

They reunited again for the New York concert to celebrate Dylan's career in 1992, they performed Dylan's "When The Ship Comes In"; a song about the triumph of justice over tyranny after a long and patient struggle, definitely relatable to the Irish. Lots of impressed rock fans wanted to know "Who were those Irish guys? They were great!"

Among his songs that show an obvious Irish influence are "With God On Our Side", written to the tune of "The Patriot Game" and "Ramblin' Gamblin' Willie", written to the tune of "Brennan On The Moor". Others show an influence in structure: "The Times They Are A-Changin'", and tragic storytelling: "Seven Curses", "House Carpenter".

He also recorded "Arthur McBride", an Irish song against British military recruitment in Ireland that dates back to the 1840's. He also performed (but never recorded) "The Lakes of Ponchartrain", an American song lifted from a popular Irish melody of many songs. "The Fair At Glenamoy" about my dad's hometown in Mayo had the same melody. Both of these he got from Tyrone man Paul Brady's versions.

The important part of the influence of rebel songs shows itself in what came to be called his "protest songs". His songs like "Only A Pawn In Their Game" about the assassination of civil rights leader Medgar Evers; "The Lonesome Death Of Hattie Carroll" about a wealthy socialite named William Zantzinger who got a 6-month sentence for murdering a black woman; "Masters Of War" anger about warmongering Generals; "Hurricane" about the innocence of boxer Ruben Carter-falsely imprisoned for Murder, which proved correct, and many others including his immortal classic "Blowin' In The Wind". Songs that informed and inflamed passions and challenged the listener to care and take action.

This influence in American folk music pre-dated Dylan, of course, but since he was able to break away from the folk purist audience, this influence went global. He also seemed to understand like the Irish do those songs can last forever, far outliving those who write or sing them; and often tell more truth than the written word.

This influence that came from Irish music; of tender love songs, rousing rebel songs and fascinating story songs are part of the influences (along with country, blues, jazz, and gospel) that became part of the stew of different ingredients known as Rock and Roll.

**Kevin Rooney**

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All Articles are welcome