



The Museum of Newport Irish History MNIH

4th Talk of our 23rd Annual Lecture Series

Lecture made possible by a generous gift from Margaret Armstrong Murray, given in memory of her husband, Vincent J. Murray

Traditional Music and Irish-American Identity at the Dawn of the Recording Age

Dr. Scott B. Spencer

University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music

Monday, February 24, 2025 ~ 6:00 p.m.

A Virtual Presentation via Zoom

The Irish who had arrived in America after *An Gorta Mór* (the Great Famine) were closely watching political upheavals in Ireland at the turn of the century, just as the recording industry was exploding here on the east coast. Irish-American musicians on the eastern seaboard became influential recording artists in part because they were in the right place at the right time, as their wax cylinders and 78 rpm records made their way around the world.

At the same time, Chicago's Police Chief, Francis O'Neill, was also transcribing and publishing Irish dance tunes. These influential books and recordings became coveted markers of identity in the diaspora, helped to influence a folk revival back home, and shifted the discussion on ideas of Irish identity, tradition and authenticity away from Ireland and to our own shores at a critical moment in history.

This presentation, which includes historic musical recordings, will discuss the past century of traditional Irish music and its impact on Irish and Irish-American identity and community.

SCOTT SPENCER is an Assistant Professor of Musicology (World Music) at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. He researches at the intersections of oral tradition and digital technology, often through the lens of traditional Irish Music. He is currently writing a history of the NYPD Emerald Society Bagpipe Band, including their creation of the line-of-duty funeral and the ways in which this important rite of passage has become the sonic marker for 9/11 memorials. More at ScottBSpencer.com. We are delighted to welcome Scott to his first talk for the Museum of Newport Irish History.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

To register, visit www.NewportIrishHistory.org. Click "Lectures," then the link to reserve under the Feb. 24 listing. You will receive immediate e-confirmation with the Zoom login info. If you do not see this email, check your SPAM. Registering for this Zoom lecture is free, but donations supporting our lecture series are always welcome via our website's "Donate" page or by check payable to "MNIH" mailed to the below PO Box address.

Non-computer/-mobile device Users: This lecture, including the speaker's slides and Q&A, will be recorded and a link to view will be available on our website's 'Lectures' page after the event. Please enjoy the lecture with a family member or friend who can provide Internet access.

Questions or Assistance with Registration: Contact Ann Arnold at (401) 841-5493 or tpm1@earthlink.net

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