



Shannon Dunne

Sean-nós Dancing, Concertina

Shannon Dunne is an undeniably engaged proponent of traditional dancing, specifically sean-nós dancing and flatfooting—the highly improvisational percussive dance forms from Ireland and Appalachia. Her study with native-born practitioners has left her with a depth of knowledge and experience unmatched by many in her field.

Irish traditional music plays a paramount role in Shannon’s life as both a robust dancer and an unostentatious musician. Her studies on button accordion with famed box player Billy McComiskey and on concertina with Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin and Alex Boatright have given her further knowledge about Ireland’s dance music, which fuels the spirit of sean-nós dancing.

Shannon is a dedicated teacher who has an innate ability to reach children at a level that inspires and challenges them to become articulate dancers, curious learners and thoughtful future bearers of tradition. The Shannon Dunne Dance Company and Camp Shenanigans focus on bringing young ones into the world of percussive dance in an environment that is as supportive as it is artistic and authentic. She also brings these elements to her adult classes, sharing her experience and expertise with eager students experiencing their second childhood through dance.

Shannon is engaged with the folk music communities in the Mid-Atlantic region, and has performed and taught at many nationally recognized festivals such as the Augusta Heritage Center’s Celtic Week, Catskills Irish Arts Week, and the Sean-nós Northwest Festival. She is dance director for the CCÉ Musical Arts & Dance (MAD) Week and has choreographed for many organizations. She has performed at the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian, and the National Theater and taken part in the Washington Sound Museum project collaborating with Grammy award-winning hip-hop artist Christylez Bacon. Her dedication, achievement, and vision has afforded her much recognition including a dance fellowship from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and from the National Endowment for the Arts.