

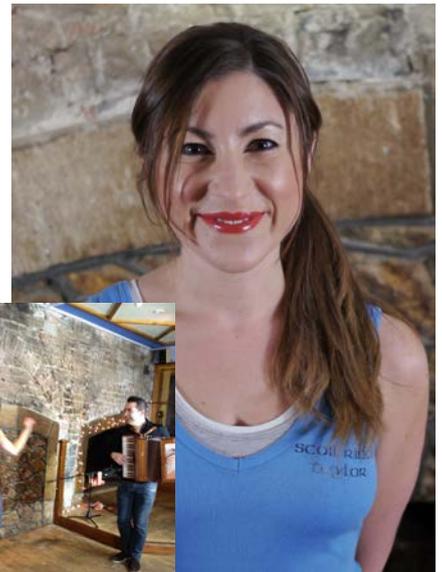
# Workshop Sean Nós, Broom Dancing and Barrel Dancing

with Mary Beth Taylor, Dublin

17th/18th February 2018 in Wiesbaden

The Teacher: Mary Beth Taylor

Mary Beth Taylor started dancing more than twenty years ago in her hometown of Atlanta, Georgia. Her love of Irish culture eventually led her to Dublin, where she pursued a Master's Degree in Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama, and became a TCRG, or Registered Irish Dancing Teacher, with An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha. After moving to Ireland, Mary Beth began learning sean-nós, or 'old style' Irish percussive dancing. She is now Director of Irish & Sean-Nós Dance Dublin ([www.irishdancedublin.com](http://www.irishdancedublin.com) / [www.seannosdancedublin.com](http://www.seannosdancedublin.com)). Mary Beth has taught and performed all over the world. A two-time recipient of the Arts Council's Deis Recording Award, she is the creator of two popular instructional DVDs, *Sean-Nós Dance for Everyone* (2011) and *Sean-Nós Jigs for Everyone* (2012). Mary Beth is also a regular performer with Damhsa and the Traditional Arts Collective. Along with dancing, Mary Beth is a staff member at Dublin City University, where she teaches English and Irish Studies to international students.



## Class 1: Sean nós Steps for Beginners / Working with Live Music

The old style of Irish dancing is less athletic and demanding on the dancer's body than its competitive counterpart, yet it is absolutely compelling to watch and listen to. The ultimate goal is the interaction of the dancer with the music. Through sean nós, you can also see the roots of other percussive dance styles (e.g. tap or flatfooting) and understand the bigger picture of percussive dancing. We will go over traditional steps for reels and jigs to enable your feet to speak the music fluently – and in the last 30 minutes of the course, your feet will interact with a live fiddle and bodhrán, and sing out the tune!

## Class 2: Sean nós Steps for Advanced Dancers / Working with Live Music

If the basic and the Clare step are easy vocabulary for your feet and you would like more variety and challenge in your footwork, this class should give you ample opportunities to learn new variations for your steps. And in its last half hour, fiddler Edward Westerdale will open your ears to listen more deeply, and make you understand the structure of the music you dance to. A challenge between feet and bodhrán might also be in order...

## Class 3: Battering Steps for Sets

Danced with a partner in a 'set' of four couples, set dancing is a traditional form of social dancing. Sets are comprised of a series of 'figures'. When doing sets, you can dance in a simple style. However, many set dancers enjoy 'battering,' which is putting sean-nós-style shuffling rhythms into the different figures. In this workshop, participants will learn a variety of battering steps, both jigs and reels, along with a popular set dance. Dancers will get the chance to 'batter' within the set, with the footwork giving extra rhythm and excitement to the classic figures.

Battering within set dancing demands the coordination of upper body and lower body movement, plus dancing with a partner, with the other couples, and moving across and around the set – it's a lot to think about! This is sure to be a stimulating and enjoyable workshop for both beginners and more experienced dancers.

## Class 4: Improvisation: Music is everything...!

Like a trapeze artist who relies on his security netting, so dancers often rely on sequences of steps, choreographies they have practiced – instead of listening in and reacting to the music. The ability to improvise will eventually turn you into a musically rock solid dancer, whose feet can sing out a musical phrase. This class is taught to live music only. You will get more understanding of the structure of tunes and the implications for your choice of steps – this will free up the creativity of your feet, and develop choreographic skills you never thought you had!

## Class 5: Props Workshop: Brooms, Barrel, Your Body and What Have Ye...

Have you ever thought of a household implement as your favourite dance partner? In this workshop, we will explore the endless possibilities of handling props while dancing, typically the broom and the barrel (no need to stop there, though – in case of doubt bring along the implement you want to dance with). Occasionally, we might turn your body into an extra "prop" by inserting elements of body percussion as well.

In a traditional Irish broom dance (or brush dance), the broom really comes to life, and you will never fail to catch your audience when you start swinging your legs over it... Barrel dancing adds an extra element of excitement to sean-nós steps – with level and height to reward balance, agility, and sheer nerve, quite apart from the steps.

Quite a bit of this class will focus on developing your own creative choreographic skills.

The Schedule:

<b>Saturday, 17h Feb. 2018</b>	<b>Sunday, 18th Feb. 2018</b>	<b>Class</b>
12.00-13.30	10.00-11.30	Class 1: Sean nós Steps for Beginners and Refreshers (2x 90 mins)
13.45-15.15	11.45-13.15	Class 2: Sean nós Steps for Advanced Dancers (2x90 mins)
15.45-16.45	13.45-14.45	Class 3: Battering for Sets (2x 60 mins)
17.00-18.00	15.00-16.00	Class 4: Improvisation (2x 60 mins)
18.30-20.00	16.30-18.00	Class 6: Props Workshop: Broom, Barrel & Body (2x90 mins)

**Course Fees:**

Per 2x60 min class (2 hours):

**Early Birds until 17.01.18**

€ 40

**Registrations from 18.01.18**

€ 50

Per 2x90 min class (3 hours):

€ 60

€ 70

**Dancers who really want to work hard this weekend get a special reduction:**

5% off the regular fee if you take two classes!

10% off the regular fee if you take three classes!

15% off the regular fee if you take four or more classes!

**Payment:**

Please transfer the course fee to the account of „Fiddle & Feet School of Dancing“:

Account Nr.: 110236015 at Nassauische Sparkasse Wiesbaden, BLZ: 51050015

BIC: NASSDE55, IBAN: DE27510500150110236015

Your registration will only take effect once the course fee has arrived in our account. We will confirm that your registration has reached us by e-mail, and we will also let you know of any changes via e-mail. Therefore please make sure that we have your correct and readable e-mail address. Please understand that if you have to cancel your registration after the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018, we cannot refund your course fees.

---

**Registration**

I would like to register for the workshop with Mary Beth Taylor, 17th/18th February 2018:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

This registration is for:

**Class 1: Sean nós Steps for Beginners and Refreshers (2x 90 mins)**

**Class 2: Sean nós Steps for Advanced Dancers (2x 90 mins)**

**Class 3: Battering for Sets (2x 60 mins)**

**Class 4: Improvisation (2x 60 mins)**

**Class 6: Props Workshop: Broom, Barrel & Body (2x90 mins)**

I have transferred the course fee of € \_\_\_\_\_ to the account of the Fiddle & Feet School of Dancing.

\_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

**Fiddle & Feet School of Dancing – Das Studio für Steptanz**

Natalie Westerdale & Tanja Cibulski

Dantestr. 1

D65189 Wiesbaden

Tel. & Fax: 0611-443544

Natalie@fiddle-and-feet.de

www.fiddle-and-feet.de