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Joanie Madden

2021 National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellow

I rish flute player Joanie Madden was named a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) National Heritage Fellow in 2021. Honoring the rich, artistic heritage of America through NEA National Heritage Fellowships since 1982, the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts includes an award of \$25,000. Joanie Madden, from the Irish American neighborhood of Yonkers, New York, is one of the great Irish flute and whistle players of her generation. She has led the all-female group, Cherish the Ladies, since its inception more than 35 years ago and passionately champions the advancement of traditional Irish music worldwide.

Fellowship recipients are nominated by the public, often by members of their own

communities, and then judged by a panel of experts in the folk and traditional arts. The panel's recommendations are reviewed by the National Council on the Arts, which sends its recommendations to the Arts Endowment chair, who makes the final decision.

You can meet Joanie Madden at her home and learn about her lifetime love of music that was passed down through her family in a tribute video *<https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=vkWabpSLwcI>* that was originally released in November 2021, as part of *The Culture of America: A Cross-Country Visit with the National Endowment for the Arts 2021 National Heritage Fellows.* The one-hour film features all nine 2021 NEA National Heritage Fellows, with Emmy Award-winning actor Jimmy Smits taking viewers on a virtual trip across the country to where the 2021 NEA National Heritage Fellows live and work. You can learn more and view the full one-hour film on the NEA site: *https://nnm.arts.gov/ honors/heritage*

The deadline to submit a nomination for the 2023 class of National Heritage Fellows is early summer 2022. Visit the National Endowment for the Arts website for more information and to submit a nomination: www.arts.gov/ honors/heritage/make-a-nationalheritage-fellowship-nomination.



Irish flute player and 2021 NEA National Heritage Fellow Joanie Madden. Photo by Hypothetical, courtesy of National Endowment for the Arts.

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