

Outdoor music highlights Lawrence summers

By **Yadira Betances**
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LAWRENCE — She sits on a chair as her fingers gracefully touch the harp strings, harkening back memories of thousands of years of Celtic music.

It was not a pub in County Mayo or even Tanglewood, but the courtyard at Lawrence History Center, where Aine Minogue entertained about 50 people from Greater Lawrence.

She did not disappoint.

In her Irish brogue, she told the audience she would take them on a journey through not only the centuries, but the entire Celtic world.

Also on the bill last Thursday was baritone Robert Honeysucker.

They are among several artists who will perform during the Traveling Cafe series at the Farmers Market and other outdoor venues throughout the city, weather permitting.

"It gives me a chance to come in and hear beautiful music in a nice place," said Leslie Hopkins of North Andover.

This is the third year the city is sponsoring Arts Alive, said Karen Wood.

"The purpose is to have Lawrence residents and people from the area explore what is available in the city using art and culture as the catalyst," Wood said.

Wood said the Live Lawrence Alliance starts planning the event in the winter. Alliance members recommend musicians and they find others through Berklee College of Music.

"In this culturally diverse community, rather than guess what people want, we want to give people a taste of everything so it can bring them together," Wood said.

She said the traveling cafes are intertwined with a theme of music and food.

When Edwin Pabon and his 12-piece orchestra perform, tacos, enchiladas, chips and salsa from Cafe Azteca will be sold to go along with the sounds of trombones, trumpets, congas, bongos, electric and baby bass.

"One of the key aspects is to have it in different places because we have so many hidden gems in the city, and these are places that people may otherwise not visit," Wood said.

Leslie Costello, director of the Essex Art Center, agrees.

"It adds to the whole cultural environment in the city," Costello said.

Farmers Market Concert Series

What: Happens at 1 p.m., Appleton Way, 200 Common St., Lawrence

Aug. 20: Bagpiper Brian Quirk performs festive marches and jigs.

Aug. 27: Dixie Hot Four, swing band.

Live Lawrence! Traveling Cafe

Aug. 28: A block party with Roots Nation, reggae, at The Art Alleyway, 56-60 Island St., from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Food from Mill City Gourmet, and featuring two of 181 Canal St.'s fine retailers, Rose and Dove and Brissonte, showcasing their wares for the home and table.

Sept. 18: Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated with salsa music and dancing with 12-member band Edwin Pabon & Orchestra, on Campagnone Common, 176 Haverhill St., from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Food for sale from Cafe Azteca.

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Photos



Aine Minogue plays a Celtic tune on her harp during a Live Lawrence concert at the Lawrence History Center. This is one of several concerts to be held outdoors throughout the city. Staff photo