



Dona Brown

Folk Arts: Irish Stories and Music



Las Vegas, NV
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Program Types

45 minute – 1 hour
demonstration; festival
performances/demonstrations;
school assemblies

Language Proficiencies

English

Fees

Contact to inquire

Availability

October 1 – April 30, contact
to inquire

Audiences

Schools (grades K-12),
college, young adult, adult,
senior

Venues

Schools K-12, colleges and
universities, libraries,
museums, community and
senior centers, special events,
festivals and fairs.

Technical requirements

Contact to inquire

Counties

Statewide

Though born in America, Dona Brown's family, heritage, and heart are in County Cork, Ireland. Her great grandmother, who was still teaching Irish dance at 95 years of age, set a life course for Dona by teaching her to do a jig when she was about five years old. From then on she practiced traditional Irish dance and studied Irish culture. Dona moved from Chicago to Las Vegas around 1980.

Dona plays the violin, saxophone, and the *bodhran* (a traditional Irish hand drum). When she teaches, she likes to include stories about the culture, language, history, and beauty of Ireland. Her costumes, many of which are hand embroidered, each tell a story as well. Her knowledge is extensive. She can teach a seminar or workshop on the origins and politics of Irish dance, how the steps formed and changed over time, and the cultural influences—both outside and within Ireland—on traditional Irish dancing. During her presentations the music, costumes, and stories are woven together in a performance that makes Ireland come alive for the audience.