



22ND ANNUAL IRELAND NETWORK BALL

FEBRUARY 7, 2026 | THE DRAKE

The Ireland Network Ball isn't just a night out—it's one of Chicago's most anticipated social events. Black-tie elegance meets Irish charm and lively craic, with 400+ guests enjoying great music, flowing drinks, and a warm, welcoming crowd where connections happen naturally. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, the Ball always sells out, bringing together Chicago's vibrant Irish community for a night dressed to the nines and ready to celebrate. With every ticket, guests enjoy a full evening of exceptional hospitality, gourmet dining, live entertainment, and festive experiences that make the night truly unforgettable.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE BALL

COCKTAIL RECEPTION | 6 PM

We kick things off the right way in the Grand Ballroom with a lively cocktail reception with premium open bar—plus a **Guinness Stoutie Station**, where a perfectly poured pint comes with a personalized surprise. Enjoy trad tunes from the **Irish Music School of Chicago** and **Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band**, strike a pose with your friends at the Step & Repeat VIP photo opp, and raise a glass as the room fills with laughter, music, and good cheer.

DINNER | 8 PM

Once you've properly settled in The Gold Coast Room, guests will enjoy a beautifully prepared five-course dinner, featuring outstanding hospitality and delicious cuisine from The Drake Hotel. It's elegant, indulgent, and perfectly paced—ideal for great conversation and shared laughs.

IN SPIRIT AWARD PRESENTATION | 9 PM

After dinner, we take a meaningful moment for the IN Spirit Award Presentation, honoring **Vaughan Hospitality Group** for their leadership, generosity, and dedication to the Irish community. Following the award, winners of the raffle will be announced, benefiting **Irish Community Services** and **Concern Worldwide**, including a Grand Prize of **two round-trip tickets to Ireland**, courtesy of **Aer Lingus**. After all, it's your lucky night!

Then, warm up in the French Room at the **Teeling** Irish Coffee Station, and capture the moment with a post-dinner photo booth—perfect for a keepsake of an unforgettable evening.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT | 9:30 PM

Now it's time to loosen the tie. A live band takes the stage and brings the room to life, setting the tone for a lively, high-energy evening. Expect crowd favorites, plenty of sing-alongs, and a dance floor that fills fast.

AFTER-PARTY EXPERIENCE | 12 AM

The night's not over yet—let's keep the craic going! Join us in the Club International room for a spirited after-party, where the DJ keeps the music going late into the night. Expect great company, plenty of dancing, and late-night essentials like toasties and Taytos (because, priorities).

AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT

At its heart, the Ireland Network Ball is a celebration of culture, community, and connection—with a healthy dose of fun and flair. Look your finest, bring your dancing shoes, and prepare for a night of laughter, lively celebration, and unforgettable craic.