



## 22ND ANNUAL IRELAND NETWORK BALL

### FEBRUARY 7, 2026 | THE DRAKE

The Ireland Network Ball is more than a night out—it's one of Chicago's most anticipated social events. A black-tie evening infused with Irish charm, it welcomes over 400 guests for great music, flowing drinks, and a warm, vibrant atmosphere. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, the Ball sells out year after year, bringing together Chicago's Irish community for an unforgettable celebration of culture, connection, and craic. Dress to impress, bring your dancing shoes, and get ready for a night of laughter and lively celebration.

## 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 **Vaughn 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).

### AFTER-AFTER-PARTY | 2 AM+

For anyone looking for "just one more", our sponsor Celtic Crossing will be hosting the unofficial after-after party!!  
751 N. CLARK ST. (<1 MILE FROM DRAKE)