



Celtic Nights

A Night of Music, Song and Dance

Producer/Director **Michael Durkan**

Dancers

**James McDonnell, Gavin Boyle, Louise O'Sullivan, Clodagh Roper,
Leanne Phelan, Heather Metcalfe, Abigail Collins**

PROGRAM

Act One

-Intermission-

Act Two

Saturday, March 15 at 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

PROGRAM NOTES

ACT ONE

Opening Sequence
Aislings Dance
May We Never Have To Say Goodbye
Jug Of Punch
Colcannon
Wild Rover
Carrickfergus
The Spanish Lady
Wild Rover
Musicians Jigs And Reels
Sailing By (love song)
Her Dream-Celtic Night Dancers
My Heart Will Go On
Isle of Insihfree
Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For
My Grandfathers Emmigrant Eyes-Staten Island
Puca Beast Short
The Contender
Dark Island Into Polkas-Into Reels
Street Dance Celtic Nights
Fly Where The Eagles Fly

-Intermission-

ACT TWO

Whiskey in the Jar
Danny Boy
Acapella Dance
Fare Thee Well Love
A Woman's Heart
Hope Is Born
Ellis Final
Star Of The County Down
Raglan
Appalachian Polkas
Shenendoah
Unplugged-All Gods Creatures, Irish Rover, Katie Daly, Dear Old Donegal,
When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, Tour A Lour A Loura
Galway Bay
Never Have To Say Goodbye
Ireland
Spanish Lady
Old Bog Road
It's A Long Way To Tipperary

-Meet and greet with audience-

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Derek Moloney (Singer) is Ireland's leading tenor, as established when he won RTE television's "Search for a Tenor" nationwide competition. He is one of the few Irish voices to truly follow in the footsteps of the great Irish tenors, such as Count John McCormack and Frank Patterson. In recent years, Moloney has built on this success both as a recording artist with two #1 entries in the Irish Classical Charts and on stage with award-winning performances around the globe. He has performed with Opera Ireland and collaborated with international, high profile artists such as The Chieftains and Sarah Brightman. The flawless technique and versatility of his approach to singing puts him in command of many styles, from Handel's *Messiah* to contemporary pop. Moloney's recent appearances in Germany with *The International Magic Tenors*, over 100 concerts last year, were marked by repeat standing ovations. Hailed as "Ireland's answer to Luciano Pavarotti" from concert performances in the U.S., he has also made frequent stadium performances of the national anthem for the Irish Rugby Team.

Derek Ryan (Singer) is a native of Tipperary and is currently widely known as one of Ireland's leading bass baritones. Based in Dublin, he also spends a great deal of his time in London and the United States. His singing career has spanned many genres of music, from opera to a more contemporary singing style. Performing with Opera Ireland, he has had numerous lead roles, the most recent being in *Il Trovatore*. He played the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast* and has had principal roles in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oklahoma* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Ryan's delivery and performance of songs and melodies from his native land will touch the heartstrings of audiences around the world. He appears regularly with the RTE Concert Orchestra and also co-wrote and starred in a tribute show to his lifelong hero, Paul Robeson. Ryan has previously toured the east coast of America and has appeared in Carnegie Hall. He performed in the first tour of Celtic Nights coast to coast across the U.S. and is delighted to be returning to Celtic Nights again this year.

Rebekah Robertson (Singer) was born in Scotland but studied in London at the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts. After graduating in London, she went to work in musical theatre and choreography all around the world. With an Orkadian heritage, Robertson's beautiful Celtic voice adds a new dimension to the Celtic Nights 2014 tour. Robertson's theatre credits include *Thriller*, *Grease*, Maureen in *Rent*, *Heroes and Villains* (Wimbledon Theatre) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Robertson's choreography credits include *The International Magic Tenors*, *Thriller*, *Grease*, *Beatles* and *Oh What a Night!* Robertson is looking forward to touring again with Celtic Nights and would like to thank her family for their continued support.

Ross Williams Wild (Singer) spent his teenage years touring in a rock band before training at the Glasgow Academy of Musical Theatre Arts. He graduated in the summer of 2010. Previous theatre credits include *Grease* (UK Tour), *We Will Rock You* (UK Tour), *Highland Heartbeat* (Scottish & American Tour), *Gaelforce* (European Tour), *Les Miserables* (Mitchell Theatre Glasgow & HMT Aberdeen), *The Wild Party* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival) and *Chicago* (Premier Productions). Pantomimes include *Snow White* (GAMTA) and *Beauty and the Beast* (GAMTA). Film credits include *Bruno & Earlene* (Flyswot Films) and *Downing* (Edinburgh Skills Set Screen Academy). Williams Wild is also an avid guitar player and songwriter.

Suzanne Savage (Singer) is from Belfast and is described as “one of Ireland’s hidden music heroes” (*Belfast Telegraph*). Possibly the definition of diversity in a musician, her performance highlights include SXSW; supporting Van Morrison and Jimmy Cobb; backing vocalists for Paul Brady and Elenor McEvoy; soprano soloist for The Florence Symphony Orchestra; Badische Staatskapelle Karlsruhe and Brisbane Symphony Orchestra; touring internationally as principal vocalist for *Riverdance*; and several prize-winning tours with the critically acclaimed Irish choir New Dublin Voices, to name but a select few. In 2004, she held a two year scholarship at the Fabbrica Musica Institute in Venice, Italy, and was a recipient of the 2012 Northern Ireland Arts Council SIAP Award. Following months of work at the ZKM studio in Germany, Savage has written and produced her first independent album, *Jellymould*, which launched last year to great acclaim at the Belfast Festival, Ireland’s biggest Arts Festival.

Una Pedreschi (Singer) is a beautiful fusion of her parent’s Irish and Italian heritage. Her talent for singing and theatre was recognized while growing up in Wicklow town, known worldwide as The Garden of Ireland. She earned a scholarship to the Guilford School of Acting and Musical Theatre Conservatoire in 2004. For two years, she played top U.S. venues with leading Irish stars *Celtic Woman*, including New York’s celebrated Radio City Music Hall and Colorado’s Red Rocks Amphitheatre. At home in Ireland, Pedreschi has been writing and recording original material, singing in numerous bands and performing around the country. Pedreschi is a welcome addition back to this year’s Celtic Nights tour.

Brian Kelly (Musician) began playing traditional Irish music at the age of seven under the tutelage of Brendan Mulkere, of Clare County, Ireland. He took up mandolin and the banjo and it wasn’t long before he made his mark on the Irish scene, winning, on his first attempt, the All Ireland Championship on banjo, going on to win eight All Ireland Championships in total in various age groups (four each on banjo and mandolin). Kelly has built his musical reputation through residencies in London including two years in The Swan, Stockwell with Gino Lupari (4 Men And A Dog) and five years in The Stags Head, Camden Town with Paddy Gallagher.

Ben Gunnery (Musician) is a multi-instrumentalist who studied at the Royal College of Music and Trinity College of Music, graduating with a first class degree in Classical Violin performance. Gunnery has gone on tour internationally with various companies/bands/orchestras such as Barrage, *Riverdance*, Gaelforce, Dance Masters, Celtic Legends, Irish Celtic, Incantation, Shane MacGowan and the Popes, Calgary Philharmonic and Lost Music of the Gaels, to name a few. His is a regularly booked musician for orchestral/classical/folk sessions in London for film/TV/contemporary composers.

Stephen O’Connor (Musician) is a well-known and well-established musician who started playing the Uilleann Pipes at the age of 11. O’Connor has been taught by some of the country’s finest musicians, such as Sean Og Potts, John McSherry, Eamon DeBarra, Alan Doherty and Paul McGrattan. When O’Connor graduated from school he was accepted by Ballyfermot College of Performing Arts and studied intensely under master flute player Paul McGrattan.

PROGRAM NOTES

Drawn from the history and folklore of Ireland and her Celtic cousins, Celtic Nights will bring the audience on a stunning musical journey of a people leaving and arriving. It tells the tale of emigration and how people's lives would be spent in a world of travelling by rail, horses and ships. With long days travelling on foot they come and go, saving for fares and writing tales of their travels, always having to compare what they had with what they might have elsewhere. A lot of time is spent visiting others, always moving on the surface of a foreign land, a constant journey of meeting, conversing and comparing, searching for a place better than Ireland or even half as good. Celtic Nights takes you on this journey to a different place, filling you with laughter, sadness, melancholy and a sense of who we are and who our children will grow up to be. The show passes the mantle of the legacy of their forefathers through music, song, dance and storytelling with pride and passion. Celtic Nights captures the essence of a great people from a small island and their journey of hope and desire through beautiful imagery and costumes.

Songs are sung and the audience becomes a part of the story on stage. Songs will bring back childhood memories, from playgrounds to pubs. Three male vocalists, three beautiful female singers, six of Ireland's most talented and coveted international dancers and a group of fine musicians, will ignite the sounds of Celtic music old and new. Celtic Nights showcases the rich heritage of the island and its culture, a place that many emigrants now call home.