



Christmas with
LÚNASA

Featuring

KARAN CASEY

Guitar **Ed Boyd**

Uilleann Pipes and Whistles **Cillian Vallely**

Stand-up Bass **Trevor Hutchinson**

Flutes and Whistles **Kevin Crawford**

Fiddles and Whistles **Seán Smyth**

Featuring

Guest Vocalist **Karan Casey**

PROGRAM

There will be an intermission.



Sunday, December 7 at 7 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

PROGRAM NOTES

Featuring guest singers and dancers, Lúnasa and Karan Casey create a musical, spoken word and entertainment tapestry that transports the audience back to Ireland in the days leading up to Christmas.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Lúnasa

Lúnasa is made up of Kevin Crawford (flutes, low whistles and tin whistles), Trevor Hutchinson (double bass), Ed Boyd (guitar), Seán Smyth (fiddle and low whistle) and Cillian Vallely (uilleann pipes and low whistles). The band has sold more than quarter of a million albums with tens of thousands of individual track downloads over an impressive back catalogue of seven highly acclaimed and award-winning albums. Lúnasa is internationally acknowledged as being the finest traditional Irish instrumental band of recent times, renowned for stunning shows honed by superb musicianship and a constant touring cycle. They have performed close to 2,000 shows across 36 countries since the band formed in 1997. Concert appearances include renowned venues such as The Hollywood Bowl, National Concert Hall (Dublin), Sydney Opera House, World Trade Centre, Moscow International House of Music and an invitation to appear at the White House. Lúnasa's inventive arrangements and bass-driven grooves have steered Irish acoustic music into surprising new territory. Their recordings have been hailed as some of the best and most important world music albums anywhere, while their blend of intelligence, innovation, virtuosity and passion has brought them to the forefront of Celtic music.

Lúnasa founder **Seán Smyth** was born in Straide, County Mayo. Smyth is an All-Ireland champion on both fiddle and whistle. His 1993 solo debut, *The Blue Fiddle*, was named one of the year's ten best albums by *The Irish Echo*. Smyth appears on several recordings including *Ceol Tigh Neachtain*, *Music at Matt Molloy's*, Brendan O'Regan's *A Wind of Change*, Alan Kelly's *Out of the Blue* and *Mosaic* and Dónal Lunny's *Coolfin*. Smyth is also a practicing medical doctor.

Born in Birmingham, UK, **Kevin Crawford**'s early life was one long journey into Irish music and Co. Clare, to where he eventually moved while in his 20's. He was a member of Moving Cloud, the Clare-based band that recorded critically-acclaimed albums *Moving Cloud* and *Foxglove*. He also recorded with Grianán, Raise The Rafters, Joe Derrane and Sean Tyrrell and appeared on the 1994 recording *The Sanctuary Sessions*. A virtuoso flute player, Crawford has recorded two solo albums, *D'Flute Album* and *In Good Company* as well as *On Common Ground* with bandmate Cillian Vallely. Crawford also tours with Martin Hayes and John Doyle as The Teetotallers.

From Cookstown, County Tyrone, **Trevor Hutchinson** played bass with the Waterboys from 1986 to 1991, recording *Fisherman's Blues* (1988) and *Room to Roam* (1990), the latter featuring Sharon Shannon. Later, he made three albums with the Sharon Shannon Band: 1991's *Sharon Shannon*, 1994's *Out the Gap* and 1997's *Each Little Thing*. A much-in-demand musician, Hutchinson has also recorded with Moving Cloud, Altan's Dermot Byrne, Eric Bibb, Máire Breatnach and Eileen Ivers. Hutchinson and the original Waterboys re-formed in 2013 to celebrate the 25th anniversary and tour their legendary album *Fisherman's Blues*.

A gifted Armagh uilleann pipes and low whistle player, **Cillian Vallely** comes from a renowned and talented musical dynasty. He has spent most of the recent past touring in the US, performing with bands such as New York-based Whirligig, Paddy O'Brien's Chulrua and with Clare fiddler Seamus Connolly. Vallely was featured as uilleann pipes soloist in the Broadway production of *Riverdance* and toured with Tim O'Brien in *The Crossing*. He and

his brother recorded the album *Callan Bridge*. In 2013, Vallely was invited to guest on Bruce Springsteen's 2014 album release, *High Hopes*.

Ed Boyd, who permanently joined Lúnasa in 2012, is widely regarded as the finest acoustic guitarist on the European folk circuit. He is a founding member of the BBC folk award-winning group Flook and the guitarist of choice for artists such as Cara Dillon and Kate Rusby.

Karan Casey

One of the most influential voices in contemporary Irish music, Karan Casey is a natural innovator. More than a decade ago, American audiences were introduced to her as vocalist for the Irish "supergroup" Solas. Following their groundbreaking early releases, Casey struck out on her own. She now has four solo releases to her credit and multiple collaborations (including the Grammy® Award-winning *Celtic Solstice* with Paul Winter & Friends and Tim O'Brien's *Two Journeys*.)

A frequent guest on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*, Casey joined their December 2006 broadcasts from New York's Town Hall. 2006 also saw her spotlighted on the Solas *Reunion* CD, and as guest vocalist for Lúnasa. In 2007, she appeared with the legendary Liam Clancy and participated in a DVD project in New York with Mick Moloney and Paul Wagner.

Casey began 2008 with critically-acclaimed appearances at the renowned Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow, prior to touring in the US. The same year, Casey released her fifth solo album, *Ships in the Forest*, focusing largely on the traditional repertoire. The album was recorded at Casey's home in County Cork and features members of her current touring band.

Casey has performed at many prestigious venues, including the Kennedy Center, WOMAD USA, Mountain Stage, Philadelphia Folk Festival, Strawberry Music Festival, Symphony Space, Knitting Factory, Kentucky Center for the Arts and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (participating in Paul Winter's Grammy®-winning *Solstice Celebrations*).