

Irish Fire, a Celtic celebration of music and dance to be presented Nov. 6 in Mandeville Auditorium at UCSD

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IRISH FIRE, A CELTIC CELEBRATION OF MUSIC AND DANCE, TO BE PRESENTED NOV. 6 IN MANDEVILLE AUDITORIUM AT UCSD

The exuberant, soulful and intense tradition of Irish music and dance will be celebrated at 8 p.m. Nov. 6 when Irish Fire takes the stage in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego. The performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office.

Irish Fire musicians and dancers include the fiddle and guitar duo Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill, vocalist Sean Keane, Irish step-dancers Donny Golden and Cara Butler, and the sextet Dervish.

Martin Hayes is a six-time All-Ireland fiddle champion and received the 1995 Traditional- Musician of the Year Award at the National Entertainment Awards, Ireland's version of the Grammy awards. He comes from a family of musicians, began playing the fiddle at age 7, has recorded solo albums and has toured Ireland, Canada, Australia, France, Great Britain and the United States.

Newsday describes Hayes as "a distinctive artist who combines the lyrical style associated with the traditional reels and jigs of his native County Clare in the west of Ireland with his own adventurous, mesmerizing jazz-influenced approach to music."

Dennis Cahill grew up in Chicago's Irish music scene, the son of parents originally from County Kerry, and began playing the guitar at the age of nine, developing his own innovative style of Irish music.

Of a Hayes/Cahill performance, the Irish Echo writes: "Hayes was a supreme alchemist on fiddle, able to transform a mammoth stage into his own intimate living room. That's how remarkable his performance was, drawing rapt, hushed attention from an audience of thousands...in two words, he's astonishing, and his performance with Cahill brought the crowd to their feet."

Q Magazine hails Sean Keane as "the finest male singer of his generation." He is from a family of musicians of County Galway, has won 13 All-Ireland singing championships and has toured Europe, North America and parts of Asia with various groups. Keane's first solo album, *All Heart, No Roses*, was named Debut Album of the Year by Q Magazine.

Writes tradnet Album Reviews: "All the Keanes are fine singers and musicians, but Sean has something special. He can sing practically any song, old, new, traditional or modern, and still give it his own earthy treatment."

Dancers Donny Golden and Cara Butler do the highly intense, athletic and complex step- dancing, the most visible traditional Irish performing art in the United States.

Named a National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts at a White House ceremony in 1995, Golden is the first Irish-American winner in the All-Ireland Dance Championship and in the All-World Dance Championship. His dance school is the largest Irish step-dance training ground in New York and folklorist Mick Moloney calls him "the most important dancer and dance teacher in the history of Irish step-dance in America."

Butler began studying with Golden at the age of seven. She holds six regional dance titles, six national titles and five world titles. She tours with Golden, with other dance ensembles and as a solo performer. She has performed at Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall and at international festivals including Celtic Connections in Scotland, the Washington Irish Folk Festival at Wolftrap, and with the Boston Pops.

The musical sextet Dervish takes its name from the Middle Eastern religious order whose. ecstatic, high-energy whirling dances remind the group of its own kinetic style of performance. Performers are Cathy Jordan, a vocalist who also plays the bodhrAn and bones; Brian McDonagh, mandola, mandolin and guitar; Shane McAleer, fiddle; Michael Holmes, bouzouki and guitar; Shane Mitchell, button accordion, and Liam Kelly, flute and tin whistle.

"Dervish...has the tight, complete sound of a band that plays for the sheer fun of it," writes the San Francisco Gael. "Their jigs, reels and slides invigorate."

Dervish has toured England, Scotland, Finland, Denmark, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Germany and more recently in the United States. The group records on its own Whirling Discs label and on the New York-based Kells Music label.

Of their recording, *Playing with Fire*, the Celtic Heritage writes: "Dervish possesses such depth and command as to be almost dizzying at times...Vocalist Cathy Jordan has the ability to take an average song and propel it to new heights."

Tickets for the Nov. 6 performance of Irish Fire are \$17 general admission, \$15 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$13 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets. For further information, call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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