

Traditional Irish band Altan to perform in pre-St. Patrick's Day concert March 10 at the Mandeville Auditorium in UCSD

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TRADITIONAL IRISH BAND ALTAN TO PERFORM IN PRE-ST. PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT MARCH 10 AT UCSD

Allan, widely considered to be the hottest traditional Irish band to emerge from Ireland in two decades, will perform in a pre-St. Patrick's Day concert at 8 p.m. March 10 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

The award-winning group has been featured at major festivals and concert tours throughout Europe, Canada, and the United States. Writes *The New Yorker* in a St. Patrick's Day, 1994, review: "It's difficult to imagine traditional Celtic music sounding any more vital than when it's being performed by this electrifying young super group from Dublin."

The quintet consists of Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh, playing the fiddle and singing songs in her native Gaelic and in English; Ciaran Tourish, fiddle; Ciaran Curran, bouzouki; Daithi Sproule, guitar, and Dermot Byrne, accordion.

"The allure of Allan for many is Mhaonaigh's enchantingly pure Gaelic singing," writes *The Boston Globe*. "Irish is her first language, and on her tongue it is warm, fluid, and utterly romantic."

Altan's repertoire comes from County Donegal in the Northwest corner of Ireland, an area with a long history of exchanging labor -- and music -- with Scotland. The result is a distinctive style combining the melodic quality of Irish tunes with the power and drive of Scottish music.

Altan has five albums to its credit, variously ranked in the Top Ten in *Billboard's World Music* charts, and in polls by *Folk Roots* in Britain, *The London Telegraph*, "Q" magazine, and the *Irish Echo*. "The Red Crow" and "Harvest Storm" won awards for the year's best Celtic album in 1990 and 1992, respectively. Of the group's 1993 release, *The New Yorker* writes: "'Island Angel' finds the group, as always, refusing to stand pat while there are new jigs, reels, and mazurkas to conquer." And adds, concerning their performance: "If you've never seen them before, brace yourself, they really do leave audiences breathless."

Altan's March 10 performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. Tickets are \$18 for general admission; \$16 for UCSD faculty, staff, and senior citizens, and \$14 for students. Tickets are available at the University Box Office, 534-6467, and at Ticketmaster outlets. For further information, call the University Events Office at 534-4090.

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