

## Irish Singer Mary Black to perform Oct. 17 at UCSD

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IRISH SINGER MARY BLACK TO PERFORM OCT. 17 AT UCSD

Mary Black, the most popular Irish female singer of the past 20 years who has sold more albums in her native Ireland than U2 or Sinéad O'Connor will perform at 8 p.m. Oct. 17 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

"Black's music is a hybrid of folk, pop, rock and Irish balladry, enhanced by touches of native instruments like the concertina, fiddle and pennywhistle," writes the Associated Press.

"With a dynamic voice grounded in a strong mid-range that easily moves from a whisper to a full-throated cry, Black is, like so many mainstream balladeers, an artist of uplift," writes the New York Times. "She delivers one metaphor-packed vitamin pill after another: songs full of swooping cormorants and summer sunsets, life as a river and the heart as a boat, nobody living without love and so on."

Black has eight albums to her credit, the most recent one, *Shine*, recorded in Ireland and Los Angeles with the assistance of Larry Klein, the American producer whose credits include Joni Mitchell, Chaka Khan and Tina Turner.

*Shine* is an eclectic album that touches on Black's traditional folk, jazz and ballad background and incorporates a new rock and pop edge.

"I am not any one of those things (labels) and yet I am all of them," Black says. "If you're going to call me anything I'd be happiest if you called me a contemporary Irish singer."

Black started singing in the choir at convent school. By the time she was 14 she was performing in pubs in Dublin with her brothers and friends. Soon she was touring the East Coast of the U.S. with her brothers, and as she says, "Living literally from hand to mouth."

Her first critical and commercial success came in 1983 with her first solo album and with the band De Dannan. Her second solo, *Without Fanfare* in 1985, established what was to become a Mary Black trademark. Though not a songwriter, she has discovered some of Ireland's finest contemporary song-writing talent. "One of the best interpretative singers around," says the San Francisco Chronicle.

Black's other albums have been platinum and double platinum, each one seeming to surpass the predecessors.

In addition to the recognition and awards, Black has earned the respect and admiration of fellow artists. Mary Chapin Carpenter calls her "one of the most passionate and gifted performers it's been my privilege to know."

"I'm a Gemini," Black says. "Half of me wants to sing with a smile on my face and the other half of me wants to sing with tears coming down my cheeks. I think I actually shine brightest when I'm crying in a song."

Tickets for the Mary Black performance are \$22 general admission, \$19 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$17 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets at 220-8497. The performance is sponsored by the University Events Office. For information on the entire season of events sponsored by the University Events Office, visit the website, <http://ueo.ucsd.edu>, or call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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