

a golf professional for 21 years. This father-daughter duo has been performing together as The McG's since 2008. Hannah was born and raised primarily in Eugene, is a 2011 graduate of South Eugene High School, and currently attends Lane Community College. Sean is a 1989 graduate from the University of Oregon and is a fifth-generation native Oregonian. [www.reverbNation.com/themcgs](http://www.reverbNation.com/themcgs)

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*UPCOMING WORLD MUSIC EVENTS*

**Sun. Mar. 18 • 7:30 pm, 220 Gerlinger**  
*Balkan Folk Dance with live music by  
 the UO East European Folk Music Ensemble.*  
**FREE**

**Sun. Apr. 15 • 3:00 pm, Beall Concert Hall.**  
*Classical music of North India  
 Aashish Khan, sarod, and Pranesh Khan, tabla*

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*TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE SPONSORED BY  
 The Oregon Humanities Center's Endowment  
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111th Season, 48th program



SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Beall Concert Hall  
 8:00 p.m.

Friday evening  
 March 9, 2012

**IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC**

*Opening event of the annual  
 Eugene Irish Cultural Festival*

featuring

**BUA**

*Brían Ó hAirt, vocals, concertina, sean-nós dance  
 Sean Gavin, flute, uilleann pipes  
 Devin Shepherd, fiddle  
 Brian Miller, guitar, bouzouki, vocals*

**The McG's**

*Hannah McGowan, vocals, fiddle  
 Sean McGowan, vocals, guitar*



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

## ABOUT TONIGHT'S ARTISTS

Irish Music Awards' 2009 "Top Traditional Group" is **Bua**, a quartet comprised of some of the most talented young musicians in the U.S. Bua plays Irish traditional music with "a precision and intensity that is rarely heard on this side of the Atlantic." Their sound stands out among modern bands in the genre by "keeping the music down the path of tradition." Their 2011 release, *Down the Green Fields*, finds Bua further down that path where the band explores forgotten sounds and inspirations with a blend of enchantingly stark song arrangements and bold, earthy dance tunes. An early review of Bua's 2011 release, calls it "a testament, from beginning to end, of the lasting essentials of the Irish tradition."

Bua has performed at many of the top Irish and folk festivals in North America including the National Folk Festival, the Milwaukee Irish Festival, the Lowell Folk Festival, the Dublin Irish Festival, Celtic Fest Chicago, the Goderich Celtic Roots Festival, City-Folk, Catskills Irish Arts Week and Bethlehem's Celtic Classic.

**Brían Ó hAirt's** evocative singing, often in Irish Gaelic, is central to Bua's characteristic sound. His ability as a traditional singer has afforded him great acclaim at his age—the youngest and only American to become a champion All-Ireland singer. A voice hailed as "beautiful...sweet and full of sensitivity," his singing has been featured on radio programs in Ireland and the U.S. Brían's dedication to Irish Gaelic song and the sean-nós style has bonded him to the close-knit singing communities of Conamara (on Ireland's culturally rich west coast). His "delivery and vocal quality are perfectly suited" not only to Irish song but to the sister tradition of Scots Gaelic song as well, and both colorful traditions play into Bua's mix. Bua's shows also feature Brían's mastery of the improvisational sean-nós Irish dance style and his deft finger-work on the concertina.

Detroit-born **Sean Gavin** plays flute, whistle and uilleann pipes in the band. Sean was immersed in Irish music from a young age. With encouragement from his father, Co. Clare fiddler Mick Gavin, Sean played a variety of Irish instruments until settling on the flute at age 10, inspired by Scariiff flautist Leo MacNamara. Not long after, he began work on the uilleann pipes with teacher Al Purcell—himself a student of Leo Rowsome. Currently residing in Chicago, he remains firmly dedicated to playing and teaching traditional Irish

music. Sean is a member of the group NicGaviskey, and often performs with his family.

**Devin Shepherd** is a fiddler from Chicago. He began Suzuki violin lessons at age four, but fell in love with traditional Irish music at ten. His mother nurtured his interest, immersing him in the deep-rooted Irish music scene of his hometown, where he studied with Kathleen Keane and Liz Carroll and regularly attended sessions. As a young fiddler, Devin won first prize in the Midwest Fleadh Cheoil for nine consecutive years. More recently, his stylistic development has focused on recordings of legendary Irish fiddlers of the past, such as Bobby Casey, Michael Coleman, and John Doherty, as well as living legends James Kelly and Paddy Cronin. Since 2000, he has made his living teaching and performing Irish music throughout the U.S. and abroad. He is a member of Chicago-based ensemble Chicago Reel and has a degree in music composition from the Chicago College of Performing Arts.

Guitarist **Brian Miller** comes from Saint Paul, Minnesota where a vibrant Irish music community, including luminaries Dáithí Sproule and Paddy O'Brien, has supported his growth into one of the most sought after accompanists in the American Irish music scene. As critic Earle Hitchner put it: Brian's backing on guitar "flexes not just muscle but a fully complementary style." Also a master of the Greek bouzouki, Brian is a founding member of the Two Tap Trio and the Doon Céilí Band in Minnesota. He also frequently tours with the band Chulrua as well as with the Máirtín de Cógáin Project. He has been featured on MPR's All Things Considered, CBC Radio's Canada Live, and Ireland's RTE television, RTE radio and TG4 television. Brian teaches flute, whistle, bouzouki and guitar at the St. Paul-based Center for Irish Music. [www.buamusic.com](http://www.buamusic.com)

**The McG's** feature eighteen-year-old fiddler **Hannah McGowan** performing Celtic, old-time, bluegrass and Americana. Hannah has been playing violin since age five and studies locally with Eugene symphony member David Burham. Hannah also studies piano and voice. She loves to tear into a good Irish jig but you'll love the way she puts on the waltz. With her classical background, Hannah adds a touch of class to her lively performance. Hannah's father **Sean McGowan** plays guitar and percussion in this duo. When not performing with his daughter, you'll see Sean performing with his upright bass and occasionally as a singer-songwriter. Sean is a volunteer DJ at KLCC radio, runs a music booking agency and has been