

TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE SPONSORED BY



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UPCOMING WORLD MUSIC EVENTS

Friday, March 13. 8:00 pm. Agate Hall Auditorium
BALKAN FOLK DANCE
UO East European Folk Music Ensemble; Free

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109th Season, 71st program



SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Beall Concert Hall
8:00 p.m.

Friday evening
March 6, 2009

THE WORLD MUSIC SERIES

presents

**IRISH TRADITIONAL
MUSIC AND DANCE**

Opening event of the Eugene Irish Cultural Festival

featuring

Gerry Carthy
Chulrua
Maldon Meehan



PROGRAM

Gerry Carthy
Chulrua with Maldon Meehan

INTERMISSION

Chulrua with Maldon Meehan

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ABOUT TONIGHT'S ARTISTS

Gerry Carthy (singer and multi-instrumentalist) was born in County Mayo, on the West Coast of Ireland. He sings and plays a variety of instruments including banjo, guitar, tenor guitar, tin whistle, saxophone, fiddle, mandolin, and bouzouki. Inspired by the folk revival of Irish music in the '60s and '70s, he spent 10 years playing music at sessions around Galway. Gerry is one of the founding members of the traditional Irish session at the Crane Bar, the longest running session in Galway. Gerry now lives in New Mexico, and has been on the Music Department faculty at the College of Santa Fe for 15 years, teaching classes and private lessons in tin whistle, banjo, guitar, and Celtic Ensemble. Gerry is also an Artist in Residence for the New Mexico Arts Commission.

Chulrua (cool-ROO-ah) translates from the Irish as "red back." It was the name and distinguishing feature of the favorite wolfhound of ancient Irish hero Fionn MacCumhail (Finn MacCool). The music we play is the old instrumental dance music of Ireland: jigs, reels, hornpipes, polkas, and slides. We also play walking marches, songs, slow airs, set dances, and the harp music of Turlough O'Carolan and others. Together we have almost 70 years of experience performing at community fairs and festivals, colleges and universities, folk clubs, and a variety of other venues—doing concerts, workshops, dances, and school residencies all over the United States and Europe.

Born in Co. Offaly in the midlands of Ireland, **Paddy O'Brien** (accordion) traveled the countryside as a young man to spend time with the older players, absorbing tunes and the stories that came with them. In a career that spans more than forty years, his repertoire has grown in excess of 3,000 tunes. O'Brien won the Oireachtas championship four times, and the All-Ireland senior accordion competition in 1975. His role as a primary

source for tunes was demonstrated when his music was included in Brendan Breathnach's *Ceol Rince na hEireann*, the foremost scholarly work on the tradition. In 1994, he received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to record *The Paddy O'Brien Tune Collection: A Personal Treasury of Irish Jigs and Reels*. In 2006, he received a prestigious Bush Artist Fellowship and a Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant to work on Volume Two of the Tune Collection.

Patrick Ourceau (fiddle) has been playing Irish music since his early teens. Born and raised in France, he moved to the US in 1989, settled in New York City where he lived for seventeen years, and is now based in Toronto, Canada. Mostly self taught, Ourceau's taste for Clare and East Galway music developed early in his playing after being introduced to recordings of the legendary fiddle players Paddy Canny, Paddy Fahy, and Bobby Casey. In 2004, Ourceau and guitarist Eamon O'Leary released *Live at Mona's*, a live recording project praised by critics and fans alike as one of the best recent releases of Irish traditional music. During the last fifteen years Ourceau has been in great demand as a teacher, and regularly teaches both privately and at various festivals and summer schools across North America and Ireland.

Pat Egan (guitar) grew up in County Tipperary, and now lives in Baltimore, Maryland. There were a lot of singers and guitarists in his home parish, including uilleann piper Michael Cooney with whom, along with Paddy O'Brien, he would later form the band Chulrua. Egan began playing professionally when he moved to Westport, County Mayo in the 1980's. He quickly became established in the music scene in Westport, and recorded with many different musicians there—most reputedly on the internationally acclaimed "Music at Matt Molloy's". Egan has taught at numerous workshops at festivals throughout the US, and has made extensive tours in North America and Europe. He has appeared on numerous television and radio programs in Ireland and abroad.

Maldon Meehan (dancer) is a performer, teacher and scholar of Irish Sean-nós and set dance, currently lives in Portland, Oregon. She has appeared on the nationally televised 2005 Oireachtas at the Cork Opera House in Cork City, as well as on Connemara Community Radio and Raidió na Gaeltachta. Meehan placed 3rd in the 2005 sean-nós jig competition held annually in Connemara. She has performed and or taught at the Boffin Arts Festival (Ireland), the Friday Harbor Irish Music Camp (Washington), Aladdin Theater (Oregon), Irish Connections Festival (Massachusetts), Sean-nós Milwaukee (Wisconsin) and the Cutler Mastic Theatre at Emerson College (Massachusetts). Maldon is a founding member of Sean-nós Northwest, a non-profit organization dedicated to