

Boys of The Lough Present Celtic Concert March (*date*)

Celtic legends Boys of the Lough will perform traditional music from Ireland, the Shetland Islands and England on (*date*) at (*time*) p.m. at the (*concert hall*) in (*location*). The concert is sponsored by (*sponsor names*). It's part of a 13-city tour, the ensemble's 72nd American tour since 1967.

Lively acoustic jigs and reels, slow airs, polkas and waltzes fill the group's extensive repertoire, played on fiddle, button accordion, flute, tin whistle, guitar, concertina and mandolin. The tunes are a mix of original compositions and arrangements, plus music handed down through the generations. The ballads and folk songs are often sung in sean nos style without accompaniment, and on occasion in the Gaelic language. Witty banter and storytelling enlivens the performances and adds to the *craic*, or good fun.

With more than 40 years of experience touring, performing and recording, Boys of the Lough has recorded 22 albums, received two Grammy nominations and performed in Carnegie Hall. They appeared on BBC television in the U.K. and RTE television in Ireland, and been featured 24 times on National Public Radio's "A Prairie Home Companion" hosted by Garrison Keillor. The group was one of the first professional Celtic music ensembles to tour internationally. This concert is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see these musical legends.

The five artists in the ensemble are renowned as technical virtuosos on their instruments who perform with musical integrity, incorporating their own ornamentation, flair and excitement into the musical composition.

Cathal McConnell, the founding member, is arguably the most acclaimed traditional flute and whistle player in Ireland. A native of County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland, he was All-Ireland Champion on both instruments at age 18. McConnell won Best World Album in the 2000 Indie Music Awards for one of his seven solo albums, and was the recent subject of an Irish documentary.

Dave Richardson is a native of Northumberland in the U.K. and joined the ensemble in 1973. He plays concertina and mandolin. One of the jigs he composed was featured in the Lord of the Dance and on a television episode of "Sex and the City," and has sold several million copies.

Brendan Begley plays button accordion and melodeon, and was All-Ireland Champion on melodeon. He previously played with well-known group Beginish, and has recorded two solo albums. A native of Ireland's Dingle Peninsula, he organizes a school to promote the music of West Kerry. Begley also hosted an Irish television program on traditional music for nine years.

Fiddler Kevin Henderson, a native of the Shetland Islands, was winning fiddling competitions from the age of 11. He co-founded the Shetland ensemble Fiddler's Bid at age 14, joined Boys of the Lough in 2002 and also plays with Scottish group Session A9. He has been featured on 11 albums.

Garry O'Briain resides in County Clare, Ireland, and plays guitar and piano. He has played with a number of Irish ensembles, has written music for stage, film and television, and helped produce albums for many groups including the Clancy Brothers. He has recorded two albums of his own.

Boys of the Lough debut a new CD on this tour, "Rising Fawn Gathering," a collaboration with American bluegrass musicians Norman and Nancy Blake, and a few other

country musicians. Norman Blake appeared regularly on The Johnny Cash Show, collaborated with artists like Bob Dylan, and was featured on the Grammy Award-winning movie soundtrack "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" The new CD is on the Plectrafone Records label (<http://westernjubilee.com/Plectrafone.htm>) and will also be available for sale at the concert.

The full tour schedule for Boys of the Lough is posted at www.boysofthelough.com. To order music CDs, go to www.footstompin.com or www.musicscotland.com.

To order tickets for the Celtic Concert by Boys of the Lough on *(date)* at *(time)* p.m. at the *(concert hall)* in *(place)*, call *(phone)* or go to *(website)*. Tickets are *(prices)* for adults and *(prices)* for seniors. Tickets will also be available at the door the day of the concert.

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Arts Calendar Listing:

A Celtic Concert will be presented by Boys of the Lough with traditional music from Ireland, the Shetland Islands and England on *(date)* at *(time)* p.m. at *(concert hall)*, *(place)*. Tickets are *(prices)* for adults and *(prices)* for seniors. For information or to order tickets, call *(phone)* or go to *(website)*.