



Manchester Craftsmen's Guild
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For Immediate Release

**MCG JAZZ PRESENTS A *CELTIC CHRISTMAS* FEATURING
BOYS OF THE LOUGH**

November 16, 2006 (Pittsburgh)... Celtic supergroup **Boys of the Lough** performs in Pittsburgh, PA on **Tuesday, December 12, 2006** at the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, **7:30 PM**. Don't miss the live video recording of their critically-acclaimed Celtic Christmas concert, *Midwinter Night's Dream*.

With over thirty years experience in the world of traditional music, over 60 North American tours, 20 recordings and two GRAMMY® nominations, **Boys of the Lough** has reached legendary status. The Celtic supergroup features All-Ireland champion **Cathal McConnell** on flute, whistles and vocals; **Dave Richardson** on concertina, mandolin, button accordion and cittern; **Brendan Begley** on button accordion, melodeon, and vocals; **Malcolm Stitt** on guitar, bouzouki and Highland pipe; and Fiddler of the Year **Kevin Henderson** on fiddle. Given the band's strong ties to Pittsburgh, **Boys of the Lough** has chosen MCG's GRAMMY® Award-winning jazz producers to record their acclaimed holiday program to DVD. Dave Richardson's famed composition "*Calliope House*," which has sold over a million copies and has been featured in the smash-hit stage production *Lord of the Dance* and television's *Sex & the City*, is named in honor of George Balderose's Pittsburgh home and folk music venue. Manchester Craftsmen's Guild's acoustically-perfect, intimate music hall provides a warm setting for this special holiday concert recording. And the Guild's state-of-the-art recording facilities provides an opportunity to showcase the Boys and Pittsburgh at their best.

The Boys have established a reputation for technical brilliance and integrity combined with a ready wit and sense of fun. The music ranges widely through traditional melodies of Ireland and encompasses fiddle music of Shetland, Scotland and North America. These showcase compelling dance rhythms, evocative slow airs, and beautifully-structured songs, some in the Irish language.

One of the best Christmas shows touring today, the critically-acclaimed **Midwinter Night's Dream** is steeped in personal memories of Celtic Christmas traditions by members of **Boys of the Lough**. The show combines beautiful Christian and pagan winter holiday songs and instrumentals with fascinating stories of the history of this great musical tradition, emanating family appeal, historical intrigue, and brilliant musicianship.

Tickets are **\$22 in advance, \$28 at the door**. Tickets are available now at www.mcgjazz.org or call the MCG Jazz box office at **412.322.0800**. The Boys will be featured on public radio's *A Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor, Saturday, December 2, 6–8 PM, WQED-FM 89.3.

"...One of the finest bands in Celtic traditional music." The New York Times

"Midwinter Night's Dream is one of the most satisfying, well-conceived and executed albums of Celtic music you'll find anywhere." Irish Voice

For more information on this and other concerts in the World Music Series,
please visit www.worldmusicseries.com.

This concert is presented by Manchester Craftsmen's Guild and Ixtlan Artists with promotional support from Balmoral School of Piping , Burke School of Irish Dance, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Pittsburgh, Echoes of Erin, Gaelic League of Pittsburgh, Irish Centre of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Irish Festival , and Shovlin Academy of Irish Dance.

MCG Jazz is a social enterprise of Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, a non-profit arts and learning center. The Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Music Hall is located at 1815 Metropolitan Street, North Side.

Artists and dates are subject to change. Single tickets are on sale now.

For more information on Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, please visit www.mcgjazz.org.

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