

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 23, 2010

WHAT: Paddy Moloney with The Chieftains
WHEN: Wednesday, March 10 at 7:30 PM
WHERE: UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
TICKETS: Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to <http://www.umasstix.com/>
IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/centerwide/pressRoom/>

(Celtic Music Giants Paddy Moloney and The Chieftains in an Exuberant Night of Traditional Irish Music and Dance at the Fine Arts Center)

"Paddy Moloney and The Chieftains have become something like a musical genealogical society, climbing out onto the branches of Celtic music's family tree and plucking delicious fruit." So writes the *Pioneer Press* about Ireland's preeminent musical ensemble, which will be performing at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Wednesday, March 10 at 7:30 PM. Join the Musical Ambassadors of Ireland for an exhilarating, foot-stomping evening of Celtic music that will include beguiling vocals, energetic step dancing, and collaborations between The Chieftains and top session guitarists and fiddlers from Nashville.

The Chieftains' appearance at the Fine Arts Center will include selections from their current album, *San Patricio*, a collaboration with fellow Grammy-winner Ry Cooder. An unprecedented blend of the musical heritage of Ireland and Mexico, *San Patricio* brings to life the story of the San Patricio Battalion, Irish-Americans who deserted the United States Army to join the Mexican side in the Mexican-American War.

Special Guests for the performance at the Concert Hall include the breathtaking Scottish siren Alyth McCormack, who will sing "The Foggy Dew" and her own piece of Scottish "Mouth Music"; Nashville's Jeff White and Deanie Richardson, who will offer up their Bluegrass specialties; and regular Chieftains collaborator harpist Triona Marshall, who will play the classic "O'Carolan's Concerto." Dancing, jigs, and reels will complete the evening's performance. .

As "inadvertent prophets of the world-music boom" (*Rolling Stone*), six-time Grammy Award winners The Chieftains are recognized for bringing the rollicking, ebullient energy of traditional Irish music to the world's attention. Never afraid to shock purists and push

boundaries, they make music that has accumulated over the centuries their own with a style that is as thrilling as it is definitive so that it remains as fresh and relevant as when it first began.

In addition to their Grammy Awards, they have been honored in their own country by being officially named Ireland's Musical Ambassadors. They performed during the Pope's visit to Ireland in 1979 in front of 135,000,000 persons, and were the subject of a tribute on the *Late Late Show* in 1987, their 25th anniversary.

The trappings of fame have not altered the Chieftains' love of, and loyalty to, their roots—they are as comfortable playing spontaneous Irish sessions as they are headlining a concert at Carnegie Hall. After all these years of making some of the most beautiful music in the world, the Chieftains' music remains as fresh and relevant as when they first began.

At 6:30 PM in the lobby of the Concert Hall, prior to The Chieftains' concert, there will be an Irish Cultural Celebration featuring an Irish step dance performance by members of the McDermott Academy of Irish Dance. Complimentary Irish-inspired refreshments will be provided by UMass Catering.

Tickets for Paddy Moloney with The Chieftains are \$40, \$30, and \$15; Five College and GCC/STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$15. Tickets are available in person from the Fine Arts Center Box Office, by phone at 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS, or online at www.umasstix.com. Additional information regarding the performance is available at the Fine Arts Center website, www.fineartscenter.com.

Paddy Moloney with The Chieftains is sponsored by *The Daily Hampshire Gazette*, Coca-Cola, PeoplesBank, WRSI 93.9FM The River, and the UMass Amherst Alumni Association. Special thanks go to Louise Dunphy, CelticCrossings, WMUA, and Harpo of The Harp Irish Pub and Restaurant.

Images suitable for press coverage are available at the Fine Arts Center website: <http://www.fineartscenter.com/centerwide/pressRoom/>.

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