

An Irish RAMBLING HOUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An Irish Rambling House

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KBBproductions.net

RamblingHouseShow.com (video, audio, logos, posters and press kit available)

Performances

Please see www.kbbproductions.net/upcoming-events.html for upcoming shows.

Press Release

*Like a steaming mug of Irish coffee in a neighbor's kitchen on a cold night,
An Irish Rambling House warms the heart by recreating a night of music,
dance & storytelling in old rural Ireland.*

Grammy-winning music. World class dancing.

In Ireland, the neighbors would pick a house to ramble to in the evenings to share music, dance, and story. It was this setting that bore their humor, charm, and a sense of community and togetherness which is what An Irish Rambling House exemplifies. It is a joyful culture rich in spirit and warmth, like a steaming hot mug of Irish coffee in a neighbor's warm kitchen.

An Irish Rambling House melds the heart of Celtic and American folk music with the discipline and sophistication of Baroque music under the direction of Grammy- winning guitarist William Coulter. He will be joined by Brian Bigley, purveyor of the ethereal sounds of the uilleann pipes, flute and whistles as well as Tomásean Foley, native Irish storyteller. In addition, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Eimear Arkins, pianist and accordionist Samantha Harvey lend their talents to the show, which will be capped off by brilliant Irish dancing from Brian Bigley, Eimear Arkins, Samantha Harvey and the world-renowned Riverdance lead dancer Brandon Asazawa. The show is produced by Brian Bigley and his company, KBB Productions.

Biographies

William Coulter William Coulter is a Grammy Award-winning guitarist who has been performing, recording, and teaching traditional, classical, Celtic and folk music for over 25 years. He is an internationally acclaimed master of the steel-string guitar. In 2005 he won a Grammy for a track he contributed to a solo guitar compilation of Henry Mancini tunes, called *Pink Guitar*. William performs as both a soloist and a member of ensembles, including Isle of Skye, Orison, and the Coulter-Phillips Ensemble. He has recorded many albums for Gourd, including the best-selling Shaker music CD *Simple Gifts*, and the critically acclaimed *Celtic Sessions*. The most recent of his seven CDs on the Gourd Music label is the acclaimed solo album *The Road Home*. William earned his BA in music from UC Santa Cruz and a Master of Music degree from the San Francisco Conservatory. During his classical studies he was always drawn to traditional Irish and American folk music. This led to a second Master's degree from UCSC, earned in 1994, in ethnomusicology with an emphasis on traditional Irish music, language and song. williamcoulterguitar.com

Brian Bigley has studied the Irish uilleann pipes for over 25 years as a player, as well as a maker, of the instrument. He has toured North America and Europe extensively as both a musician and a dancer, appearing in shows such as Tomáseen Foley's *A Celtic Christmas*, the Omaha Symphony's *Celtic Journey*, and the Apollo's Fire Countryside Concert Series. In 2002 and 2003 Brian competed with great distinction at the World Irish Dance Championships held in Glasgow and Killarney. He has recently released his fourth recording of traditional Irish music *Dance the Town Green* in conjunction with the New York School of Irish Dance.

Brian lives near Cleveland, Ohio, with his fiddler wife, Kristen, and their dancing children.

brianbigleymusic.com

Tomáseen Foley, storyteller, was born on a small farm in the remote parish of Teampall an Ghleanntáin in the West of Ireland. Each year from Thanksgiving until Christmas, his show *Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas* plays to critical acclaim and packed concert halls around the US. *Tomáseen Foley's Irish Times* tours throughout the remainder of the year. A hit musical theater performance from his story *Parcel from America* has been developed. He has released three CDs: *A Celtic Christmas: Parcel from America*, a live recording, *The Priest and the Acrobat* and *Celtic Knots: An Irish Love Story*. Rego Irish Records says "(He) is a master of the Irish narrative and a keeper of the flame for a priceless piece of Irish culture."

tomaseenfoley.com

Eimear Arkins is a multi-instrumentalist, singer and dancer from Ruan in County Clare. She holds eleven solo All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil titles and has competed in all Ireland, European and World Dancing Championships. Eimear has toured extensively with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann on concert tours throughout Ireland, Britain, North America and Canada. She has represented Ireland in France as a performer at Rennes Expo and in Spain as a participant in *La Noche Negra* a cultural collaboration and exchange between the Mid-West of Ireland and the province of Asturias. Eimear has toured and performed with numerous groups including *Cherish The Ladies* and *Téada*. She is a regular teacher at St. Louis Irish Arts since and has given workshops at various festivals throughout the world including *Catskills Irish Arts Week*; *Viljandi Pärimusmuusika Festival*, Estonia;

St. Louis Tionól; *Festival Interceltique de Lorient*; *Winnipeg Irish Fest*, Canada and *Canadian Celtic Celebration*. eimeararkins.com

Samantha Harvey is an award-winning step dancer, pianist and accordionist. She has performed throughout the world including gigs in the US, Canada, Ireland, Italy, France, Germany, Japan, Taiwan, and Malaysia

with groups Téada, IRELAND - the show, Irish Christmas in America, Atlantic Steps, Cosa, and Tomáseen Foley's Irish Times. Samantha also enjoys the more intimate performance setting with her accordion and mandolin duo - Sam 'n Ash. samanthaharvey.net

Brandon Asazawa's dance journey began at the age of 4 with the Leneghan Academy of Irish Dance in Cleveland, Ohio. In sixteen years of competing around the world, Brandon became a five-time regional champion, National champion, and placed 3rd in the World Irish Dance Championship in Dublin, Ireland. Since 2015, Brandon has toured as lead dancer and dance captain with iconic dance show, Riverdance. From New York's Radio City Music Hall to London's West End, Brandon has performed for audiences around the world. Brandon has also been featured on programs such as America's Got Talent, Good Morning America, The Today Show, and Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. In 2024, Brandon co-founded JiGGiG Irish Dance Entertainment, an entertainment agency dedicated to sharing his passion for choreography, dance, and production.

Individual Reviews

“Tomáseen is the Irish equivalent of Garrison Keillor, and in fact the entire troupe puts on programs that are much like Prairie Home Companion - storytelling, music, audience interaction, dance and song that delighted our audiences every night. All six concerts were sold out! “

-Jeannette Sorrell, Music Director of Grammy-Winning Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra, Cleveland, OH

“Grammy Award-winning guitarist William Coulter provided sublime background... Bigley and Linnane showed their superb talents as world-class Irish step dancers, moving their feet sometimes faster than the eye could follow.”

-The Santa Barbara Independent

“The remainder of the concert featured the violinist with the able accompaniment of William Coulter on guitar. Although the melody of the J.S. Bach Cello Suite No. 1 played on violin was familiar, the guitar accompaniment with alternative harmony and rhythmic energy had the audience literally dancing in their seats and was teasingly described by the performers as “not your mother’s Bach”. The rousing medley of traditional Celtic songs Quarter Inch Wick, Don Oiche Ud I Mbeithil (That Night in Bethlehem) and Cregg’s Pipes kept the audience tapping before the concert closed with two movements of Winter from Vivaldi’s Four Seasons. The encore allowed Huizinga, Scarpe and Coulter to play together on Astor Piazzola’s Oblivion, leaving the audience thrilled with this evening’s concert and looking forward to seeing more of the Bach Festival when it returns to Carmel in July.”

-Michelle Galindo, peninsulareviews.com

“In between musical presentations by five wondrously talented guest artists, storyteller and Ireland native Tomáseen Foley regaled the sold-out crowd of ‘good people of Cleveland, Ohio,’ with poetry, tales and jokes, evoking a quiet evening spent sitting around the hearth.”

-The Cleveland Plain Dealer, Cleveland, OH on the Country Side Concert put on by Apollo’s Fire