

**CLEVELAND CELTIC ENSEMBLE**  
**Hanna Theatre – Saturday, May 27, 2023**  
**Program Notes**

**Act I**

**Chi Mi Na Morbheanna – Iain Camshroin**

We open our concert with the beautiful *Chi Mi Na Morbheanna*, or *Mist Covered Mountains of Home*. While the melody may be plaintive, the lyrics speak of coming home to Scotland: seeing once again the great mountains, deer grazing in the hollows, and being greeted by family and friends in a language of their own.

**March to Battle – Paddy Moloney**

*El Batallón de San Patricio* (Saint Patrick's Battalion) was made up of disillusioned Irish-American immigrants that fought on the Mexican side of the Mexican-American War. Many "San Patricios" were captured and executed on September 13, 1847 as the war drew to a close. The late Paddy Moloney, uilleann piper, and co-founder of the Chieftains, composed the piece as part of their 2010 album, *San Patricio*.

**The Silver Spear/Ducks on the Mill Pond – Trad. Irish/Trad. American**

This set begins with our version of a traditional Irish reel *The Silver Spear*. We then cross the big pond and play the traditional American break-down *Ducks on the Mill Pond*.

**Skye Boat Song – Harold Boulton/Trad. Scottish**

The lyrics of the *Skye Boat Song* which we perform were written by Sir Harold Boulton, to an existing Scottish folk melody collected in 1870. Boulton's lyrics memorialize "Bonnie Prince" Charles Edward Stuart's escape to the isle of Skye, aided by Jacobite heroine Flora MacDonald, after his defeat at the Battle of Culloden in April 1746. A few years later, author Robert Louis Stevenson penned an alternate set of lyrics, which today are used for the theme of the popular *Outlander* series – switching out "lad" for "lass."

**Inisheer/The Ships in Full Sail/The Stolen Reel – Thomas Walsh, arr. Kathie Stewart/Trad. Irish**

Inisheer is the smallest and most easterly of the three Aran Islands in Galway Bay. Dublin accordionist Thomas Walsh composed this air after spending "the best holiday of [his] life on the island" in the 1970s. We round out this set with a traditional jig and reel.

**Sun in the Stream – Enya**

The mythological "Salmon of Knowledge" of Irish lore is represented in Enya's *Sun in the Stream*. The salmon, having itself eaten five enchanted hazelnuts from the Well of Wisdom, would endow anyone that ate it with the full knowledge of the world. The solo uilleann piper featured on Enya's 1987 album *The Celts* is the influential Liam O'Flynn of Planxty fame.

**Burning the Piper's Hut – Trad. Scottish**

After the Jacobite defeat at the battle of Culloden in 1746, Highland Scottish culture was systematically suppressed. Although *Burning the Piper's Hut* is not found in manuscripts of the era, the spirit of the tune refers to those times.

### **Road to Banff – Malcolm Reavell**

Brian and Ian showcase the pipes as they blaze through this lively modern jig composed by Aberdeen flute player Malcolm Reavell, named for the Banff and Buchan area of Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

### **Carolan vs. Geminiani – Turlough O'Carolan, Antonio Vivaldi**

Born in 1670, Turlough O'Carolan is considered one of the finest composer of Irish music and his tunes are widely know today. Blinded by smallpox at 18, he was gifted a horse and harp and traveled widely throughout Ireland for nearly 50 years, composing and performing his music. A contemporary of O'Carolan's, violinist Francesco Geminiani, once challenged him to a battle of musical skill at a Dublin nobleman's party. This duet is Tiffany and Kristen's artistic interpretation of that duel.

### **Mason's Apron – Trad. Irish**

Brian displays the versatility of the Irish flute with this traditional tune, based on a version by Matt Molloy of the Chieftains.

## **Act II**

### **Flowers of the Forest – Trad. Scottish**

The haunting melody of *The Flowers of the Forest* was first recorded in the Skene Manuscript, circa 1615-1635. Jean Elliot's lyrics commemorate the defeat of the Scottish army of James IV at the Battle of Flodden, September 1513. For this reason, the tune is often played at memorials.

### **Danny Boy – Frederic Weatherly/Trad. Irish**

While the well-known *Danny Boy* has become inextricably linked with Ireland, it was in fact penned by a British lawyer, Frederic Weatherly, in 1910. The popular melody used with Weatherly's lyrics is Londonderry Air, originating in County Derry, Ireland. It has become an unofficial anthem for Irish Americans and is sung for us tonight by Peter Wright, Brian Munch, and Ian Crane.

### **Cape Clear – Trad. Irish**

The hauntingly beautiful melody of *Cape Clear* is named for the southernmost inhabited place in Ireland, eight miles off the coast of County Cork. The island, a mere three miles long and one mile wide, boasts a spectacular landscape and several historic ruins.

### **Dance Solo**

Marcus Donnelly entertains us in a way all his own!

### **Old Joe's Jig/Last Tango in Harris – Trad. Irish/R. S. MacDonald.**

We picked up these tunes from two of our favorite pipers. *Old Joe's Jig* comes to us via the playing of Liam O'Flynn, and the *Last Tango in Harris* was recorded by Gordon Duncan.

### **Lament for the Death of King George V – Donald Riddell, arr. Tiffany Schaefer**

Scottish musician Donald Riddell was piper to King George V, and performed at the king's funeral in 1936. Moved by the event, he composed this lament for the fiddle. In the middle section of the tune, he utilized the fiddle to imitate a pibroch played on the bagpipes. Tiffany learned this tune from the playing of fiddler John Turner and harpist Haley Hewitt.

**Red Iron Ore – Trad. American**

Come with the ensemble to the Great Lakes as we recall the tale of the schooner, the E. C. Roberts and her crew, as they sailed across Lakes Huron and Erie to unload ahead of their competition in this fore-castle shanty.

**Old Woman of the Mill Dust/Edinburgh Rock/Farewell to Ireland – Trad. Scottish/David Lim/Trad. Irish**

The Irish and Scottish pipes duel once again with these exciting reels from both Ireland and traditional and contemporary Scotland.

**Parting Glass – Trad. Irish/Scottish**

*The Parting Glass* references the last drink offered to a departing guest to strengthen them for their journey. The earliest printed version appeared in 1770 in *Ancient and Modern Scottish Songs, Heroic Ballads, etc.* by Herd. The text is older and, like *Flowers of the Forest*, appeared in the Skene Manuscript, c. 1615-1635.

All arrangements by the Cleveland Celtic Ensemble, unless otherwise noted.

**Chi Mi Na Morbheanna translation:**

Oh, I see, I see the great mountains  
Oh I see, I see the lofty mountains  
Oh I see, I see the corries  
I see the peaks beneath the mist.

I see straight away the place of my birth  
I will be welcomed in a language that I understand  
I will have hospitality and love when I reach there  
For that I would not trade tons of gold.

I see woods there, I see thickets  
I see fair and fertile lands there  
I see the deer on the ground of the corries  
Shrouded in a blanket of mist.

High mountains with lovely slopes  
Folks living there who are customarily kind  
Light are my steps when I go bounding to see them  
And I will remain there for a while willingly.