

*Celebrating our 38th Season*

# The Cherry Creek Chorale

*presents*

## *Celtic Festival with Colcannon*

In loving memory of our dear friend, Marcus Smith

 February 23 & 24, 2018 

*Tonight's Performance is Sponsored by Tagawa Gardens*

**Sing, Sing..... Irish Tune “Humors of Ballymaguiry”**

**Words by Thomas Moore**

**arr. by Alice Parker**

Sing, sing, music was given to brighten the gay and kindle the loving;  
Souls here, like planets in heaven, by harmony's laws alone are kept moving.  
Beauty may boast of her eyes and her cheeks, but Love from the lips his true archery wings;  
And she who but feathers the dart when she speaks  
At once sends it home to the heart when she sings.

When Love, rock'd by his mother lay sleeping and calm as slumber could make him,  
"Hush, hush," said Venus, "no other sweet voice but his own is worthy to wake him."  
Dreaming of music, he slumber'd the while till faint from his lip a soft melody broke.  
And Venus enchanted, looked on with a smile,  
While Love to his own sweet singing awoke.

**Letter-Fisher's Hornpipe..... Traditional**

**arr. by Mark Brymer**

**Speaker: Barbara Wollan**

**Lanigan's Ball..... Traditional Irish Folk Song**

**arr. by Mark Brymer**

Refrain: Six long months I spent in Dublin, six long months doing nothin' at all.  
Six long months I spent in Dublin learnin' to dance for Lanigan's Ball.

The town of Athy one Jeremy Lanigan, battered away till he hadn't a shillin'  
His father he died, made him a man again, left him a farm and ten acres of ground.

He gave a grand party for friends and relations, who wouldn't forget him, would come to the wall.  
If only you'd listen I'll make your eyes glisten at rows and ructions at Lanigan's Ball.

They're doing all kinds of nonsensical polkas, all 'round the room in a whirligig.  
'Til Julie and I soon banished their nonsense and tipped them a twist of a real Irish jig.

Oh, how that girl she got really mad at me, danced 'til we thought that the ceilings would fall.  
For I spent three weeks at Brook's Academy learnin' to dance for Lanigan's Ball.

I stepped out. And I stepped in again. I stepped out. And I stepped in again.  
I stepped out, and I stepped in again, learnin' to dance for Lanigan's Ball.

**Danny Boy.....Irish Folk Song**  
**sung by the men of the Chorale** **arr. by Jameson Marvin**  
**Soloists (in order of appearance): Bill Patterson, Ben Bowen and James Libbon**

Oh, Danny Boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling, From glen to glen, and down the mountain side.  
The summer's gone and all the flow'rs are dying, 'Tis you, 'tis you must go, and I must bide.

But come ye back when summer's in the meadow, Or when the valley's hushed and white with snow.  
'Tis I'll be here in sunshine or in shadow, Danny Boy, oh Danny Boy, I love you so!

And if you come when all the flow'rs are dying, And I am dead, as dead I well may be,  
You'll come and find the place where I am lying, And kneel and say an "Ave" there for me.

And I shall hear, tho' soft you tread above me, And all my dreams will warm and sweeter be,  
If you won't fail to tell me that you love me, I'll simply sleep in peace until you come to me!

**Téir abhaile 'riú (Go Away Home) ..... Traditional Irish Melody and Words**  
**sung in Irish by the women of the Chorale** **arr. by David Mooney**

Go away home, Mary.  
Go away home and stay there because your contract is made.

Refrain: It does not matter whether you do it or not, It does not matter, Mary.  
It does not matter whether you do it or not, Because your contract is made.

Marry the piper, Mary,  
Marry the piper at eventide and your contract will be made.  
My contract isn't, your contract is, my contract isn't made.

**Isle of Hope, Isle of Tears ..... Brendan Graham**  
**arr. by John Leavitt**

**Soloists: Lynsey Simmons and Jenee Stewart**

On the first day of January, eighteen ninety two,  
They opened Ellis Island and they let the people through.  
And the first to cross the threshold of the isle of hope and tears  
Was Annie Moore from Ireland who was all of fifteen years.

Refrain: Isle of hope, isle of tears, isle of freedom, isle of fears. But it's not the isle I left behind.  
That isle of hunger, isle of pain, isle you'll never see again, But the isle of home is always on your  
mind.

In her little bag she carried all her past and history,  
And her dreams for the future in the land of liberty.  
And courage is the passport when your old world disappears,  
'Cause there's no future in the past when you're fifteen years.

When they closed down Ellis Island in nineteen forty-three,  
Seventeen million people had come there for sanctuary  
And in springtime when I came here and I stepped onto its piers  
I thought of how it must have been when you're only fifteen years.

**Colcannon Selections**

**Mick Bolger: Vocals & Bodhran**

**Mike Fitzmaurice: Double Bass & Guitar**

**Jean Bolger: Fiddle**

**Brian Mullins: Cittern, Mandolin & Guitar**

**Cynthia Jaffe: Wooden Flute & Whistles**

***Intermission***

The CherryTones

Eriskay Love Lilt.....Traditional Hebridean Folk Song  
arr. by Simon Carrington  
Soloist: Pete LaFleur

Touch the Sky, From the Walt Disney Film, *Brave* .... Music by Alexander L. Mandel  
Lyrics by Alexander L. Mandel and Mark Andrews  
Arr. by Mac Huff  
Soloists: Cady Girten and Nikki Seng

Colcannon and Cherry Creek Chorale

The Mountain Road..... Jean Bolger

Fear a' Bhata ..... Traditional

Grimsby Town..... Traditional  
arr. by Bolger

Coinleach Ghlas an Fhomhair ..... Traditional

Cailleach an airgid (The Hag With the Money)..... Jean Bolger



## ☘ ☘ ☘ Our Guest Artists ☘ ☘ ☘



Authentic, Joyous Irish Music.... traditional with a touch of chamber music and music hall, **Colcannon** plays Irish music with panache, warmth, and wit. Timeless songs and great musicianship transport the audience to another time and place. Colcannon is equally at home on the stage at a folk music festival or performing with a symphony orchestra.

Colcannon has developed a distinctive, inventive, and contemporary musical style while still keeping in firm touch with the heart and essence of traditional Irish music. Colcannon's concerts are renowned for their energy, for singer/frontman Mick Bolger's irrepressible sense of humor and sly wit, and, of course, for the music; music that expresses flights of joy, deep sorrows, and an unquenchable zest for life.

The band formed in 1984 in Boulder, Colorado, USA, and their reputation has grown steadily over the years with the release of eight CDs on the Oxford Road Records label. The band's recent CD, *The Pooka and the Fiddler*, received a Parent's Choice Award for its artful interweaving of music and storytelling. The Emmy®-award winning PBS special, *Colcannon in Concert*, filmed at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts has aired nationwide.

Colcannon has also been part of many collaborative projects -- they were featured on John McEuen's soundtrack for the television mini-series, *The Wild West*, as well as on the Western Heritage Award winning album of the same name and The Nashville Network Television special, *The Music of the Wild West*. The group has provided music for an audio project, *Secrets of the World -- The Good People*, featuring Irish master storyteller and folklorist Eddie Lenihan.

Other projects include the development of *Lusanna*, a work for Colcannon and chamber orchestra, written by Colcannon bassist Mike Fitzmaurice, with text and lyrics in Irish and English by vocalist Mick Bolger. Earlier collaborations with orchestra featured Fitzmaurice's, *The Red Kite*, a three movement concerto for Colcannon and orchestra, as well as symphonic arrangements of some of Colcannon's original compositions.

Colcannon's appeal crosses lines of age, gender, and ethnic background. For while the musical focus is on the beautiful wealth of traditional Irish music -- all acoustic instrumentation, traditional as well as original tunes and songs, with some of the songs in Mick's native Irish language -- Colcannon's true message is the story of the resilient and joyous human spirit.

## ❁ ❁ ❁ Program Notes ❁ ❁ ❁

We are happy once again to present a Celtic-themed concert, a biennial tradition that the Chorale has been happily following for over a decade. This year we focus on the music of Ireland, and here to help us in this endeavor is the Irish band Colcannon, based in Aurora, Colorado, but known internationally for their musical artistry. We are so honored to have this group with us and would encourage you to get to know them better by visiting their website at [www.colcannon.com](http://www.colcannon.com); I would particularly recommend the video on their home page in which the leader of the group, Mick Bolger, talks about the group's history. (I can't resist pointing out that "colcannon" is an Irish dish of mashed potatoes and boiled cabbage, and that the background graphic for Colcannon's website is a cabbage.)

It's a great compliment to the beauty of Irish folk music that so many of our selections are drawn from that source. Arrangers and lyricists found rich material here, using these ancient tunes as the basis for art songs, laments, and love ballads. But Irish musicians alive today have also contributed to our program, including Brendan Graham, composer and lyricist of *Isle of Hope*, *Isle of Tears* and Jean Bolger of Colcannon, who wrote several of our pieces.

G. K. Chesterton, the famous English writer of the last century, said in one of his poems about the Irish that "all their wars are merry, and all their songs are sad." While you could certainly point to some rollicking songs in our program, I think if you listen carefully you can hear a strain of melancholy even in most of those. Subject matter falls into several categories. Love songs, of course, but with an Irish twist. So the lover in *Coinleach Ghlas an Fhombhair* longs for the day when he and his brown-haired girl can be together buying cows at the fair. Seafaring songs also make an appearance, speaking to the fact that Ireland is, after all, an island, with the threat of loss hanging over all men who go out on boats leaving their families behind. *Grimsby Town* tells one such story, in which "many a hearty fisher lad did find a wat'ry grave." With famine and war looming at home, a number of Irish set out to find refuge elsewhere, often in America. *Isle of Hope*, *Isle of Tears* tells the story of one such immigrant, Annie Moore, the first person to be processed through the facility at Ellis Island. And *Danny Boy* leaves his home too, although we aren't told exactly where he's gone.

But the land of leprechauns and Puckish humor must have its outbursts of pure fancy, after all. Our final song, *Cailleach an airgid*, is pure nonsense, asking if the young man will marry "the hag with the money." Be sure to follow the link below to get more information.

Thank you so much for coming tonight. We will look forward to seeing you again in May for our final concert of the season.

Read more on the music for this concert at [CherryCreekChorale.org/news/behind-the-music](http://CherryCreekChorale.org/news/behind-the-music).

Debi Simons, [DebiSimons.com](http://DebiSimons.com)

