

Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas

One Christmas, when I was ten or twelve years old, in the remote parish of *Teampall an Ghleanntáin* in the west of Ireland, where I was born and raised, we had a prodigious and prolonged snow storm, the likes of which happens in Ireland no more than once or twice in a lifetime.

But nothing, not even the biblical deluge of feathery snow, could stop the neighbors at our end of the parish from gathering at each other's houses at Christmastime – at the Rambling Houses. In fact, it seemed to encourage them, for these were the people who seemed to spin and weave the very patterns of life itself.

They arrived, red-faced, wrapped in tweed and wool, their breath visible in the light of their lanterns, bearing the gifts of music, of song, of dance, and of story. Oh, how great the heart and how heroic the spirit that could find in so simple a ritual so much laughter and light.

So now that you, too, have knocked on the Rambling House door, a traditional Rambling House greeting from all of us: *Céad Míle Fáilte* (a hundred thousand welcomes) Tonight, you are no longer an audience-- you are our neighbors – and here are yours:

Tomáseen Foley

Fear an Tí

The Man of the House - Storyteller

Síle Denvir

vocals, Irish harp

Brian Bigley

uilleann pipes, whistle, flute, Irish dance

Katie Linnane

fiddle, Irish dance

William Coulter

Guitar, whistle, music Director

Brad Nelson

Production Manager, Light Design

Laura McClanathan

Tour Manager

Martha Wilhelm

constant and unfailing assistance

The Rambling House - the traditional meeting place for the neighbors; a place where almost anything can happen, and some of what follows probably will. . .

Amhrán Mhuínse / reels

song, dance

Síle Denvir - vocal solo, composed by Síle Denvir's grandfather

Brian Bigley - dance solo

Céad Mile Fáilte - One hundred thousand welcomes!

Christmas Eve / The Abbey Reel / Over the Moor to Maggie

Irish reels – dance

Katie Linnane – dance solo

Port na bPucaí – The Humours of Ballyloughlan – Maids of Castlebar

air – jig – reel

Brian Bigley – uilleann pipes solo

The Kerry Carol

Síle Denvir – vocal

The Rambling House Chair Dance

Brian Bigley and Katie Linnane

Story

Tomáseen Foley

Irish Reels - Dance

INTERMISSION - Artists' CDs available in the lobby - for a song.

*Oíche Nollaig / Fahey's / D'on Oiche ud I mBeithil / Cregg's Pipess
song / reel / air / reel*

Traditional Irish Toast
Tomáseen Foley

The Welcome – slip jig
song composed by Tony Small
dance solo – Katie Linnane

Polkas – Kerry Set

The Boys of Barr na Sraide
Song composed by Sigerson Clifford

The Deadly Dance Duel
Brian Bigley and Katie Linnane

Story – the heart of Christmas
Tomáseen Foley

Silent Night
All of the neighbours. . .

Traditional Irish Toast

Sláinte na bfear agus go mara na mná go deo,
Good health to the men and may the women live forever

FIN

Program subject to change.

William Coulter plays a Santa Cruz Guitar Company guitar
and uses D'Addario stings exclusively.