

Tomáseen Foleys A Celtic Christmas

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Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas

Ireland's best-known poet, W.B. Yeats said of his fellow citizens *We have made our art of simple things.*

Indeed we have. Unlike the 'high culture' of continental Europe, it was the ordinary people, often rural people, that gave birth to Ireland's heritage - the priceless treasury of Irish culture. The music, the singing, the dancing, the storytelling - all were created and nurtured by the firesides of small farmers, tradesmen, fishermen, laborers. We are their blessed beneficiaries: blessed in being able to draw freely from that seemingly infinite treasury they created, to bring *A Celtic Christmas* to audiences all over the country for the past 24 years.

Long, long before *Riverdance*, at Christmastime, ordinary men and women, at the end of a day working in field, meadow, bog or glen, would gather at each others' cottages and, rhythmically battering the floor with their hob-nailed boots, would raise sparks off the flagstones with their jigs, reels, and hornpipes, and would 'raise the rafters' with the fiery music of fiddle, whistle, *bodhrán*, and the mesmerizing *uilleann pipes*.

In concert halls from California to Florida, from Texas to Maine, *Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas*, recreates just such a night. He takes us back to Ireland of the 1950s, to a night before Christmas, to a place where the motor car, the television, and the telephone were little more than unlikely rumors, and to a time when the neighbors would gather at each others' homes, bringing with them not only their traditional musical instruments, but also their songs, their dances, their laughter, and -- always, ever and always, -- their stories.

He brings with him some of the finest exponents of the traditional Celtic arts performing anywhere today – on either side of the Atlantic. For further info: tomaseenfoley.com