



Tomáseen Foley's *A Celtic Christmas*

Press Release - Tomáseen Foley's *A Celtic Christmas*
Tour 2021

"The troupe did not so much speak parables and sing hymns as fashion an imagined moment in time co-existing peacefully with the spirit of Christmas, recreating the innocence and charm of times gone by - defining moments when family gathered around a hearth to share tales, exchange gifts and reflect on the passing of the days."

The State Journal-Register

For the 26th season, **Tomáseen Foley's *A Celtic Christmas*** takes to the road immediately after Thanksgiving. This year's show features scintillating traditional Irish musicians and dancers - some of the finest and most authentic exponents of the Celtic arts performing anywhere today, on either side of the Atlantic. At its center is native Irish storyteller, **Tomáseen Foley**.

A Celtic Christmas springs from the infinitely rich treasury of Ireland's cultural heritage. It is a re-creation of a night before Christmas in the West of Ireland in the 1940s, before the advent of motorcar, the television, and the telephone.

Traditionally, in the remote parish of *Teampall an Ghleanáin*--Tomáseen Foley's birthplace - the neighbors gathered at each other's farmhouses and brought with them

their fiddles, *uilleann* pipes, flutes, whistles, *bodhráns*, for a night of traditional Irish music, traditional carols, traditional Irish dancing, and, of course, storytelling.

A Celtic Christmas brings to life just such a night - by taking us back rural Ireland of the 1940s and 50s, a time when the neighbors gathered at each other houses and brought with them -- not gold frankincense or myrrh, but gifts equally precious -- their fiddles, tin whistles, flutes, *bodhráns*, *uilleann* pipes, and, perhaps, most important of all, their unshakeable sense of community, for a night of traditional music, song, dance and, of course, storytelling.

On stage, the spirit of *A Celtic Christmas* dances to life and glows brightly when these artists - 'the neighbors' - gather to create a wholesome, cultural, family feast directly from the rich table of communal life in the west of Ireland

It was in such places and on such nights that the delightful treasury of Irish culture was created, expanded and preserved. By recreating just such a night on stage, **Tomáseen Foley's *A Celtic Christmas*** brings the timeless tradition to American audiences.

"Tomáseen Foley is a master of the Irish narrative, and a keeper of the flame for a priceless piece of Irish culture."

Tom Horan, Rego Irish Records

www.ACelticChristmas.com www.tomaseenfoley.com