



ALTAN

Lead Vocals/Fiddle **Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh**
Bouzouki **Ciarán Curran**
Fiddle/Tin Whistle/Backing Vocals **Ciaran Tourish**
Guitar/Vocals **Dáithí Sproule**
Accordion **Martin Tourish**

Manager **Martin Nolan**
Tour Manager/Front of House Engineer **David Nokken**

PROGRAM

There will be an intermission.



Saturday, March 7 at 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

PROGRAM NOTES

Set list to be announced from stage and will include a mix of music from the new album, *The Widening Gyre*, as well as songs spanning the Altan's career. *The Widening Gyre* reminds listeners of the ancient bond between Irish and Appalachian music, while at the same time breaks new ground through collaborations between masters of American roots music and Celtic music.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh (Lead Vocals/Fiddle) is a native of the Donegal Gaeltacht of Gaith Dobhair. Her first language is Gaelic and she learned many of her songs from family and neighbors as well as sourcing older material from archive facilities. She is renowned as one of the leading exponents of Donegal fiddle music and whenever possible, she likes to promote the music that she inherited from her late father Francie. Ní Mhaonaigh founded Altan along with her late husband, Frankie Kennedy; from humble beginnings they brought their music to the world arena without compromising the deep musical tradition they loved. Ní Mhaonaigh has recorded with other musicians such as Enya, the Chieftains, Dolly Parton, The String Sisters, T With the Maggies and many more.

Ciarán Curran (Bouzouki) is a native of Kinawley, Co.Fermanagh, an area rich in music, song and folklore, and brings his strong family musical tradition to bear on an instrument relatively new to Irish traditional music—the bouzouki. Curran has worked with County Antrim singer Len Graham, Enniskillen singer Gabriel McArdle, Derrygonnelly fiddler Seamus Quinn and Belfast flute player Gary Hastings. He has developed a unique, personal and subtle style on the bouzouki using counter harmonies and melodies that let the music breathe and show its most melodic strengths without conflicting with the essence of the melody.

Ciaran Tourish (Fiddle/Tin Whistle/Backing Vocals) hails from Buncrana in East County Donegal. Although Tourish started playing the tin whistle at an early age, he soon took up the fiddle under the guidance of local legendary fiddler and teacher, Dinny McLaughlin. In addition to his mastery of the dance music tradition, Tourish's quick ear and love of harmony and counterpoint have led to his talent being in demand as a valued collaborator on non-Altan and even non-Irish music projects with a wide range of musicians and singers including Paul Brady, Matt Molloy, Mary Black, Maura O'Connell, Máirtín O'Connor, Dolores Keane and Dé Danann, and American musicians Jerry Douglas and Tim O'Brien.

Dáithí Sproule (Guitar/Vocals) of Derry, whose first group was legendary Skara Brae, has lived for many years in Minnesota. Sproule was one of the first guitarists to develop DADGAD guitar tuning for Irish music. As well as playing and singing with Altan, he has performed and recorded with two highly influential traditional music trios; Bowhand (with James Kelly and Paddy O'Brien) and Trian (with Liz Carroll and Billy McComiskey) and has played on recordings of Tommy Peoples, Seamus and Manus McGuire, Peter Ostroushko and many others. In addition to performing and recording, Sproule is a teacher and lecturer in subjects ranging from guitar styles and traditional songs to Irish language and myth.

Máirtín Tourish (Accordion) is an accordionist, composer, producer and musicologist from County Donegal and now based in Dublin. In 2008, Tourish was commissioned by TG4 to compose, produce and perform the music for their brand television advertisement *The More You Look, The More You See* which won many national and international awards and earned the piece of music national recognition. A song he composed entitled *An Gealóg* appears on Altan's latest album *The Poison Glen*, while a virtuosic piece entitled *The Seventh Degree* is being performed by Triona Marshall on harp during The Chieftain's 50th anniversary tour.