



MICHAEL LONDRA AND THE CELTIC FIRE

PROGRAM

There will be an intermission.

Saturday, March 16 @ 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Michael Londra

Emmy® nominated, Irish singer/producer Michael Londra is from the opera capital of Ireland, a small town on the South East coast called Wexford. He decided in his early 30's to follow his heart and pursue a professional singing career. His leap of faith was rewarded when he soon became a leading man in musical theatre in Dublin. U.S. director and choreographer, Larry Fuller asked Londra to play Bobby Kennedy in the world premiere of *JFK*, at which he was noticed by the producers of *Riverdance*.

He was offered the role of lead singer in the U.S. national tour of *Riverdance* which included performances at Radio City Music Hall and the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. In March 2000, Londra was offered the position of lead singer in the new Broadway production, taking the role from acclaimed Irish singer Brian Kennedy. This was the platform from which Londra's recording and producing career began.

Londra's first album *Celt* was produced by acclaimed producer Steve Skinner who co-produced the Grammy® nominated soundtrack of *RENT*. The album was released in 15 countries worldwide, selling particularly well in Korea where it reached No 1 in the World Music Charts. Londra appeared with Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli, Il Divo, Sarah Brightman and Kathryn Jenkins on the Universal Records 2009 release *Arias: Ancora*.

Londra's recording of *Danny Boy* was described by *The Irish Emigrant* in New York as "one of the best recordings of *Danny Boy* in history." The YouTube video of this recording has been viewed by over eight million people. Londra performed with Judy Collins at the JFK 50 events in Ireland in 2013 which were attended by the Kennedy family, and was invited to sing at the graveside of President John F. Kennedy in a ceremony to honor the event. He has performed as guest singer of Irish supergroups Frankie Gavin & De Dannan and Teada.

In 2004, Londra was chosen for the role of Jesus in *The Passion of the Christ Symphony*. This production was based on the score of Oscar® Award nominee John Debney, and had its U.S. premiere in Hollywood on September 11, 2005. Londra's PBS special, *Beyond Celtic*, which he co-produced with Mindfox Productions, was taped in March 2011 and aired nationally over 400 times. The TV special earned two Emmy® Award nominations.

Londra's work with partner Jean Clancy on the Celtic Woman project, created by Sharon Browne, was a turning point in his career off stage. He has been involved in many productions around the world as an artistic director and producer. He toured *Dance of Desire* in China and with worked with Harmony Artists to bring *Caution: Men at Work* and *The Spirit of Christmas* shows to Asia.

He has recently formed a partnership with the CEO of Venuworks, Steve Peters. The company, Venuworks Theatricals, produced the world premiere of a new musical last year at the National Opera House in Ireland, written by world-renowned children's author Eoin Colfer. *NOËL* embarked on a 30-city tour of North America in 2018.

Londra created Radiocelt.com in Chicago in 2003 which is part of the Accuradio network (one of the top ten internet radio stations in the world). In addition, he has been very active in yet another role, this time as an ambassador for Concern Worldwide. Through several CD releases, which raised considerable awareness for the charity, and through his high profile visits to Haiti, Londra has helped bring the issue of poverty and hunger to the attention of the public. He is an advocate in North America for the Visit Wexford campaign and was made a Wexford Ambassador in 2012.

In 2013, Londra became a mentor for Grammy® University, teaching music business students from Vanderbilt and Belmont Universities in Nashville.