



A CHRISTMAS CELTIC SOJOURN

WITH BRIAN O'DONOVAN

Title: WGBH Presents A Christmas Celtic Sojourn with Brian O'Donovan.

Venues: Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, Boston, MA
Shalin Liu Performance Center, Rockport, MA
Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence, RI
Zeiterion Performing Arts Center, New Bedford, MA
Hanover Theatre, Worcester, MA

Dates: **Wednesday, December 12**, 4PM and 8PM, Shalin Liu Performance Center
Friday, December 14, 7:30PM, Cutler Majestic Theatre
Saturday, December 15, 3PM and 7:30PM, Cutler Majestic Theatre
Sunday, December 16, 1PM and 5PM, Cutler Majestic Theatre
Tuesday, December 18, 7:30PM, Hanover Theatre
Wednesday, December 19, 7:30PM, Zeiterion Performing Arts Center
Thursday, December 20, 7:30PM, Veterans Memorial Auditorium
Friday, December 21, 3PM and 7:30PM, Cutler Majestic Theatre
Saturday, December 22, 3PM and 7:30PM, Cutler Majestic Theatre
Sunday, December 23, 1PM and 5PM, Cutler Majestic Theatre

Tickets: \$25 - \$85 (WGBH member discounts apply)

Information: www.wgbh.org/celtic

On-sale: Discounted sale (20% off) for WGBH members: August 12 – September 14

Public on-sale*: August 1

One of the true highlights of New England's holiday performance calendar, *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* once again returns to Boston, Worcester, Rockport, New Bedford, and Providence, RI.

Brian O'Donovan's *A Celtic Sojourn* has entertained and enlightened radio audiences since 1986. For the last 15 years, the Christmas-time live version of the show has drawn on Celtic, Pagan, and Christian traditions to celebrate the music of the season. First launched in 2003, *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* reflects the compelling and diverse offerings of the weekly and national radio programs.

REVISED: July 11, 2018

With a spectacular line up of top-level musicians, singers, and dancers from around the Celtic world, the 2018 iteration of the show promises to once again be a favorite regional Christmas offering.

Music: Music director and multi-instrumentalist, **Seamus Egan** returns as well as assistant music director singer/pianist/harpist **Maeve Gilchrist**. Long-time collaborators **Ben Wittman** and **Chico Huff** return with percussion and bass respectively. Owen Marshall makes his second appearance on Guitar/Bouzouki/Harmonium. And Christmas would not be so without the cello gravitas of **Natalie Haas**. Making their debut on this year's program will be Concertina player extraordinaire, **Brenda Castles** from Co. Meath in Ireland, and the outstanding folk string quartet, **The Fretless** from Canada.

Singing: We are absolutely thrilled that young Scottish phenom, **Hannah Rarity** will be our featured singer this year. Hannah was named Young Scottish Traditional Musician of the Year by the BBC in February and announced Glasgow's Celtic Connections Festival. Her new CD will be released in September. The four-part vocal harmony group **Windborne** made a huge impact last year, so much in fact, that we have asked them back. These wonderful voices combined with host Brian O'Donovan, his wife Lindsay, and Gilchrist, and Castles (who both also sing!), will bring particularly strong harmony singing to this year's show, along with individual performances throughout.

Dancing: **Kevin Doyle** has been once again named our dance director for 2018. Kevin received a National Fellowship from the N.E.A in 2012 and has regularly performed with the *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn*. Kevin is currently in Ireland scouting dancers to join us in December, but of course, as is the tradition, the kids from **The Harney Academy of Irish Dance** from Walpole will return with their special brand of Christmas joy.

Some more musicians will be added. And then...there are the surprises! There are *always* surprises at Christmas!

Artistically directed again by **Paula Plum** for the sixteenth straight year, this promises to be one of the most exciting *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* presentations yet.

For more information go to www.wgbh.org/celtic or email celtic@wgbh.org.

Tickets on sale at all venues August 1.*

**Tickets on sale at Zeiterion Performing Arts Center on August 21.*