



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 12, 2014

WHAT: DANÚ

WHEN: Wednesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE: Bowker Auditorium
University of Massachusetts Amherst**

**TICKETS: Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to
<http://www.fineartscenter.com/>**

**IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online
to <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressImages>**

DANÚ BRINGS NIGHT OF IRISH MUSIC TO UMASS' BOWKER AUDITORIUM

Called "a spirit-raising concoction" by The Irish Times, Danú is a five-member ensemble that plays both traditional Celtic music and more modern Irish selections with irresistible charisma. With a mix of melancholy ballads and foot-stomping reels, Danú's talented players promise audiences a night of high-energy music straight from the Emerald Isle. Danú will be performing at UMass' Bowker Auditorium on Wednesday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the band's coast-to-coast US tour. The band includes Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh on lead vocals, flute and whistles, Benny McCarthy on button accordion, Oisín McAuley on fiddle and vocals, Eamon Doorley on the Irish bouzouki, Donal Clancy on guitar and vocals, and Martin O'Neill on bodhrán (Irish drum).

Danú's performance will include a range of pieces chosen from their typical repertoire, which includes traditional songs often newly arranged by the band. Songs are sometimes made up of an old-fashioned Irish reel, combined with a second reel more recently composed by a

band member. Also filling out the program will be Irish polkas (from the Munster region of Southern Ireland), barn dances, and a lullaby.

Danú often takes time between songs to explain where the pieces come from, or highlight certain aspects of the performance. Band members leave the stage depending on the songs performed; some may require the full ensemble, whereas a ballad might just be a vocalist with a single instrument accompanying. Lyrics may be in Irish or in English depending on the song, or both languages might appear in one piece (called a macaronic song).

Danú has been performing since 1995, beginning with two highly-acclaimed performances at a renowned Celtic music festival in France, the Lorient Inter-Celtic Festival. The band's name comes from the Celtic goddess Danú. Since their beginning almost 2 decades ago, the group's original lineup has had many changes, both in terms of players and instruments. Vocalist and flute player Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh joined the group for their 2003 album, *The Road Less Traveled*. More than a decade later, Danú now has 7 critically acclaimed CDs in total, one live show released on DVD, and dozens of awards for their recordings and performances. The band has twice won the BBC Award, also received the Irish Music Magazine Award.

Danú has toured throughout Europe, the Middle East, and North America, with stops at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, Symphony Space in New York City, and major concerts in the UK, India, and Israel. Their live performances have been broadcast on NPR in the US, the CBC in Canada, and the BBC in the UK and worldwide.

Tickets for Danú are \$30 and \$15; Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$10. For tickets call the Box Office at 545-2511, toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase online at fineartscenter.com. The Fine Arts Center's season is sponsored by Baystate Health and Health New England, with additional event support coming from WRSI 93.9FM, The Recorder, and The Harp.

PHOTOS

Hi-res photos available for download: <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/article/Images>.

PRESS PASSES

A limited number of press passes are available. Please contact Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@admin.umass.edu.

ABOUT THE FAC

The Fine Arts Center, located on the UMass Amherst campus, is a presenter of music, dance, theater and the visual arts, bringing hundreds of outstanding and provocative artists to the Pioneer Valley for over 35 years.

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