



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 16, 2015

- WHAT:** THE CHIEFTAINS and Special guests
- WHEN:** Sunday, March 8, 7 p.m.
- WHERE:** Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
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>

PADDY MOLONEY BRINGS THE CHIEFTAINS TO UMASS FAC FOR A NIGHT OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN IRISH MUSIC

Six-time Grammy winners The Chieftains return to the UMass Fine Arts Center, back by popular demand just before St. Patrick's Day. Performing with founder Paddy Moloney and many special guests (including traditional Irish step dancers), The Chieftains will light up the Concert Hall with their own special brand of traditional Irish music, reinterpreted with the group's world-famous exuberance. The performance is on Sunday, March 8th at 7 p.m., at the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall.

Never afraid to shock purists and push boundaries, The Chieftains always bring a wide mix of influences and collaborators to the stage, playing traditional Celtic airs with modern energy. Their Fine Arts Center performance features vocals by Alyth McCormack, a popular Celtic singer who has toured the world and performed on 16 albums to date. Also joining The Chieftains on their tour are Irish dancers Cara Butler, and brothers Jon and Nathan Pilatzke. Special guests from the local community will also be invited to perform with The Chieftains.

The Chieftains were formed in 1962 by Paddy Moloney, from the ranks of the top folk musicians in Ireland. It wasn't until 1975 that The Chieftains began playing together full time. Although their early following was purely a folk audience, the range and variation of their music

and accompanying musicians quickly captured a much broader audience. The Chieftains have been highly recognized throughout the years for reinventing traditional Irish music on a contemporary and international scale. Their ability to transcend musical boundaries, to blend tradition with modern music has notably hailed them as one of the most renowned and revered musical groups to this day. The Chieftains are as comfortable playing spontaneous Irish sessions as they are headlining a concert at Carnegie Hall.

As cultural ambassadors, their performances have been linked with seminal historic events, such as being the first Western musicians to perform on the Great Wall of China, participating in Roger Water's "The Wall" performance in Berlin in 1990, and being the first ensemble to perform a concert in the Capitol Building in Washington DC. In 2010, their experimental collaborations extended out of this world, when Paddy Moloney's whistle and Matt Molloy's flute travelled with local NASA astronaut, Cady Coleman, to the international space station.

2012 marked the group's 50th anniversary, and to celebrate this momentous occasion, The Chieftains invited friends from all musical styles to collaborate on their latest album, *Voice of Ages*. Featuring some of modern music's fastest rising artists (Bon Iver, The Decemberists and Paolo Nutini among them), this album is proof that their music transcends not only stylistic and traditional boundaries, but generational as well. After fifty years of making some of the most beautiful music in the world, The Chieftains' music remains as fresh and relevant as when they first began.

Tickets for The Chieftains are \$60, \$55 and \$20; Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$20, \$15, \$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 Cooley Dickinson, UMass Alumni Association, Finck & Perras, Hampshire Hospitality Group, WRSI, The Recorder and The Harp.

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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.

CALENDAR LISTING

UMass Fine Arts Center presents:

Paddy Moloney

THE CHIEFTAINS

And Special Guests

Sunday, March 8, 7 p.m., Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

Back by popular demand! Six-time Grammy winners, The Chieftains have uncovered the wealth of traditional Irish music that has accumulated over the centuries, making the music their own with a style that is as exhilarating as it is definitive. Never afraid to shock purists and push boundaries, The Chieftains have amassed a dizzyingly varied résumé. Their most recent album, "Voice of Ages," found the band collaborating with some of modern music's fastest-rising artists (Bon Iver, The Decemberists, The Punch Brothers and the Pistol Annies among them) to reinterpret traditional songs for old and new generations alike, proving what the music means today while hinting where it might lead tomorrow.

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Season Sponsors: Baystate Health/Health New England. Event Sponsors: Cooley Dickinson, UMass Alumni Association, Finck & Perras, Hampshire Hospitality Group, WRSI, The Recorder and The Harp.