



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 25, 2015

WHAT: Cherish the Ladies: Celtic Christmas

WHEN: Thursday, December 10, 7:30 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
www.fineartscenter.com

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

POWERHOUSE GROUP CHERISH THE LADIES BRING THEIR CELTIC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION TO THE UMASS FINE ARTS CENTER

The holidays get a Celtic twist when one of the most successful and engaging ensembles in Irish music comes to the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Thursday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. Cherish the Ladies put their signature mark on classic carols in their “Celtic Christmas” program, with arrangements of “O Come All Ye Faithful” and “Silent Night” featuring the group’s unique Celtic instrumentation and beautiful harmonies. The program is complete with traditional Irish step dancers.

With their unique spectacular blend of virtuosi instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements and stunning step dancing, this powerhouse group combines all the facets of Irish traditional culture and delivers it in an immensely humorous and entertaining package. Under the leadership of the dynamic and irrepressible Joanie Madden on flutes and whistles, Cherish the Ladies has grown from a one-time concert concept to a traditional Irish music sensation.

When describing Cherish the Ladies, the critics say it best: “It is simply impossible to imagine an audience that wouldn’t enjoy what they do,” writes the Boston Globe. “An astonishing array of virtuosity,” raves the Washington Post. “Expands the annals of Irish music in America...the music is passionate, tender and rambunctious,” says The New York Times. And for the past 18 years, Cherish the Ladies have proven themselves worthy of those accolades.

Taking their name from the name of a traditional Irish jig, the group initially won recognition as the first and only all-women traditional Irish band. In a relatively short time, they soon established themselves as musicians and performers without peer and have won many thousands of listeners and fans of their music. They have recorded 10 highly acclaimed albums including their quintessential holiday album "On Christmas Night." That recording was released to rave reviews and was chosen as one of the top Christmas Albums of the Year by The New York Times, Washington Post, The Village Voice and many other nationally syndicated newspapers.

The Ladies have been named Best Musical Group of the Year by the BBC, Entertainment Group of the Year by the Irish Voice Newspaper, the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall's International Group of the Year Award at the Celtic Connections Festival in Scotland and voted the Top North American Celtic act by NPR Radio's "Thistle and Shamrock." They have shared the stage with such noted entertainers as James Taylor, Joan Baez, Emmy Lou Harris, The Clancy Brothers, Tommy Makem, The Chieftains and dozens of symphony orchestras. The "Celtic Album," their collaboration with the Boston Pops Symphony, led to a 1999 Grammy nomination.

Tickets for Cherish the Ladies are \$35, \$30, \$15; Five College, GCC and 17 and under \$15, \$12 and \$10. For tickets call the Box Office at 545-2511, toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase online at fineartscenter.com. This event is sponsored by Baystate Health, Finck & Perras Insurance, Coca Cola, The Recorder, 93.9 WRSI, and the UMass Alumni Assoc.

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PHOTOS

Hi-res photos are available at <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressRoom>

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:

CHERISH THE LADIES | CELTIC CHRISTMAS

Thursday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

Cherish the Ladies have shared timeless Irish traditions with audiences worldwide for over twenty-five years. For this program, the Ladies put their signature mark on classic carols with unique Celtic instrumentation, beautiful harmonies and spectacular step dancing.

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