



75TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

DECEMBER 18, 2016 • NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART



PROGRAM

2:00 and 4:00 • West Building, West Garden Court

Danú

Nell Ní Chróinín, lead vocals and whistles
Benny McCarthy, button accordion
Oisín McAuley, fiddle and backing vocals
Éamon Doorley, Irish bouzouki and backing vocals
Donal Clancy, guitar and vocals
Ivan Goff, Uilleann pipes (Irish pipes) and flute
Aimee Farrell Courtney, bodhrán (Irish drum)
Guest Irish step dancers

A Christmas Gathering: Féile Na Nollag

Today's concert comprises traditional music arranged by Danú.
A selection from the following songs will be announced from the stage:

"The Wexford Carol"
"Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake"
"Oíche Chúin/Silent Night"
"Christmas Eve Reel"
"The Holly It Bears a Berry"
"Slide/Reel Set"
"Polka Selection"
"The Parting Glass"



Danú. Photo by Kelly Davidson

The Musicians

Hailing from Waterford, Cork, Dublin, and Donegal counties in Ireland, Danú is one of the leading traditional Irish ensembles of today. The band formed in 1995 as part of Ireland's delegation to Lorient Inter-Celtic Festival in Brittany, France (an annual event that is the biggest gathering of Celtic nations in the world). The debut album, *Danú*, was released by the band in 1997 to huge critical acclaim, and in 1999 Danú signed a multi-album record deal with Shanachie Entertainment, with whom they subsequently released five albums and a live DVD between 2000 and 2006. Over the past few years Danú has added two independent releases to their discography.

For over two decades Danú's virtuosi players on flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, bouzouki, and vocals (Irish and English) have delighted audiences worldwide. Winners of numerous awards from the BBC and *Irish Music Magazine*, Danú has toured throughout Europe and North America with stops at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles and Symphony Space in New York City. Danú takes audiences on a musical journey to the ensemble's native Ireland, offering a moving and memorable concert experience.

Danú welcomes star vocalist Nell Ní Chróinín into the fold in 2016, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the band's legacy. Nell's multiple awards include TG4 Traditional Singer of the Year 2012, and she was also the winner of the prestigious Corn Uí Riada award in 2014, at the Oireachtas Festival.

Danú celebrates a traditional Irish Christmas with *Féile Na Nollag*. In Ireland, the festival of Christmas has for centuries been celebrated by traditional Irish music and song. There are many musical tributes that pay homage to early Irish traditions such as the Laden Table, placing a candle in a window, and touring from house to house on St. Stephen's Day. *A Christmas Gathering: Féile Na Nollag* is a Celtic music celebration that warms the heart.

Program Notes

"The Wexford Carol"

This very old Christmas carol has been a favorite in Ireland for many years. It is in English and tells us about the holy story.

"Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake"

This is a very funny song all about the traditional Irish Christmas cake, which is the centerpiece of every Irish gathering at this time of year. Danú encourages everybody to join in on the chorus to this song:

There were plums and prunes and cherries,
There were citrons and raisins and cinnamon, too,
There was nutmeg, cloves, and berries
And a crust that was nailed on with glue.
There were caraway seeds in abundance,
Such that work up a fine stomachache
That could kill a man twice after eating a slice
Of Miss Fogarty's Christmas cake.

"Oíche Chíuín / Silent Night"

"Silent Night" is a song that is known the world over. We perform it as "Oíche Chíuín" in the Irish language and follow it into the English version, where we encourage everybody to join in and sing along with us.

"Christmas Eve Reel"

"Christmas Eve Reel" is probably the most well-known Christmas tune in Ireland. It would not be Christmastime for Irish musicians without "Christmas Eve" the reel.

"The Holly It Bears a Berry"

"The Holly It Bears a Berry" is a well-loved Christmas carol that comes from Ireland's Celtic neighbors in Cornwall and has been performed by many great Irish singers over the years. Danú encourages everybody to join in on the beautiful chorus:

And Mary she bore Jesus our Savior for to be,
And the first tree that's in the greenwood, it was the holly.
Holly! Holly! And the first tree that's in the greenwood, it was the holly!

"Slide / Reel Set"

This new instrumental piece by Danú is a lively set of dance tunes featuring some slides from County Kerry and reels from County Donegal. A great set to dance or clap along to!

"Polka Selection"

Irish polkas are mostly associated with the Munster region in Southern Ireland. The "Polka Set" is a well-known dance that happens in Ireland when a group of musicians and dancers meet up.

"The Parting Glass"

This is one of Ireland's greatest farewell songs and is always sung at the end of the evening.

Upcoming Events of the Seventy-Fifth Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin Concerts

Curtis on Tour
Complete *Violin Concertos* of Mozart
January 8, 12:30 and 3:30
West Building, West Garden Court

Carlos Rodriguez, piano
Peter Burroughs, tenor
"Washingtonians on Wednesdays"
Musical Migration
January 18, 12:10
West Building, West Garden Court

Noah Getz, saxophone
Osman Kivrak, viola
Danielle DeSwert Hahn, piano
"Washingtonians on Wednesdays"
American works for saxophone,
viola, and piano
January 25, 12:10
East Building Auditorium

Cuarteto Latinoamericano
Music by Leo Brouwer, Aaron Copland,
Alberto Ginastera, George Gershwin,
and Dan Roman
January 29, 3:30
West Building, West Garden Court

General Information

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

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