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# Celtic & Scottish Music Coming to Soreng Theatre

On September 1, 1983, the Eugene Folklore Society and KLCC radio joined forces for the Dolores Keane Reel Union concert at the Hult Center's Soreng theatre. It is a tribute to the strength of local Celtic music that international performers such as Reel Union play New York, Boston, then Eugene. The concert was one of the few music events to sell out in the Soreng. For fans who attended, the show was a highlight of the summer.

On Wednesday, October 19, the Folklore Society and KLCC will again team together to bring a concert of traditional Scottish and Irish folk music that promises to be equally as powerful as the September 1 show.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m., Scottish singer/guitarist **Dick Gaughan** will perform with Irish musicians **Kevin Burke**, **Micheal O'Domhnaill** and **Joe Burke** not as part of a canned tour, but as a unique mini-festival of some of Celtic music's most influential talent.

Gaughan, who for many shares the spotlight with Andy Stewart as Scotland's top folk soloist, was scheduled in San Francisco as part of a West Coast tour. When Kevin Burke and Micheal O'Domhnaill were given the opportunity to double with Gaughan in Eugene, they interrupted an East Coast tour schedule to do so.

Joe Burke, voted traditional musician of the year by Irish national television, and a performer who has shared billings with **The Chieftains**, **De Danann**, and **Planxty**, will open for this concert.

Respect for Gaughan crosses lines of nation, political perspective, and musical style. "Like former Planxty member Christy Moore, Gaughan often sings about contemporary issues," confided Reel Union's Jackie Small. "But I think both

Gaughan and Moore are artistically superb—and not in it just for the money like some, who capitalize on so-called "rebel music."

Of both Irish and Scots descent, Gaughan's family members were musicians and his early interest included academic study of traditional music. In 1965 he began performing as a soloist. In 1970 he moved to London and joined his friend Aly Bain as a member of **The Boys of the Lough**, whose album on the Shanachie label is now a classic in the Celtic revival movement.

In 1972 Gaughan's first solo album, *No More Forever*, was released. Critical acclaim for this album included the Folk Album of the Year award from Britain's respected Melody Maker magazine—a prize also awarded to Gaughan's fifth album, *Handful of Earth*.

As a soloist, a member of **The Boys of the Lough**, and a member of **Five Hand Reel**, Gaughan has a combined discography totaling eighteen albums.

"Gaughan is absolutely one of the best in the world," says Dan Crary of **Frets Magazine**. "If I were to make a list of the top five guitarists/singers I've ever encountered, he would unquestionably be on the list. He is a tasteful, beautiful guitar player, and one of the most amazing singers I've heard. It's an adventure into traditional music that is rarely heard; when it is heard, it is never presented that beautifully."

Kevin Burke and Micheal O'Domhnaill have just released their second Green Linnet label album. They are well loved by Northwest fans—perhaps they are the standout Celtic culture missionaries to America.

Burke's consummate fiddle playing started with the study of classical music. He cites Michael

Coleman, Paddy Killoran, Bobby Casey, and Martin Byrnes as his chief influences, but he has also played and recorded with musicians as diverse as Arlo Guthrie and Hoyt Axton. He joined **The Bothy Band** in 1976.

Burke's style has been called "an expressive, but light touch" with "Sligo-influenced ornamentation."

After his guest appearance at the Reel Union concert, Burke jammed with Jackie Small and Jackie Daly into the morning hours. These artists were uncanny in their musical journey. Burke in particular looked and sounded transported into another world. If those present could not accompany these musicians on their journey, we could at least have the pleasure of listening from the ground.

Burke's partner Micheal O'Domhnaill, also a veteran of **The Bothy Band**, is a guitarist/singer with virtuosity on a par with Gaughan but with a very different style. In English or in Gaelic, Michael has a vocal ability couched in family tradition. His sister, Triona, is also a standout Celtic vocalist. Triona currently sings with the group **Touchstone**.

Joe Burke, who has played accordion since the age of four, will also play wooden flute in the October 19 concert. Joe's flute style is unique to East Galway, his home. Joe has performed throughout the world—including venues in every state in America. His latest album, *The Tailor's Choice*, has just been released by Green Linnet. Burke is joined on the album by harpist Maire Ni Chathasaigh.

Tickets for this concert are available at regular Hult Center ticket outlets, including the Main Ticket Office (687-5000). They are also available at Balladeer Music in Eugene and Troubadour Music in Corvallis. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m.



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## The Saga of Baby Divine

Bette Midler, illustrated by Todd Schorr. 64 pages. Crown 1983. \$11.95. ISBN 0-517-55040-7.

On a night when the full moon should have been a sliver, and the heavens themselves were shaken, Baby Divine is born with three unique attributes: a "sprig" of red hair, high heel shoes and the ability to say, "More!"

Across town, three wise women (Tillie, Joyce and Lil) of the way-off, off-Broadway type see something strange—ribbons of light and sheets of music in the sky. In true tradition they follow the light to Baby Divine's home and present her with some not-so-traditional gifts. The women tell the parents that they should not be alarmed by the child's utterance and are promptly thrown out.

After the parents go to bed, Baby Divine hears them talking: the mother thinks the differences make her baby a bit "trashy," and wonders if they shouldn't "send her back."

Baby Divine decides it's time to split and dances (an ability she has instead of walking) into the night, where she meets a cigar-

smoking bird who could pass for a New York cabbie. The bird takes her on the beginning of her journey of discovery, which includes the realizations that "Truth!!!" is a point of view; that if a mountain can be flattened by distance, how much more quickly can a human be levelled; and that you're a "yawn" if you're not unique. She also meets "anxiety, friend of despair" but learns (with the help of the three wise women) that "fear is her own creation." Her parents learn that to lose something unique is to lose life itself. At the end of the story, there is room at the inn; there is a happy ending.

Midler's tale is a delightful, wacky and imaginative retelling of the *Journey of the Magi*. Great verse this isn't, but the reader is often caught, "giggling and tittering when laughter might be taboo." I suspect that that is what Bette Midler wants us to do.

But what makes this book "unique" above all other considerations are the absolutely stunning illustrations by Todd Schorr. Flip the book open to its

center and look at those red and white roses. Smell them! Well, they are almost real. And that is the point.

—Bill Sweet

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