Dervish

Friday, March 11, 2016
Welcome to the Cleveland Museum of Art

The Cleveland Museum of Art’s performing arts series brings together thoughtful, fascinating, and beautiful experiences, comprising a concert calendar notable for its boundless multiplicity. This year we look forward to visits from old friends and new, bringing us music from around the globe and spanning many centuries. Here is the place where performance is intended to explore connections of cultures, the heart, the human spirit.

In the galleries

*Pharaoh: King of Ancient Egypt*
March 13–June 12

*Silent Poetry: Masterworks of Chinese Painting*
Through April 24

*Pyramids & Sphinxes*
Through May 24

*Ji Yun-Fei: Last Days of Village Wen*
Through July 31

*Converging Lines: Eva Hesse and Sol LeWitt*
April 3–July 31

*Jon Pestoni: Some Years*
April 23–July 10

*The Flowering of the Botanical Print*
March 26–July 3

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Dervish

Brian McDonagh, mandola, mandolin
Liam Kelly, flute and whistles
Shane Mitchell, accordion
Cathy Jordan, vocals, bodhrán, and bones
Michael Holmes, bouzouki

with special guest

Kevin Burke, fiddle

Friday, March 11, 2016, 7:30 p.m.
Gartner Auditorium, the Cleveland Museum of Art

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Program

Tonight’s program will be announced from the stage and will be presented in two acts, each approximately 50 minutes, with one intermission.

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Please **turn off all electronic devices** before entering the performance hall.

Photography and audio/video recording in the performance hall **are prohibited.**
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Brian McDonagh: mandola, mandolin

Brian is an ex-founder member of traditional group Oisin, who enjoyed extensive success in the '70s. He is originally from Dublin but moved to Sligo 12 years ago after leaving Oisin. He has extensive experience touring and playing on the international circuit. He is also an established painter in Ireland and has had many exhibitions at home and on the continent.

Liam Kelly: flute and whistles

Liam Kelly is a native of Sligo and a founding member of the band. He began playing traditional Irish music at a very young age, born into a musical family. He started on the accordion but later switched to the whistle and in turn the flute, mainly learning from local player Carmel Gunning. He is a veteran of many competitions, where he met Shane Mitchell. This friendship lead to Poitin, a traditional group they formed while still at school. The level of success and media attention this group received was remarkable, including several TV and radio appearances and success in many competitions. Major concerts and tours were offered on the strength of their performances, but exam pressures and their young ages prevented them from capitalizing on their success. Liam’s role in the band is a central one, as Dervish’s core sound revolves around the tight and intuitive interplay between flute, accordion and fiddle. In 2009 Liam released a solo album called Sweetwood to celebrate 20 years in Dervish, which features Michael Holmes on the bouzouki and Donnchadh Gough on the bodhrán.

Tom Morrow: fiddle, viola

Tom is the newest member of Dervish, joining the group in Oct. ’98 and is also the youngest member band member. Tom is a native of Carrigallen in county Leitrim and is the eldest of a musical family. He began playing music at an early age with Tommy Maguire, a native of Glenfarne, County Leitrim. He has played extensively with a wide range of musicians around Leitrim and Cavan with including the Cornafean Group and Antoin McGabhann. While studying in Limerick, he was part of the vibrant session scene that existed in the area. Tom then lived and worked as a software consultant in Dublin for five years. During this time he played with many groups and musicians including the Mick O Brien band and the Conor Byrne group as well as been a regular participant in regular sessions in Dublin and throughout the country. He has won numerous awards including the All Ireland senior fiddle championship. He has toured extensively in Europe, North America, and Asia.

Shane Mitchell: accordion

Shane Mitchell is a native of Sligo and a founder member of the band. He learned the Accordion from well-known Sligo accordion player Alphie Joe Dineen. From a very young age Shane frequently found himself drawn to local sessions as well as competing with regular success in competitions. It was in this environment that he first met Liam Kelly and later while still in school they formed a traditional group, Poitin. The band met with great success, but school pressures and their relatively young ages kept them from capitalizing on this. The accordion is one of Dervish’s core instruments, interacting in a tight and intuitive way with flute and fiddle. Shane plays a Briggs Accordion from Doug Briggs in England.
**Cathy Jordan: vocals, bodhrán, and bones**

Cathy Jordan was born in Scramogue, County Roscommon, the youngest of seven children. Her love for traditional singing and music in general was instilled at a young age and music and song was abundant in her house as she grew up. Her parents were both singers as were her siblings and Cathy herself had a repertoire at the age of three. Alongside traditional music, Cathy was exposed to lots of other types of music from the vast collection of recordings found in her house that had been sent for relations in America. She began singing publicly at all kind of Feiseanna and concerts as a child and at secondary school got chosen for lead roles in musical performances at her school in Laensboro County Longford; she was Dorothy, in the *Wizard of Oz*, Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*, and Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*. On weekends Cathy performed at a wide range of functions from christenings to weddings and played in numerous bands throughout the midlands winning the *Longford Leader* entertainer of the year in 1985. After finishing school in 1988 Cathy kept herself surrounded by music and worked as a radio DJ on two radio stations, Elphin Radio and Independent Radio Longford as well as playing numerous gigs at the weekends. She became a pastry chef in 1989 but it was always a means to an end and she could never give up on her first love, that of music. She is a self taught guitar, bodhrán, bones, and bouzouki player. In 1991 Cathy joined Sligo based traditional group Dervish and started her recording career with the Dervish album “Harmony Hill” to huge critical acclaim. This saw Cathy returning to her roots of traditional music and song and sparked off a musical journey which has spanned over two decades. During that time Cathy has been the front woman and bodhrán player with the group and has led them through thousands of concerts in hundreds of cities in nearly 40 countries. Some of the more memorable of these were playing at the Great Wall of China, the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, and at the biggest rock music festival in the world—Rock in Rio to over 250 thousand people. In 2000 Cathy had the honor of singing with the National Concert Orchestra as part of a show called “Waves” composed by Charlie Lennon and conducted by Prionnsias O Duinn.

**Michael Holmes: bouzouki**

Michael is a native of Sligo town. His grand aunt Cissy Boyd was a proficient singer, tin whistle, and accordion player. Michael’s sister Anne inherited their grand Aunt’s musical talents and became a successful musician in her own right firstly in Ireland, then later in the USA. Anne taught Michael his first chords on the guitar and through her own playing got him interested in folk music. Anne emigrated to the states when Michael was 16 and from her he inherited an old guitar which he used to continue teaching himself. While attending Summerhill College he met and became friends with Shane Mitchell and Liam Kelly. At this stage Michael had been involved with a few amateur bands and had begun playing folk music in a couple of local pubs including the legendary Shoot the Crows. He and the other two future founding members of Dervish began playing together primarily for fun. As they began to evolve together musically the three decided to put together a band playing original songs and tunes, but avoiding the clichéd use of traditional instruments normally employed to insert snippets of jigs and reels into overtly modern music. Instead they tried to utilize the flute and accordion to play pieces which were possible on the instruments yet didn’t try to sound Celtic or particularly Irish. They added a guitarist and drummer to the line-up before finally getting singer-songwriter Yvonne Cunningham to front the band under the charming name of “Who Says What.” The line-up worked quite well and Michael wrote and co-wrote several of the songs along with Yvonne, while Liam and Shane found new ways of playing their instruments which would not
have been obvious within the settings of traditional music.

Eventually the band members went their separate ways after a productive and relatively successful three years. Michael moved to London to find work and was joined a year later by Liam and Shane. While living and working in a different country the boys strove to stay in touch with traditional music and because of this Michael and Liam wrote several pieces of music together—two of which are still played frequently by Dervish: “The World’s End” and “The Hungry Rock.” They continued to search out Irish sessions and musicians and to experiment with writing original Irish tunes. It was during this time in England that Michael bought his first bouzouki from the well-known music dealer, John Alvey Turner. His first approach to the instrument was to translate chords from both the standard and DADGAD guitar tunings. After finding the basic root structures for various keys it was a matter of playing along to tunes and exploring the different options the bouzouki offered compared to the guitar.

A couple of years later while home on holidays in Sligo a local entrepreneur approached Shane Mitchell to organize some musicians to make a recording of Sligo music. The assembled group comprised Shane Mitchell, Liam Kelly, Michael Holmes, Brian McDonagh, and fiddle player Martin McGinley. The resulting album was titled The Boys of Sligo and the members chose the name “Dervish.” The recording enjoyed great success despite the fact that there was no band to tour in support of it. The requests for the group from festivals and media programs inspired the members to consider seriously forming together as a working traditional band. After weighing up the pros and cons Michael and Liam who were both still working in London at this stage chose to commit themselves fully to the project and moved back to Sligo in 1989. And so the story goes...

The Bouzouki

Michael plays B1 and B3 custom model bouzoukis made by by Phil Crump of Arcata, California. The soundboard is spruce with rosewood back and sides. The tuning used is G, D, A, D (G being the thickest low string.) Gauges of strings in that order are .46, .34, .18, .13. The pickup used is a Baggs ribbon transducer located under the saddle of the bridge running to an external Baggs pre-amp.

Kevin Burke, fiddle

Kevin Burke’s fiddle playing has been at the forefront of traditional music for over 30 years. He has been established as a first class musician ever since his work in the early 1970s (with such renowned performers as Arlo Guthrie, Christy Moore and the Bothy Band and with his far-reaching solo album, If the Cap Fits). During his long musical career Kevin has earned international acclaim in both Europe and America as a solo performer, a teacher and as a member of some of folk music’s foremost groups including the exciting Celtic Fiddle Festival and Ireland’s long admired and respected Patrick Street.

Kevin’s contribution to music was acknowledged by the National Endowment for the Arts when he was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship. 2010 saw Kevin’s induction to the Oregon Music Hall of Fame, a tribute he was very honored to receive from his adopted home state. He is also the recipient of the 2016 Gradam Ceoil’s Traditional Musician of the Year Award.

CREDITS

Dervish appears by arrangement with FLi Artists. www.fliartists.com
UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Qasida
Wednesday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.
Gartner Auditorium

Flamenco meets Persian Classical music in this extraordinary musical encounter between the young Sevillian cantaora Rosario “La Tremendita” and her Iranian peer Mohammad Motamedi. In Qasida the singer explores the roots of flamenco in the richly varied poetic songs and improvisations of Motamedi, the young rising star of Iranian classical music. $53–$69, CMA members $48–$62
CMA.org/qasida

Orlando Consort presents live vocal music for Carl Thodor Dreyer’s silent film La Passion de Jeanne d’Arc
Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.
Gartner Auditorium

A unique presentation of Carl Theodor Dreyer’s 1928 silent film masterpiece La Passion de Jeanne d’Arc with a soundscape of choral music from the early 15th century by one of the world’s preeminent early-music singing ensembles. $33–$45, CMA members $30–40.
CMA.org/orlando

Fanfare Ciocărlia
Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.
Gartner Auditorium

The Romanian Gypsy brass orchestra with breakneck speed, technical chops, ripping rhythms, and sweet-and-sour horns—a fan favorite of the 2013 Ohio City Stages—returns to Cleveland to make its Gartner Auditorium debut. $53–$69, CMA members $48–62.
CMA.org/fanfare

Performing Arts

CMA.org/performingarts
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Ellen Fullman
Thursday–Saturday, September 24–26, 7:30

Ustatshakirt Plus
Sunday, October 4, 2:00

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, October 7, 6:00

Merima Kjučo:
The Sarajevo Haggadah
Wednesday, October 28, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, November 4, 6:00

Calder Quartet
Monday, November 16, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, December 2, 6:00

James Feddeck
Sunday, December 6, 2:00

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, January 6, 6:00

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, February 3, 6:00

CIM Organ Studio
Sunday, February 14, 2:00

JACK Quartet
Tuesday–Wednesday, March 1–2, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, March 2, 6:00

Dervish
Friday, March 11, 7:30

Qasida
Wednesday, March 16, 7:30

Calder Quartet
Thursday, March 31, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, April 6, 6:00

Orlando Consort
Wednesday, April 6, 7:30

Fanfare Ciocărlia
Wednesday, April 13, 7:30

Amir ElSaffar’s Rivers of Sound
Friday, April 15, 7:30

Tarek Abdallah & Adel Shams El-Din
Wednesday, April 27, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, May 4, 6:00

Otomu Yoshihide
Monday, May 9, 7:30
Please **turn off all electronic devices** before entering the performance hall.

**Photography and audio/video recording** in the performance hall **are prohibited.**

**DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS, MUSIC, AND FILM**
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#CMAperformingarts

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Programs are subject to change.

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