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## **Book your return passage to Ireland in symphony's *Celtic Journey®: The Return***

*Popular Irish music program is back, featuring authentic Celtic music, dance, and storytelling*

OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 27, 2018- The Omaha Symphony is returning to the Emerald Isle for another spirited trip across Ireland in *Celtic Journey®: The Return*, Saturday, March 10, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, March 11, 2 p.m., at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

Led by Principal Pops Conductor Ernest Richardson, *Celtic Journey®: The Return* features authentic Irish music, dance, and storytelling, combined with the orchestra to celebrate the majesty and charm of Celtic culture. Selections include “Danny Boy,” “The Last Rose of Summer,” “Rocky Road to Dublin,” and more, performed by the Omaha Symphony and concertmaster Susanna Perry Gilmore on Irish fiddle. Storyteller Tomáséen Foley will relate tales of his boyhood in Ireland, and dancers Kieran Coleman and Caitlin Golding will entertain with toe-tapping selections alongside Dowd’s Irish Academy.

In addition, featured musicians also include William Coulter, guitar; Brian Bigley, pipes; Samantha Harvey, accordion; and Ross Hauk, singer. Anne’s Merry Band of Fiddlers, student musicians from Omaha Symphony violinist Anne Nagosky’s private studio, will also perform.

The Omaha Symphony debuted *Celtic Journey* in 2016, a brand-new program conceived partly to highlight the fiddling talents of Gilmore, who is a frequent guest violinist/fiddler with the Cleveland Baroque orchestra Apollo’s Fire while not acting as Omaha Symphony concertmaster. The program was created by and orchestrated exclusively for the Omaha Symphony, under the expertise and guidance of Coulter.

It was a huge success, garnering praise from enthusiastic audiences. “[It] will take its place as one of the most ebullient programs in the orchestra’s Holland Performing Arts Center decade,” wrote the *Omaha World-Herald*.

Since joining the Omaha Symphony in 2011, Susanna Perry Gilmore has been called a musician who is “luminous and hypnotic,” and plays with a “heartbreakingly mellow tone” by the *Omaha World-Herald*. Prior to her appointment in Omaha, she held the position of concertmaster for 15 years with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. She has recorded three CDs with Apollo’s Fire: *Sugarloaf Mountain* and *Appalachian Journey*, which features her performing Celtic and Appalachian fiddle, and *Sephardic Journeys: the Wanderings of the Spanish Jews*. In the spring of 2017, she toured the *Sugarloaf Mountain* program around the U.S., culminating in a performance at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Storyteller/director Tomáséen Foley was born on a small farm in the remote parish of Teampall an Ghleanntáin in the West of Ireland. Each Christmas season, his show, Tomáséen Foley’s A Celtic Christmas, plays to critical acclaim and packed concert halls around the U.S. Tomáséen Foley’s Irish Times tours throughout the remainder of the year. The Oregon Cabaret has developed a hit musical from his story Parcel from America. He has released two CDs: *A Celtic Christmas: Parcel from America*, and a live recording, *The Priest and the Acrobat*. Rego Irish

Records says, “He is a master of the Irish narrative and a keeper of the flame for a priceless piece of Irish culture.”

Tickets to *Celtic Journey®: The Return* start at \$19. They can be purchased by visiting [www.omahasymphony.org](http://www.omahasymphony.org), or by calling 402.345.0606. Student Rush tickets are available one hour prior to the concert. Any student with a valid student ID may purchase up to two Student Rush tickets for \$10 each.

*Celtic Journey®: The Return* is part of the Omaha Symphony Pops series, sponsored by Immanuel Communities. Concert sponsors are KPGM and Hotel Deco.

*The Omaha Symphony is a non-profit organization that presents more than 100 live orchestral performances from September through June. In addition to MasterWorks, Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, Movies, Symphony Joslyn, and Family series concerts, the Omaha Symphony's nationally recognized education programs touch the lives of nearly 30,000 schoolchildren each year. For tickets or information regarding the Omaha Symphony, call 402-345.0606 or visit [omahasymphony.org](http://omahasymphony.org).*

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