



Artists | Celtic Journey

Ernest Richardson, conductor/co-creator
Susanna Perry Gilmore, fiddle/co-creator
William Coulter, guitar/leader/co-creator
Tomáseen Foley, Irish storyteller
Brian Bigley, Irish pipes and whistles
Samantha Harvey, accordion/dancer
Ross Hauck, singer
Garrett Coleman, dancer
Catlin Golding, dancer
**Artists subject to change.*

Ernest Richardson, conductor

Ernest Richardson is in high demand as conductor, composer, arranger, organizational leader and inspirational speaker. His versatility finds him within one season conducting Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite* or Broadway artists in the works of Leonard Bernstein, a live-to-movie production of *Harry Potter*, facilitating strategic decision-making for leading arts organizations, or training young musicians.

He has been at the forefront of symphonic video/live music productions, conducting live-to-movie scores of *Harry Potter* with Cine Concerts, *Indiana Jones*, *Jurassic Park*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Singing in the Rain*, the Charlie Chaplin silent film *The Gold Rush*, to name a few, and most recently *Star Wars: A New Hope*.

Richardson is presently the principal pops conductor and resident conductor of the Omaha Symphony. Since 1992, he has laid the groundwork for and led in the development of the Omaha Symphony's successful Symphony Pops and the vaunted education and community engagement programs. He also holds the position of music director and principal conductor of the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra. Under his leadership the organization has grown from a community orchestra to a resident professional orchestra, attracting the area's finest musicians. A recipient of the 2016 Nebraska Governor's Arts Award for Excellence in Arts Education, Richardson has encouraged and supported countless young musicians. As the founding artistic director and CEO of the innovative Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory.

In addition to conducting, Richardson is an accomplished composer and arranger, strategic planning facilitator and occasional violist. He enjoys working with singers and choral ensembles. He has been known to help his sons build award-winning pinewood derby cars and craft his own batons. An avid fly fisherman, he has also earned a black belt in tae kwon do. He lives in Omaha with his wife and children.

For more information, visit troutmaestro.com.

Susanna Perry Gilmore, fiddle

Susanna Perry Gilmore enjoys a multifaceted career as solo artist, chamber musician, and orchestral concertmaster. Performing on both modern and period instruments and versatile in diverse styles from classical to fiddling, she is hailed as a player who is both “thrilling and sensitive” by the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, “luminous and hypnotic” by the *Omaha World-Herald*, and “authentic with exquisite good taste” and “rich in tone, bringing musical depth and a human touch” by the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

After beginning her career as a chamber player, at the age of twenty-six Ms. Gilmore became concertmaster of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. She joined the Omaha Symphony as concertmaster in 2011. Since 2014 she has been a frequent soloist and co-concertmaster on baroque violin and fiddle with the acclaimed period instrument ensemble and Grammy Award winner Apollo’s Fire (Cleveland), with whom she tours nationally and internationally and appears on the CD *Sugarloaf Mountain: An Appalachian Gathering* (Billboard Top 10 classical bestseller), the CD *Sephardic Journey: Wanderings of the Spanish Jews* (Billboard Top 10 classical bestseller), and *Christmas on Sugarloaf Mountain*.

Ms. Gilmore holds a Bachelor’s degree from Oxford University (UK), where she studied musicology and performed both early music and symphonic repertoire while studying privately with Yfrah Neaman. She spent a post-graduate year in the Advanced Solo Studies Program at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Upon returning to the United States, she earned a Master’s in Violin Performance from the New England Conservatory, where she studied with James Buswell. Prior to her studies in England, Ms. Gilmore studied with Christian Teal at the Blair School of Music in the pre-college program and as a child began her violin studies with Mimi Zweig at Indiana University. Ms. Gilmore learned to play Celtic fiddle in her youth through sitting in on Irish sessions during her years living in Nashville and England.

When not working as a classical and baroque violinist and fiddler, Ms. Gilmore spends time with her two daughters, Katy and Zoe, and her husband, Viseslav Drincic. She performs on a 1776 Joseph Odoardi violin.

William Coulter, guitar

William Coulter is an internationally acclaimed, Grammy® Award-winning master of the steel-string guitar. His most recent recording, *Partita Americana* with Canadian violin virtuoso Edwin Huizinga and mandolinist Ashley Broder, is a collection of Baroque and Traditional music – featuring a blending of music by JS Bach with traditional and contemporary American fiddle tunes. Coulter has been music director for Tomáseen Foley’s *A Celtic Christmas* since 1998, and has performed with the Santa Cruz Baroque Festival, Apollo’s Fire, and many other ensembles. Collaborations have been a mainstay of his career, including tours and recordings with Gourd Music artists Neal Hellman and Barry and Shelley Phillips; classical guitar virtuoso Benjamin Verdery, and Irish flute wizard Brian Finnegan. Tours have taken him around the states and to Ireland, Europe, Taiwan, New Zealand, Chile, and most recently Australia. Coulter teaches classical guitar at UC Santa Cruz and at many summer camps and festivals. Coulter earned degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and UC Santa Cruz.

Tomáseen Foley, Irish storyteller

Tomáseen Foley grew up on a small farm in the remote parish of Teampall an Ghleanntáin in the West of Ireland - where storytelling “was as natural as breathing.” For the past 25 years, from Thanksgiving through the Christmas season, his show, *Tomáseen Foley’s A Celtic Christmas*, has played to critical acclaim and packed concert halls all over the U.S. – from Yuma, Arizona, to Caribou, Maine. In conjunction with the Omaha Symphony, the Edmonton Symphony, the Nashville Symphony and other orchestras, he is delighted to be part and parcel of *Celtic Journey* - as well as occasional performances with Apollo’s Fire and the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra. He has released two CDs: *A Celtic Christmas: Parcel from America*, and a live recording, *The Priest and the Acrobat*. “He is a master of the Irish narrative and a keeper of the flame for a priceless piece of Irish culture.” - *Rego Irish Records* TomaseenFoley.com

Brian Bigley, uilleann pipes, Irish flute and whistles

Brian Bigley has studied the Irish uilleann pipes for more than 25 years as a player and builder of the instrument. He has toured North America and Europe extensively as both a musician and a dancer, appearing in productions such as Tomàseen Foley's *A Celtic Christmas* and Apollo's Fire's *Sugarloaf Mountain Christmas*, and he is delighted to be back with *Celtic Journey*. In 2002 and 2003 Brian competed with great distinction at the World Irish Dance Championships held in Glasgow and Killarney. In 2019, he was awarded second place at the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil in the piping competition. Brian has four self-produced albums of traditional Irish music as well as a contribution to the *Sugarloaf Mountain Christmas* album that reached number three on the Billboard Charts. Brian now lives near Cleveland, Ohio, with his fiddler wife, Kristen, and their dancing children, James and Kathleen. There, they have started a family business producing stage productions and building Irish pipes and flutes. In 2019, they debuted their very own show called *Rambling House*, which will be on tour in 2020. www.kbbproductions.net

Samantha Harvey, accordion

Samantha Harvey, originally from California but now residing in County Sligo, Ireland, is a prominent traditional music and dance performer. Highly-skilled in step dancing and as an instrumentalist on piano and accordion, Samantha has performed throughout the world with groups such as *Téada*, *Ireland The Show*, *Irish Christmas in America*, *Tomàseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas*, and *Tomàseen Foley's Irish Times*. This performance work has involved concerts and festivals in Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, Europe, and the United States. Samantha was privileged to perform in RTE's *Centenary 2016*, broadcast live on television from the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre in Dublin.

Ross Hauck, tenor

Tenor Ross Hauck is thrilled to bring *Celtic Journey* to Nashville. Ross maintains a busy and eclectic career that spans both classical and crossover repertoire. He has sung with orchestras and music festivals across the country. This season he made debuts with the symphonies of San Francisco (Bach *St. John Passion*), Hawaii (*Carmina Burana*), and Calgary (Handel's *Messiah*) and toured the UK with Apollo's Fire in concerts of early American music. He is a lapsed cellist, an average pianist, a pun aficionado, and a decent lyricist (he "distills" a new local Whiskey in the Jar for each *Celtic Journey*). He loves limericks but hates wearing a tux. He is an alum of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Ross has won some awards and gained some plaudits (for that, visit rosshauck.com), but his greatest prize is his wife and four kids, the oldest of which is named Daniel ("Danny boy"). They live in the foothills outside Seattle where he is both a voice professor and church music director.

Garrett Coleman, dancer

Garrett Coleman is a two-time solo World Champion in Irish dance and has won 17 other national and international titles. Garrett toured professionally with Riverdance, Trinity Irish Dance Company, Cherish the Ladies, The Chieftains, and others. He performed at the Kennedy Center in 2006 as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, is a Young Arts award winner (top 2% of artistic talent in the U.S.), and has twice been named one of the "Top 100 Irish Americans" by Irish America Magazine. He is the cofounder of Hammerstep, a NYC-based dance company fusing Irish step with hip hop, stepping, and martial arts. Garrett has starred in Hammerstep performances worldwide from NYC's Lincoln Center to London's West End Palace Theatre to NBC's *America's Got Talent*. Garrett is the co-creator of the sci-fi theatre drama *Indigo Grey*, a narrative universe presented as episodic content including an award-winning film and a sold-out live immersive experience. His work has received critical acclaim from publications such as *Rolling Stone*, *Billboard*, *Huffington Post*, and *Wired* magazine.

Caitlin Golding, dancer

Having begun Irish dance lessons at age seven, Caitlin Golding has been dancing for the past 24 years. She began her studies with the Broesler School of Irish Dance in Baltimore, Maryland, and now owns the Golding Academy of Irish Dance in Scarsdale, New York, as a certified An Coimisiun teacher. Throughout her 14-year competitive career she won many titles. Her most upstanding accolades include five-time Southern Region Champion, top three North American Champion, top ten World Champion, top three Great Britain Champion, and top ten All Ireland Champion. After receiving her degree in social work from the University of Maryland, Caitlin began to pursue her professional Irish Dance career. On her first audition in London, Caitlin was the only American selected to tour in the return of Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance*, kicking off in Belgium. From there she continued touring with *Lord of the Dance* and *Feet of Flames* globally. Most recently, Caitlin starred in *Lord of the Dance: Dangerous Games* on Broadway. In addition, Caitlin was lead soloist and dance captain with acclaimed productions *Spirit of Ireland* and *Dance of Desire* worldwide. She has co-starred and choreographed the original production *Celtic Journey* with the Omaha Symphony and performs alongside her husband, Garrett Coleman, with his award-winning fusion dance company, Hammerstep. She has had the honor of dancing alongside legendary Irish musicians Cherish the Ladies, The Chieftains, and Eileen Ivers with the Milwaukee Symphony, Tucson Symphony, Meyerhoff Symphony, and the Kennedy Center among others.