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College of Fine Arts Presents

EILEEN IVERS

fiddle

Eileen Ivers will change the way you think about the violin...

Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul, Nine Time All-Ireland Fiddle Champion, London Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony at The Kennedy Center, Boston Pops, original musical star of Riverdance, The Chieftains, Sting, Hall and Oates, Randy Brecker, Patti Smith, Paula Cole, Al Di Meola, Steve Gadd, founding member of Cherish the Ladies, Grammy awarded musician, movie soundtracks including Gangs of New York, performed for Presidents and Royalty worldwide...

This is just a short list of accomplishments, headliners, tours, and affiliations for fiddler Eileen Ivers who has established herself as the pre-eminent exponent of the Irish fiddle in the world today. She's been called "a sensation" by *Billboard* magazine, "a virtuoso" by *The Irish Times*, "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin" by *The New York Times*, and "the future of the Celtic fiddle" by *The Washington Post*.

The daughter of Irish immigrants, Ivers grew up in the Bronx, New York. Rooted in Irish traditional music since the age of eight, she proceeded to win nine All-Ireland fiddle championships, a tenth on tenor banjo, and over thirty championship medals, making her one of the most awarded persons ever to compete in these prestigious competitions. She graduated magna cum laude in mathematics from Iona College before embarking on her career in music. Eileen tours throughout the year in performing art centers, symphony halls and festivals world-wide and is currently recording her latest CD from her new multimedia concert titled *Beyond the Bog Road*, an Irish-American experience through music, dance and film.

Eileen is also privileged to share the stage with two of the world's most celebrated violinists—classical virtuoso Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and jazz great Regina Carter—in the critically acclaimed "Fiddlers Three." This show continues to fascinate symphony audiences throughout the U.S. with the Boston Globe stating, "Fiddlers Three will go down as one of the great Boston Pops Events."

ZETA Music, the world's leading electric stringed instrument maker, has recently introduced the Eileen Ivers Signature Series Violin. More of Eileen Ivers' overwhelming audience and critical response can be read at www.eileenivers.com.

TOMMY McDONNELL

vocalist, percussion

Bronx, New York, native Tommy McDonnell is an inspired vocalist who has been performing professionally since the age of fifteen. The son of a carpenter and professional actress/singer/dancer, Tommy brings a deeply soulful aspect to the multidimensional thrust of Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul.

Tommy played drums until 1988, when he decided to embark on a singing career. He has appeared as a featured performer in Universal Pictures' *Blues Brothers 2000*, on *David Letterman* with Dr. John and on *Saturday Night Live* and *The Super Bowl* with the Blues Brothers. Tommy has also shared the stage with such greats as BB King, James Brown, Eric Clapton, Lou Rawls, Isaac Hayes, and Wilson Pickett, to name a few, and was a member of the "ORIGINAL Blues Brothers Band" with Dan Aykroyd, John Goodman, and a host of music legends.

BUDDY CONNOLLY

accordion, whistles, keyboards

Three time All-Ireland accordion champion Buddy Connolly hails from Newark, New Jersey, with parents

from Clare and Galway in Ireland. Buddy credits the teaching of button box
