



IRISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

FALL 2008 IRISH PERCEPTIONS

Presents

Seán Tyrrell

IRISH FOLK SINGER, MUSICIAN AND COMPOSER



DATE: Friday, October 10, 2008

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

**PLACE: Sacks Tierney P. A. (law firm)
4250 N. Drinkwater Blvd., 4th Floor
Scottsdale, AZ
(see map attached)**

Tickets for this presentation may be obtained
“at the door” for **\$8.00** each.

Seating is limited, so come early.

Enjoy Seán Tyrrell's presentation of "*Cry of A Dreamer*," a mixture of recitation and traditional songs and tunes conveying the life of Irish patriot John Boyle O'Reilly.

A native of the slower moving West of Ireland, Seán immigrated to New York in 1968 where he played his music in the folk club scene in Greenwich Village. In the early 70's, Seán moved west to San Francisco and a diet of Irish music sessions. It was here that Seán's reputation as an exceptional singer of songs took root. Traversing New Hampshire in the mid-70's, Seán co-founded "Apples in Winter," a band that was short-lived, but well recognized. In the late 70's, Seán returned to Ireland and continued to compose, but seldom played in public until he relocated to Burren in County Claire. It's hard to avoid music in this part of Ireland and soon Seán was lured back into the music scene. With a growing reputation, he was invited to "guest" on several recordings, including 2 albums with Uilleann piper, Davy Spillane. On the heels of the success of Seán's recordings with Davy Spillane, Seán embarked on his first solo project: "*Cry of A Dreamer*," which was recorded on his own label, Longwalk Music. The album released in April 1994 and voted Best Folk Album of the Year by both Folk Roots and Hotpress.

Seán accompanies himself on several instruments, and his singing style is authentic and expressive. He is known for composing music for poetry. His sound combines traditional Irish music with contemporary influences, perhaps reflecting the Galway musical tradition as he plays the mandolin, mando cello, banjo, and tenor guitar.

Seán has toured Ireland, England, the Continent, America and Australia in the past with Kevin Glackin and Ronan Brown; Davy Spillane; Three for the Ditch (Sean, Frankie Lane, and comedian Jack Lynch), Paddy Keenan, and poet, Mary O'Malley.

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Seán was surrounded by music all his life, coming from a family immersed in the musical traditions of his native Galway. During the sixties he performed in the city's premier folk club - the Folk Castle, honing his vocal and instrumental skills, while rubbing the shoulders with a host of celebrated artists who performed there.

Seán became fascinated by the forward thinking poem 'The Midnight Court' (all 1,206 lines of it), written during the 17th Century, by Brian Merriman. He became almost obsessed by the play and a desire to set the work to music. This feat was achieved with much success when the Druid Theatre Galway staged Sean Tyrrell's 'traditional music opera' featuring Sean with a host of talented contemporaries. In the following years the musical has toured extensively around Ireland with the possibility of future international showings.

Seán began touring extensively in Ireland, England, the Continent and the USA. He performed at major festivals and concert halls, including the 1996 Irish Folk Festival Tour of Germany, Switzerland and Austria, as a featured solo performer.

In 1999 he released his much anticipated second solo effort, "The Orchard". Again the album was met with critical acclaim, as Seán was voted Best Overall Folk Act and the album was voted Best Folk Album by the readers of Irish Music Magazine. "The Orchard" was also voted the number 2 Roots/Trad Album by Hot Press Critics Poll. This album was followed by extensive touring as larger audiences became exposed to his infectious songs and music.

Seán has contributed music and songs to such projects as, "A Necklace of Wrens" a documentary on the life and Poetry of Michael Hartnett, whose poem "Billy Mulvihill" Sean set to music on "The Orchard. Sean also collaborated with 8 other international artists on a compilation album "Songs of Peace" to commemorate the life and work of Francis Ledwidge who died in the First World War. The album and live concert were conducted in Flanders amid the memories and tragedy that resulted from that atrocity. A recent German film documentary on Sean's native Galway included his performance of a Michael Hartnett poem "Belladonna in the Bar".

The **IRISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE (IACI)** is a not-for-profit membership organization that has the distinction of having as its patron the President of Ireland, Ms. Mary McAleese. The IACI publishes **EIRE-IRELAND**, a journal of Irish Studies, and **DUCAS**, a quarterly newsletter for members. Through the **IRISH PERCEPTIONS SERIES**, the IACI brings historians, artists, actors, musicians, archeologists, poets, and writers from Ireland to the US on lecture tours each fall and spring. The IACI also offers the **IRISH ARTIST IN RESIDENCE** program, an annual residency in New York City for contemporary artists from Ireland and Northern Ireland. The **IACI CULTURAL AWARDS** are presented in Ireland annually in support of prose, poetry, heritage, art, music, and crafts. In excess of \$25,000 is distributed recognizing excellence in these disciplines. The **IACI IRISH RESEARCH FUNDS** are presented annually in Washington, D.C. to scholars in support of research on Irish American topics that will eventually lead to publication. The IACI and the National University-Galway offer an **ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP** in Irish Studies for a semester in Galway.

Dave Tierney, Chairman, Local Chapter of IACI

