CELTIC FIDDLING SUPERSTARS NATALIE MACMASTER & DONNELL LEAHY BRING VISIONS FROM CAPE BRETON & BEYOND TO JORGENSEN CABARET

Fri, Nov 6, 2015 at 8 pm / Doors open at 7 pm

Hailed as “the first couple of contemporary Celtic music”, Canadian fiddling superstars Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy will take the stage Friday evening, November 6th at UConn’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts to delight audiences with their new multi-media show, Visions from Cape Breton & Beyond – a joyous, foot-stomping, step-dancing celebration of Celtic music, dance, and song. Performing in the cozy confines of Jorgensen’s candle-lit cabaret, the world-renowned husband and wife fiddling team will play selections from their acclaimed new album, ONE, and share personal stories and never-before-seen photos and family video footage providing an intimate look at their Celtic heritage and an appreciation of the magical, musical world that is their home – Nova Scotia’s Cape Breton Island. Also appearing on stage will be the celebrated couple’s delightful, extraordinarily gifted young children, ages 16 months to 9 years of age. Cabaret fare, dessert, alcohol, and other beverages will be available from a cash bar when doors open at 7:00 pm. Show begins at 8:00 pm.

Since marrying in 2002, the two Canadian fiddling icons have been captivating audiences all over North America with their exceptional musical skills and obvious joy at playing together. MacMaster and Leahy have received both industry acclaim and a loyal fan following by combining their incredible individual talents to give audiences a remarkable musical experience each and every performance. Now, with their Visions from Cape Breton & Beyond, audiences will have an insight into the remarkable place, people, and culture that has shaped their lives, music, and family.

“Cape Breton Island, where I’m from, is a very, very musical island with more fiddlers-per-capita than anywhere in the world,” says the Grammy-winning MacMaster, whose mother taught her to dance at five and whose father taught her to fiddle at nine. “No matter what house you go visit, there’s a fiddle there, guaranteed, and ten-chances-to-one any neighbor that walked in the door could play it. So whenever someone comes in the house, you’d invite them to play a tune and, lo-and-behold, a little party would start up and someone would start singing and somebody would start dancing. It was a wonderful, wonderful way to grow up and that’s where my beginnings in music come from: my surroundings, my family, just my Scottish bloodline in itself.”

Leahy, who grew up on a cattle farm in Lakefield, Ontario, was also encouraged to play by his parents – but had to battle some tough odds each day in order to log practice time.

“In our family we had one piano, two fiddles, and eleven children,” says the musician. “Of course, we were all fighting to play on the instruments. Mom and Dad set a rule that you couldn’t kick anyone off the instrument while they were playing it – you had to wait until they

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THE MIDTOWN MEN, continued

were finished. So we would get on an instrument and we wouldn’t even get off to eat because you wouldn’t want to give it up to your brother or sister. It would be midnight and you’d still be playing. It was my parents’ way for getting us to practice. And it worked.”

For additional information about the artists, Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy, and their new, high-energy instrumental album, ONE, please visit www.natalieanddonnell.com

This year the University of Connecticut’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary. Established in December of 1955, Jorgensen has grown to become the largest college-based presenting program in New England. Each season Jorgensen enriches the lives of students, faculty, staff, and area residents with 30 to 35 diverse performances from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming, and contemporary entertainment. Dedicated to University of Connecticut president Albert N. Jorgensen, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts continues to follow his vision of the University as the state’s educational and cultural leader.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Tickets are available now online. Prices are: Floor table seats - $55; Floor riser seats - $50; Mezzanine - $45; Balcony - $40.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events, or order online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Convenient $5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is available in Lots 9, F, and L. For a detailed parking map, go to park.uconn.edu.