

# EILEEN IVERS AND IMMIGRANT SOUL



## An Nollaig An Irish Christmas

With the  
**Voices of Joy**

### Merry Christmas!

So much about Christmas involves the traditions surrounding the celebration of Christ's birth over two thousand years ago. One tradition is to set aside time to share the joy of this season with family and friends- and the Irish certainly know how to do that.

Just like ornaments on a Christmas tree, the tunes in this evening's performance have been lovingly passed down through the generations as well. Some are hundreds of years old- some are new.

Thank you for being a part of our celebration this evening. May we all

continue to treasure the old traditions and welcome the new ones. *Nollaig shone daoibh*—Merry Christmas to you and your families.

• Eilíeen Ivers

This evening's performance will include one intermission and selections from the following:

*Holly Tree, Christmas Jigs Medley, Danish Winter Song Medley, Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake, The Wexford Carol, Christmas Reels Medley, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring, St. Stephen's Day (The Wren Day) Medley, Deck The Halls, Christmas Time Is Here*

## **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](http://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 master John Whelan for that individual success and the late Martin Mulvihill for numerous titles in other group categories. Some influential players during those formative years were New York City's best—John Nolan, Joanie Madden, Mike Rafferty, and Eileen Ivers. As a freelance musician, Buddy was soon touring all over the U.S.A. with many bands. In 1995, he moved to Nashville and was introduced to bluegrass, Cajun, and country music. There were worldwide gigs and recordings with the likes of Tim O'Brien, Kathy Mattea, and Rodney Crowell and Christian rockers Ceili Rain, Orleans, Matt Molloy (Chieftains), Joel Sonnier, and many others. Since 2001, Buddy has resided in Morris County, New Jersey, with wife Joanna and their three children.

## **GREG ANDERSON**

*guitar, backing vocals*

Multi-instrumentalist and producer Greg Anderson hails from the musical melting pot of New York City. Greg has performed and recorded with a wide variety of international artists in an even wider variety of musical genres. A mainstay in the folk and traditional music worlds, he has performed with—among others—Cathie Ryan, Susan McKeown, Richard Shindell, Tommy Sands, Seán Tyrrell, and Steeleye Span fiddler Peter Knight. He has also worked with many artists in rock, jazz, and contemporary music, having played bass for the avant-rock group Doctor Nerve, with whom he has recorded and toured throughout the world, and also with The Klezmatics, accompanying them on tours of Itzhak Perlman's "In The Fiddler's House." He also cofounded the NYC celtic-jazz fusion group, Whirligig. As a producer, he is a recognized expert at the blending of traditional music with contemporary sounds and production

values and has produced albums for Richard Shindell, Eamon O'Tuama, The Klezmatics, Whirligig, Patrick Mangan, and James Keane, among many others.

## **LEO TRAVERSA**

*bass guitar*

Bassist Leo Traversa is a native New Yorker and has been at the forefront of the world music scene there for many years. A founding and current faculty member of the Bass Collective in New York City, he has taught at the Collective since 1987. His extensive knowledge of a variety of musical genres and cultures and his mastery of their playing techniques makes him one of the most versatile and proficient bassists on the scene today. He studied at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and at A.A.S. Five Town College in New York and has performed and recorded worldwide with a wide range of internationally known artists. These include Tania Maria, Eliane Elis, Ben E. King, Astrud Gilberto, Michael Brecker, Don Byron, Cesar Camargo Mariano, Dave Valentin, Toninho Horta, Gerry Mulligan, The New York Voices, Oscar Hernandez, Phil Woods, The Caribbean Jazz Project, Steve Kimock, Leslie Uggams, Gato Barbieri, Ivan Lins, Dr. Chris Washburn's "Syotos" band, and many others. He has also garnered many television, film, and Broadway credits during the span of his remarkable career.

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## **The Voices of Joy**

Melvin A. Jenkins, Director

### **Sopranos**

Chloe Smith	Shervonda Rowry
Kezia Green	Shanise Jackson

### **Altos**

Sarah Jones	Symone Bowman
Jasmine Amos	

### **Tenors**

B.J. Burton	Kadeem Washington
Glen Harris	Bryant Pinder