The Chieftains -
The Irish Goodbye

TUE, MAR 3, 2020, 7:30 PM | OVERTURE HALL
CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE PERFORMS
AC/DC - BACK IN BLACK
NOTE FOR NOTE, CUT FOR CUT
SAT, MAY 9, 2020 | 8 PM
CAPITOL THEATER
overture.org
This year marks 58 years since The Chieftains began their illustrious journey. Since 1962 the six-time Grammy Award winners have been highly recognized for reinventing traditional Irish music on a contemporary and International scale. Their ability to transcend musical boundaries to blend tradition with modern music has notably hailed them as one of the most renowned and revered musical groups to this day.

As cultural ambassadors, their performances have been linked with seminal historic events, such as being the first Western musicians to perform on the Great Wall of China, participating in Roger Water’s “The Wall” performance in Berlin in 1990, and being the first ensemble to perform a concert in the Capitol Building in Washington DC. In Ireland they have been involved in many major occasions, including Pope John Paul II’s visit in 1979 when they performed to an audience of over 1.3 million, and in 2011 as part of the historic visit to Ireland of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. In 2010, their experimental collaborations extended to out of this world, when Paddy Moloney’s whistle and Matt Molloy’s flute travelled with NASA astronaut, Cady Coleman, to the international space station. More recently in Japan, The Chieftains were awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award as part of the 2017 Ireland Japan Business Awards. And in 2018, Paddy was awarded the prestigious Encomienda de la Orden del Mérito Civil (Commander of the Order of Civil Merit) by the Ambassador of Spain.

Although their early following was purely a folk audience, the range and variation of their music and accompanying musicians quickly captured a much broader audience, elevating their status to the likeness of fellow Irish band, U2.

To celebrate their 50th Anniversary in 2012, The Chieftains once again invited friends from all musical styles to collaborate on their most recent album, Voice of Ages. Featuring some of modern music’s fastest rising artists (Bon Iver, The Decemberists and Paolo Nutini among them), this album is proof that their music transcends not only stylistic and traditional boundaries, but generational as well. This same year they were awarded the inaugural National Concert Hall Lifetime Achievement Award at a gala event in Philadelphia hosted by The American Ireland Fund “in recognition of their tremendous contribution to the music industry worldwide and the promotion of the best of Irish culture.”

The Chieftains are never afraid to shock purists and push genre boundaries and the trappings of fame have not altered The Chieftains’ love of, and loyalty to, their roots. However, they are as comfortable playing spontaneous Irish sessions as they are headlining a concert at Carnegie Hall. After fifty-eight years of making some of the most beautiful music in the world, The Chieftains’ music remains as fresh and relevant as when they first began.

The Jerry Ensemble, Trinity Irish Dancers and Madison Pipes & Drums will also make appearances throughout the night.
With influences ranging from Fats Domino to Aretha Franklin to Tom Waits, Davina and the Vagabonds has grown from a down-and-dirty blues band to an exciting acoustic ensemble. In The Finest Hour Concert, the Vagabonds and Hot Club of Cowtown will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the music that played at the end of World War II.
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CMA Award-winning vocalist Kathy Mattea soars on stage with “Pretty Bird”, her first new album in six years. These songs are the stepping stones that have reinvigorated her dusky alto with a new soulfulness and strength.

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The use of cameras or audio recording in the theaters is prohibited without written permission from Overture Center and the performing company’s management.

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