

FÁILTE ABHAILE · WELCOME HOME

LYMAN AND MERRIE WOOD MUSEUM OF SPRINGFIELD HISTORY · MAY 14, 2016



DEIRDRE REILLY

Deirdre Reilly beautifully personifies the dramatic influence that Irish music has had on today's American Country scene. Born in Holyoke, Massachusetts to a mother from County Cork and a father from County Mayo, Ireland, Deirdre began performing at age five. As a teenager, she sang with her step-father's show band and traveled around New England and parts of New York with her own band.

Deirdre's talents were revealed on a national level at age eighteen when she toured the United States with Paddy Noonan's Irish Variety Show. Deirdre Reilly's warm, engaging style, powerful voice and dynamic stage presence have made her one of the top entertainers in Irish music today. With fans from Los Angeles to Dublin, Deirdre is a hit with audiences of all ages. "Deirdre's love of what she does shows all through her process of being a professional musician. She is totally professional on stage and off, always exuding that "star quality" she was born with, always totally prepared and always willing to take the time to meet her fans even after the most demanding concerts." (Quote from Fred Kewley-Nashville, Tennessee)

LEO DOHERTY

Born in Derry City, Northern Ireland, Leo Doherty is an accomplished singer who came to the United States in 1957. He grew up in a very musical family and as a young man he began his career in show business as the front man-star of the famous Johnny Quigley Show Band based in Derry. The Quigley years took Leo all over Ireland performing popular songs at various dance halls and concert venues playing to packed houses all over the country. When he immigrated to America, he took his beautiful voice and showmanship with him and became the lead singer with the popular Springfield based Shamrock's of Kerry band. To this day Leo enjoys performing and his love and pride of his native country shines through in every note he sings. For many years Leo Doherty has delighted audiences far and wide and his delivery of Irish and American classics is second to none. Often compared to the famous American crooners Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett, Leo is as at home with a song by "Ole Blue Eyes" or Bennett's "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" as he is with any Irish song such as "The Town I Loved So Well" or "Danny Boy". He sings every song from his heart and when you leave a Leo Doherty performance you are sure to feel happy, entertained, and wanting more. Leo has recorded two full CD recordings "After All These Years" and "Leo Doherty and Friends".



BILLY EGAN AND THE RISING

The Rising's Irish Trad-Rock music has been called "... a truly original approach to some Irish favorites...a stirring animated event...an emotive experience worth every minute." The band includes the following local talent: Billy Eagan, Chris Leary, Brendan McCann, Barney McElhone, George Perrault, Chet Fairchild, and Paul Haddock. The band has a great following throughout the Pioneer Valley and been

influenced by the Saw Doctors, Wolfe Tones, U2, Chieftains, Paddy Reilly, Christy Moore, Van Morrison, and numerous other great Irish musicians. Whether at a festival in front of thousands, or in a pub singing songs with a pint, The Rising is sure to guarantee a good craic and great music.