



Eastern Connecticut State University

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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Eastern to Present Irish Music and Dance Concert

Willimantic, Conn. - Renowned Donegal fiddler P.V. O'Donnell will join vocalist, guitarist and mandolinist Stan Scott; accordionist John Tabb; and Dora Hast on whistles and recorders, to present a concert of traditional Irish music and dance at Eastern Connecticut State University. The concert takes place on Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Betty R. Tipton Room of the Student Center. The public is invited and admission is free.

In addition to dance tunes and songs, Eastern students Sarah Hobson a junior from Tolland majoring in English, and her brother, Tim; Elise Firestone, a senior from Glastonbury majoring in Sports and Leisure Management; and Leah Hanrahan, a freshman from Oakdale with an individualized major and a concentration in psychology, along with several others, will perform as step dancers during the concert.

The performers are part of the local Irish music scene in central Connecticut, while O'Donnell hails from Inishowen in County Donegal in Ireland. Born in Buncrana, and very active in the traditional music world there, O'Donnell became a professional fiddler in the early 1970s and toured extensively with several groups before settling in Connecticut. Today, he presents concerts and performs at festivals throughout the United States and in Ireland, hosts a traditional music session every Wednesday night at City Steam in Hartford, and teaches workshops and private lessons.

Hast, assistant professor of performing arts at Eastern, and Scott are part of the Irish traditional music trio, Kitchen Ceili. Both earned their doctorate degrees in ethnomusicology at Wesleyan University, and have done extensive research in Ireland that resulted in their Oxford University Press publication, “Music in Ireland: Experiencing Music, Expressing Culture.”

Scott studied in India and Ireland and has performed as a featured soloist at Irish festivals, and on Irish national radio and Indian television. His two recordings include “A Friend of the Wind” and “The Lotus and the Rose.” Scott currently teaches fretted instruments at Wesleyan University. Hast teaches whistle in the Middletown area.

Tabb grew up in the Hungry Hill section of Springfield, MA, and has been playing Irish traditional music on the button accordion since the age of 15. He was first introduced to the box by his father, a musician who immigrated to Springfield from Cobh, County Cork, Ireland. Tabb performs frequently in concerts and sessions throughout the northeast, and is a member of The Healys.

For more information, call Dale Dubina at 860-465-4567 or email hastd@easternct.edu. For directions, go to www.easternct.edu.

Photo Captions

1 P.V. O'Donnell

2 Stan Scott

3 Dora Hast

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Eastern Connecticut State University is part of the Connecticut State University (CSU) system and is the state's public liberal arts university. ECSU serves more than 5,000 students each year on its Willimantic campus.

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It is the policy of Eastern Connecticut State University to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for this event, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735.

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