

LEGACY

Irish Traditional Music

P.O. Box 4772, Jackson, Mississippi 39296-5166

www.LegacyIrishMusic.com

An Irish Christmas Celebration Traditional Songs and Music of West Cork

The traditional Irish music trio, *Legacy*, will tour the southern states again this winter to present their highly acclaimed program "An Irish Christmas Celebration: Traditional Songs and Music of West Cork." For 2009, their tour extends from Dec. 7th to the 20th.

The Christmas show is a collaborative effort of *Legacy* and their longtime friend and frequent guest on stage, *Dr. Jim Flanagan*. The show is a mix of Irish holiday songs and stories along with occasional sets of holiday-themed tune sets (played in traditional style) for good measure. Jim, who originally hails from Ballyvourney, County Cork, Ireland, serves as the MC for the program. As detailed in his bio below, Jim is an accomplished singer/entertainer...and he also is Professor and Chair of the Dept. of Anthropology and Sociology at the Univ. of Southern Mississippi.

Legacy and *Flanagan* have collaborated to produce an Christmas holiday album entitled: *An Irish Christmas: Songs and Music from West Cork*. The album features 16 tracks of material drawn from Irish holiday traditions. This includes an traditional songs for the Christmas season in West Cork and beyond, including nativity, St. Stephens Day traditions of 'going on the wren', and songs the New Year. *Legacy's* forte of deftly played dance tunes with holiday themes garnish this midwinter collection. Information about the recording is available at: <http://www.LegacyIrishMusic.com/Sounds.htm>, and selected songs and tunes from the recording are available for download at: <http://www.LegacyIrishMusic.com/page.htm>.

Legacy: www.LegacyIrishMusic.com

Legacy draws the rapt attention of music fanatics wherever they play. These talented multi-instrumentalists perform an extensive repertoire of tunes and songs from the Irish tradition. Their skill is undeniable, their arrangements complex and challenging, and their performances tight and energetic. Said *Dirty Linen* magazine: "This band fills the bill....a delicate combination of full-speed-ahead attack and subtle finesse.

Valerie Plested (fiddle, vocals) is among the finest and most expressive talents in the Southwest's Celtic scene. Originally from San Antonio where she performed as a member of the All Ireland-winning *St. James Gate*, she relocated to Mississippi to earn her master's in Anthropology. An exceptional musician, *Justin Murphy's* (flute, whistles, guitar, bodhrán, vocals) powerful tone and swaggering rhythm on the flute have been compared to such notables as *Seamus Egan* and *Frankie Kennedy*. Like *Valerie*, *Justin* also holds a masters' degree in Anthropology. At the heart of this trio configuration, Michigan native *Don Penzien's* (guitar, bodhrán, whistles, vocals) DADGAD guitar work provides not only the solid, driving rhythms that are a hallmark of *Legacy* performances, but also perceptive and sensitive accompaniments to songs and airs. A clinical psychologist, by day *Don* is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of MS Medical Center.

Jim Flanagan: <http://www.FlanaganSongs.com>

A native of Ballyvourney, a small village in the heart of the Muskerry Gaeltacht (an Irish speaking area) in County Cork, *Jim Flanagan* now lives in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He has performed at major festivals (Milwaukee, Dallas, Colorado, Atlanta, New Orleans, Savannah, Austin, Jackson) and in regular pub performances over the years has established himself as a significant force in Irish music in the Southeastern United States. *Steve Winick* (*Dirty Linen*) compares him favorably to *Daithi Sproule* (of *Altan*) and the great traditional singer *Joe Heaney* (*Seosamh Ó hÉanaí*) - in whose company any Irish singer would be proud to be placed.

Ballyvourney is an area long recognized as a center of poetry, music, and dance. It is the birthplace of many highly respected poets and musicians, among these the famous poet *Seán Ó Riordáin*. Many great Irish musicians have lived in the area, including *Seán Ó Riada*, *Jackie Daly*, *John Connell*, and the great source singer *Elisabeth Cronin*. *Flanagan* draws on this wellspring of tradition with pride of place in his stage performances. He provides a mix of both Irish language and English language songs; songs based in the old style (*sean nós*) tradition as well as contemporary ballads, many of which lend themselves well to audience participation. His performances are interwoven with his compelling Irish humor, the stories of Ireland and his memories of home, leaving one with a feeling of having been entertained and enriched as well.

Legacy's tour dates and venues: <http://www.LegacyIrishMusic.com/Calendar.htm>

Legacy's promo & press materials: <http://www.LegacyIrishMusic.com/Promo.htm>

For bookings and more information, contact *Don Penzien* at 601.454.5573, e-mail: penzien@gmail.com