



NEWS RELEASE

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KSO to present a 'Celtic Christmas' at 36th Annual Clayton Holiday Concert on Dec. 16-18

One of East Tennessee's favorite holiday traditions takes a Celtic twist this year as the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra presents the 36th Annual Clayton Holiday Concert.

"The Clayton Holiday Concerts are designed to be fun for the whole family, and I am thrilled to be presenting this lively, soulful Celtic-themed celebration featuring the KSO and a heavy-hitting lineup of guests!" KSO Music Director Aram Demirjian said. "We hope everyone wears their favorite green top and comes ready to join the party!"

The performances will be held at the Knoxville Civic Auditorium on Friday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 17, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 18, at 3 p.m.

Tickets range from \$19-\$53, and children's tickets start at \$11. Tickets are available online at knoxvillesymphony.com/concert/36th-annual-clayton-holiday-concert. Groups of 10 or more can purchase tickets at a discounted rate by calling 865-291-3310.

The KSO will be joined by Irish band Four Leaf Peat, Knoxville Pipes & Drums, GO! Contemporary Dance Works, Knoxville Choral Society and the newly established Knoxville Symphony Youth Choir to bring festive Celtic tunes to the stage alongside classic holiday favorites. Highlights include "Bagpipe Christmas Melody," "Christmas in Killarney," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "Sleigh Ride."

"For us, playing with the Knoxville Symphony is a special experience because it allows us to collaborate in our beloved hometown of Knoxville and to share the stage with all the amazing musicians that make up the symphony," said Chad Beauchaine, fiddler for Four Leaf Peat. "Being on stage with so many great musicians is humbling but also gives us some fresh motivation to keep pressing forward with our own music. We absolutely cannot wait to be a part of the Clayton Holiday Concert with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra!"

The 36th Annual Clayton Holiday Concert is sponsored by Clayton Homes, Clayton Volvo, Clayton Foundation and FirstBank. Visit knoxvillesymphony.com for more information.

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About the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra

Led by Music Director Aram Demirjian, the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra consists of 80 professional musicians and performs 300 programs throughout the region each season, reaching audiences of more than 200,000 people. The KSO performs in traditional venues such as the Tennessee Theatre, Bijou Theatre and Civic Auditorium, as well as non-traditional places like hospitals, schools, city parks and churches. For more information regarding the KSO, please visit knoxvillesymphony.com or call 865-291-3310.

About Four Leaf Peat

Four Leaf Peat is Tennessee's premier traditional Irish Band and has been performing locally and regionally since 2004! Traditional Irish music ranges from vibrant dance tunes to soulful songs, and Four Leaf Peat's performances are always marked by a keen sense of the tradition, mixed with just the right amount of influence from the rich musical history of East Tennessee. Four Leaf Peat's unique sound is a result of its members' various musical backgrounds and their continued passion for traditional Irish music. By taking all of their years of musical training and building on Irish influences like The Bothy Band, Planxty, Flying Cloud & Silly Wizard, to more modern twists on traditional music such as Dervish, Open the Door for Three & Lunasa, Four Leaf Peat has built its own brand of Irish music which celebrates the musical bridge that spans the Atlantic. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/FourLeafPeat.

About Knoxville Pipes & Drums

The Knoxville Pipes and Drums is based in the Knoxville, Tennessee, area. The mission of the band is to foster and promote Scottish bagpiping and drumming and the related Celtic arts within the community. The band competes at both the Grade 4 and Grade 5 levels in Highland Games throughout the Southeast from March to October every year and also plays a number of venues throughout East Tennessee and the surrounding region. They also provide free piping and drumming lessons. For more information, visit knoxvillepipesanddrums.org.

About the Knoxville Choral Society

Since 1951, the Knoxville Choral Society has brought some of the world's greatest choral music to East Tennessee and is dedicated to performing traditional and contemporary choral music at the highest level. The fully auditioned membership performs a yearly concert series, collaborates with other Knoxville arts organizations and works to promote choral singing and music education throughout the area. Under the direction of conductor and artistic director John R. Orr, the membership of the KCS has grown to more than 145 of the best singers in the greater Knoxville area. The Knoxville Choral Society's regular concert season includes major choral works and other concerts featuring varied styles of choral literature performed by the Masterworks Chorus and the Knoxville Chamber Chorale, a chamber ensemble selected from the membership. The KCS sings regularly with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra in the Clayton Holiday Concerts and performs major choral works on the KSO Masterworks series. For more information about the Knoxville Choral Society and its current season, please visit knoxvillechoralsociety.org.

About GO! Contemporary Dance Works

GO! Contemporary Dance Works is a nonprofit pre-professional youth ballet company in Knoxville, Tennessee, that comprises 50 dancers ages 12-20. GO!'s mission is to elevate enthusiasm for the performing arts in East Tennessee while providing youth the opportunity to express artistry through dance. Since its founding in 2003, GO! has presented over 200

performances to the Knoxville community. GO!'s repertoire consists of both classical and contemporary works commissioned by local, national and international choreographers and includes original, full-length contemporary ballets performed annually at the Bijou Theatre. GO! is noted for its interest in serving its community through collaborations and partnerships with schools, nonprofit organizations and community centers and has performed with the KSO in over 20 performances since 2009. For more information, visit gocontemporarydance.com.