

# Seán Heely's "Celtic Christmas" at Strathmore

December 8th, 2023

Personent Hodie *Arr. Kevin Elam* | Angels we have heard on high | Deck the Halls

*Christmas in Ireland* : Apples in Winter | The Frost is all over | Christmas Eve

*A time for kindness and cheer* :

The Gloucestershire Wassail | I Saw Three Ships | Sussex Carol

*Hebridean Carol: Tàladh Chrìosda The Christ Child's Lullaby*

Reading by Abbie : *Reflections on a Scottish Christmas by Johnny Cunningham*

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen | Mo chuachag laghach | Michael Rankin's  
Feat. Jesse Ofgang, highland pipes and Alex Kuldell, rope drum

Blue Bonnets O'er the Border - Alexandria Highland Dance with piper Jon Hughes

The Wexford Carol

Feat. All-Ireland singing champion Kevin Elam

Reading by Beth : *I have news for you (9th century Irish)*

So Merry as we have been | Bottom of the Punch Bowl

Feat. Abbie Palmer, Lucas Ashby

Gàidhlig Puirt à beul *mouth music set*

The Snows they melt the soonest

Feat. Cynthia Knight, mezzo-soprano

Òran na Cloiche *Song of the Stone*

Cape Breton dance : Bog an Lochan / Às a thòisich / Sleep soon'd i'da mornin /

Roddy MacDonald's Fancy

Feat. Junior US National Scottish fiddle champion Colin McGlynn

Feat. Agi Kovacs, Kate Bole, Kate Spanos

INTERMISSION

Reading by Kevin: *The Shortest Day by Susan Cooper*

*Music in the Great Hall*

Marsail Lochinalie - 18th century Scottish Fiddle Pìobaireachd (piping piece)

Feat. Seán Heely, fiddle tuned F#C#F#C#.

Seann Triubhais traditional Highland Dance

Feat. Alexandria Highland Dance and piper Jon Hughes

MacMillan Pipe Band Medley

*Macmillan competed in the World Bagpiping Championships last year in Glasgow\**

Trinquez : Traditional Cajun epiphany song | Medieval Carols

Feat. Beth Patterson

Reading by Kevin: *A Leaf from the Tree of Songs by Adam Christianson*

Dona Nobis Pacem | Ged do thèid mi do m' leabaidh

A prayer for peace and traditional Gaelic song

Feat. Abbie Palmer and Seán Heely, Celtic Harp Duo

Stille Nacht, Ciùin an Oidhch', Silent Night

Auld Lang Syne *lyrics by Scotland's National Poet Robert Burns*

Celtic Christmas Finale : O Come Emmanuel,

Mrs. Arniston | Mrs. Stewart of Grandtully | Còta mòr Ealasaid | Glass of Beer |

High Rd to Linton | Congress | Swallowtail | The Phoenix

## Producer's Notes

Fàilte oirbh is beannachdan uile.

~ You're all Very Welcome to Seán Heely's "Celtic Christmas!"

Many of you may remember the name Bonnie Rideout? From 1996 to almost a decade, Bonnie had a very successful touring "Scottish Christmas" show which appeared in sold out concert halls throughout North America. Bonnie's musicianship, mentorship and knowledge of Scottish music and history have been a great inspiration to me. We have several pieces in the show that nod to Bonnie and her music that I am excited to perform. We have songs represented from Scotland, Ireland, England, Germany and France! We have world class dancing from Scotland, Ireland, and Cape Breton. You will also notice a special connection to the Scots Gaelic (Gàidhlig) language. I am extremely proud of every cast member in this show! They have all worked tirelessly to make my vision a reality. It has been a long time goal to bring this show to a beautiful hall such as Strathmore. A warm thanks to the wonderful team at Strathmore and special thanks to Joi Brown for the invitation to bring this production to Strathmore. Perhaps none of this would have been possible without the amazing tutelage and support I received in the Artist in Residence program through Strathmore in 2019, and I have Betty Scott to thank for that. We love you, Betty! On the stage are also two other members of this prestigious program: Kevin Elam and Lucas Ashby. Thank you all for being here and I hope that tonight warms your Christmas and Holiday spirits, transports you all over the Celtic world and through time itself!

*Nollaig Chridheil is Bliadhna Mhath Ùr ~ Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seán Heely". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping tail.