



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville OH 44141

www.nps.gov/cuva
www.dayinthevalley.com

Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

For Immediate Release – Friday, December 04, 2009

Mary Pat Doorley, (440) 546-5995, (440) 343-7355 (cell), or mary_pat_doorley@nps.gov

Park Hosts Nationally Touring Irish Christmas In America Concert

Brecksville, Ohio - On Saturday, December 12, *Irish Christmas in America*, a multi-media musical program featuring some of Ireland's top talents, will be presented at Happy Days Lodge in Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP), as part of the Cuyahoga Valley Heritage Series. The concert begins at 8 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. The Cuyahoga Valley Heritage Series, presented by the National Park Service and Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association (CVNPA), celebrates the cultural legacy of the Cuyahoga Valley. The series is sponsored by Akron Community Foundation, Cable 9, Residence Inn by Marriott, Ohio Arts Council, WKSU 89.7 FM, and the Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith Foundation.

Admission: \$23 adults, \$18 CVNPA members, and \$10 children ages 3 -12. General seating. Advance sales are available until 3 p.m. on Friday; call (330) 657-2909 or stop by Park Place in Peninsula.

Produced by Oisín Mac Diarmada of award-winning Irish group *Téada*, the atmospheric *Irish Christmas in America* show once again features a top Irish vocalist in the 2009 touring line-up. Leading Irish singer and accordionist, Séamus Begley from West Kerry, joins a host of top musicians and dancers on stage for an engaging performance rich in history, humour and boundless energy. The magic of the Irish harp and uilleann pipes from leading exponents Gráinne Hambly and Tommy Martin augments the rhythmic pulse of Brian Cunningham's stunning old-style Irish dance.

This family-friendly performance features evocatively-sung Irish ballads and holiday carols, lively fiddle tunes and thrilling Irish dancing. Tristan Rosenstock's narration brings to life ancient customs and stories, while evocative photographic images provide a backdrop of rich historical context. This year includes a special feature on Captain Francis O'Neill, a tale of an emigrant from Cork who became Chief of Police in Chicago at the turn of the 20th century, going on to make an incredible contribution to Irish traditional music history. Take a memorable glimpse into the enchanting spirit of Christmas, as some of Ireland's finest traditional artists bring you on a distinctively Irish journey during the holiday season of 2009.

-more-

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Happy Days Lodge, located at 500 West Streetsboro Road (State Route 303) in Peninsula 44264, 1 mile west of State Route 8, is a restored Civilian Conservation Corps structure that provides a rustic ambiance for folk and traditional concerts, theater, lectures, and special event rentals. For more information on rentals, call CVNPA at (330) 657-2909 ext. 119.

CVNPA is a nonprofit organization created to engage public support for the park and provide services to enhance public use and enjoyment of the park. For more information about CVNPA and its membership program, visit www.cvnpa.org or call (330) 657-2909.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information about the park, visit www.nps.gov/cuva/ or www.dayinthevalley.com/ or call (330) 657-2752 or (800) 445-9667.

-NPS-