



# *Dance Sean-nós*

Maldon Meehan & Rónán Regan

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Irish Dance Teachers Join Sean-nós Milwaukee**

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin.** This year Sean-nós Milwaukee showcases two Irish art forms rarely seen in the U.S.— sean-nós singing and dancing. The annual cultural festival, sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, takes place on February 16-17, 2007.

In its five year history, the event has celebrated one of Ireland's oldest traditional folk arts, sean-nós singing. *Sean-nós*, which means "old-style" in Irish Gaelic, is a type of a cappella singing associated with the Irish Gaelic-speaking areas in the West of Ireland.

This year Sean-nós Milwaukee is expanding its series of concerts, workshops, and lectures to include sean-nós dance, a form of traditional Irish step dancing that emphasizes personal expression, a relaxed upper body, and steps danced close to the floor.

"Sean-nós dancing is really different from other forms of Irish dance, like Riverdance," says Maldon Meehan, one of the internationally-known sean-nós dancers who will be teaching at the festival. "Sean-nós is a living folk tradition, a lifelong pursuit."

Meehan teaches with Rónán Regan, a fiddle player and sean-nós dancer from Galway, Ireland. Both hold advanced degrees in Irish music and dance from the University of Limerick's Irish World Music Center. They recently released an instructional DVD called *Dance Sean-nós*.

"Sean-nós dancers are the visual and percussive expression of the Irish musical tradition," explains Rónán Regan. "The musician and dancer are in conversation, and the conversation takes on a life of its own."

Meehan and Regan will be teaching two workshops at Sean-nós Milwaukee on Saturday, February 17, at 10am and 3pm. Both workshops will be held at the Hefter Conference Center, 3271 N. Lake Drive, Milwaukee, WI.

## **About Maldon Meehan and Rónán Regan:**

Maldon Meehan has been teaching and performing traditional Irish dance in America and abroad for the past twelve years. Rónán Regan of Galway, Ireland, is an accomplished dancer and fiddle player who has appeared on Irish national television. Since 2004 they have been teaching and performing together in Ireland, America and Canada. The pair are known for their clear, concise teaching techniques and their ability to pass on this living tradition of Irish dance.

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*www.seannosdance.com*