

***Direct from Ireland to VPAC***

## **Danú, An Irish Christmas Gathering: Féile Na Nollag Celebrates the Holidays!**

Featuring local company Cleary Irish Dance

**Sunday, December 11 at 7:30pm**

(Los Angeles, CA) November 30 – Christmas in Ireland is one of the most important holidays for families and friends, as many Irish people living abroad come home to gather in celebration. Now, that joyous and warm Irish tradition comes to the Valley Performing Arts Center for the first time when Danú, An Irish Christmas Gathering: Féile Na Nollag celebrates the holidays on Sunday, December 11 at 7:30pm.

This event will also feature the Los Angeles-based Cleary Irish Dance. Known for producing regional and national champion soloists, Cleary Irish Dance was started by Margaret Cleary in 1988 and provides classes for all ages and levels of Irish dancers.



“This December, our venue is will present a variety of holiday performances,” said Thor Steingraber, Executive Director. “We are celebrating the holidays by offering a rich cultural diversity this season. Danú’s performance is very special, because it offers us a window into Ireland’s Christmas traditions. We’d like our audience to feel like they’ve travelled the world, even if they never leave Los Angeles. This performance also has a local aspect, as we welcome the phenomenal, local dancers of Cleary Irish Dance.”

Hailing from Counties Waterford, Cork, Dublin and Donegal in Ireland, Danú, one of the leading traditional Irish ensembles of today, will bring Ireland’s holiday traditions of music, storytelling, dance and celebration to VPAC’s Great Hall. Music and dance gatherings, in communities both urban and rural, have often combined for generations to offer a great variety of songs, music, and stories for the holidays. Danú’s Irish Christmas Gathering offers a taste of these extraordinary events, which have been held across Ireland for hundreds of years. Celtic music lovers around the globe have been thrilled by their virtuoso players on fiddle, flutes, button accordion, percussion and the gorgeous voice of Nell Ní Chróinín along with top-notch guest dancers.

*Irish Music Magazine* said, “Danú stirs the blood and lifts the heart.” *The Washington Post* called the band, “a vibrant mix of virtuosity, energy and empathy.”

Tickets are available at [ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org](http://ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org) or by calling (818) 677-3000. Valley Performing Arts Center is located on the campus of California State University, Northridge (CSUN), 18111 Nordhoff Street Northridge, CA 91330-8448, at the corner of Nordhoff and Lindley.

### **About Danú**

Danú formed in 1995 as part of Ireland’s delegation to Lorient Inter-Celtic Festival in Brittany, France (an annual event that is the biggest gathering of celtic nations in the world). The debut album simply entitled 'Danú' was released by the band in 1997 to huge critical acclaim and in 1999 Danú signed a multi-album

record deal with the Record Label Shanachie Entertainment with whom they subsequently released five albums and a live DVD internationally between 2000 and 2006. Over the past few years Danú has added two independent releases to their discography.

For over 2 decades Danú's virtuosi players on flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, bouzouki, and vocals (Irish and English) have delighted audiences worldwide. Winners of numerous awards from the BBC and Irish Music Magazine, Danú has toured throughout Europe and North America with stops at The Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles and Symphony Space in New York City. Danú takes its audiences on a musical journey to their native Ireland, offering a moving and memorable concert experience.

Danú welcomes star vocalist Nell Ní Chróinín into the fold in 2016 marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the band's legacy. Nell's multiple awards include TG4 Traditional Singer of the Year 2012 and she was also the winner of the prestigious Oireactas 'Corn Uí Riada' award in 2014.

### **Calendar Listing for Danú, An Irish Christmas Gathering: Féile Na Nollag**

**Venue:** Valley Performing Arts Center  
18111 Nordhoff Street  
Northridge, CA 91330

**Date:** Sunday, December 11 at 7:30pm

**Tickets:** **Price:** Starting at \$28  
**In Person:** VPAC Ticket Office, located in the VPAC Courtyard  
**By Phone:** (818) 677-3000  
**Online:** [ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org](http://ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org)

**Press Contacts:** Tim Choy, Niki Blumberg, Davidson & Choy Publicity  
323-954-7510 | [t.choy@dcpublicity.com](mailto:t.choy@dcpublicity.com); [n.blumberg@dcpublicity.com](mailto:n.blumberg@dcpublicity.com)  
Gary W. Murphy, Public Relations Consultant  
310-914-0178 | [gmurphypr@gmail.com](mailto:gmurphypr@gmail.com)