

# Chieftains and Flatley bring UNC in step with Irish folk music

In a high-spirited and technically brilliant concert in Memorial Hall Monday night, the Chieftains showed why they are widely considered to be the world's foremost performers of traditional Irish music.

The Chieftains' predominantly instrumental program ranged from lively reels to mournful ballads, and the band members seemed equally adept at performing many different styles of music. Together for more than 20 years, the band members are familiar enough with each other to produce a well-balanced ensemble sound.

They opened the concert with a medley of traditional Irish reels. Although these reels are played on authentic Irish instruments, they sound very much like American square-dance music. The Chieftains were joined onstage during their opening medley by guest step-dancer Michael Flatley.

Flatley joined the band onstage periodically throughout the show,

## David Hester Concert

and his step-dancing complemented the band's music. Flatley's style incorporated many elements of tap dancing, as well as many acrobatic leaps and high kicks. His athletic dancing was well-suited to each of the Chieftains' different types of music, and he received several enthusiastic responses from the audience.

Each of the Chieftains displayed an exceptional command of his instrument, both in ensemble passages and in a number of solos. Matt Molloy's haunting flute solo was particularly notable, as was Martin Fay's soft, rich fiddle solo. Sean Keane displayed lightning-fast finger work on a medley of Irish reels, and Irish harp player Derek Bell and pipe player Paddy Moloney

were also fine on their solos. Perhaps the most interesting solos of the evening, however, were delivered by Kevin Conneff.

Conneff is the band's percussionist, but he sang two a capella songs during his solo section of the show. Conneff's first song was a traditional Irish drinking song, and his second selection was a slow and beautiful love song. Conneff has a sure and sweet tenor voice, and his singing style features many unique trills. His two unaccompanied songs were the only vocal selections of the evening, but they were a highlight of the show.

The Chieftains featured an interesting array of instruments in their performance. Bell's Irish harp, approximately 4 feet to 5 feet tall, produced a slightly different tone than a full-sized harp. Conneff also performed on the bodhran, an instrument that most Americans are unfamiliar with. It's something like a giant canvas tambourine that is usually struck with a small two-ended mallet.

Perhaps the most unusual of the Chieftains' instruments were Moloney's uilleann pipes. They are played somewhat like bagpipes, except that

the instrumentalist does not blow into them. Instead Moloney forced air through the pipes by squeezing an airbag underneath his arm. They sounded like a deeper and richer version of a recorder.

Although the Chieftains' instrumentation seems to be uniquely Irish, they used these instruments to play many different types of music from various cultures. They played a selection of Breton melodies, as well as a medley of tunes that are popular among the Celts of northern Spain.

The most unexpected of the

Chieftains' selections was probably their rendition of the traditional Chinese folk song "Full of Joy," which featured a gong and wood blocks. The group learned Chinese folk music when they performed in China a few years ago, Moloney explained.

The Chieftains closed their performance with another non-Irish selection, "Cottoned Joe." Again showing their diversity, the band members played the finale with the same joyfulness and precision that they had displayed throughout the night.

## Campus Calendar

### Wednesday

- 12 p.m. **Career Planning and Placement Services** will hold Job Hunt 102 in 306 Hanes Hall.
- 3 p.m. **UNC Undergraduate Sociology Club** invites all prospective majors to a meeting in Hamilton 151.
- 4 p.m. **The Association of Business Students** is sponsoring seminars on Organization Behavior and Operations in T-6 NC. Open to all prospective business majors.
- 5 p.m. **Newman-The Catholic Student Center** will, weather permitting, have a snowball fight followed by dinner and a program at 218 Pittsboro St. **The Association of Business Students** is sponsoring an Accounting Concentration Seminar in T-6 NC.
- 5:30 p.m. **Industrial Relations Association** will have a dinner and reception for all industrial relations students in North Hall, Lenoir Dining Hall.
- 6 p.m. **Lutheran Campus Ministry** will hold its meal and Agape Feast in the campus center. Cost \$1.50. **SNCAE** will meet in 309 Peabody to discuss questions about student teaching.
- 6:30 p.m. **AIESEC** officers will meet in 211 Union followed by a general members' meeting at 7 p.m.
- 7 p.m. **Career Planning and Placement Services** will have a presentation by School for Field Studies in 210 Hanes. **CUAB Human Relations** will have a discussion dealing with "Intimacy Without Sex" in 224 Union. **Carolina Committee on Central America** will hold a teach-in "Talking Sense About Nicaragua." Check Union desk for room number.
- 9:30 p.m. **United Jewish Appeal** will meet in the Union. Check desk for room number. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

## Items of Interest

All Campus Calendar announcements are due at noon on the day before they are to run in the DTH. All organizations interested in

buying a page in the Yackety Yack call 962-3912 this week to set up appointments.

Works by first-year UNC master of fine arts students will be on display in Hanes Art Center through Jan. 29. **SENIORS!** If you are in the College of Arts and Sciences and planning to graduate in May, you must apply for graduation in the dean's office, 314 Steele, by Jan. 30.

The UNC Scuba Club is going to Belize for Spring Break. Costs, including air fare from Miami and hotel, is \$365 for 7 days/6 nights. Diving is extra. Call John Edwards at 962-5201 or 968-9062 for more information.

Workshops are being held for pre-health undergraduates to improve interviewing skills. Sign up at the Pre-med Advising Office, second floor Steele Building.

The Campus Y is accepting applications for the 1987-88 Executive Committee: two co-presidents, two co-treasurers, one secretary and four members-at-large. Applications, available at the Campus Y and the Union, are due Feb. 6, 4:30 p.m. in the Campus Y. Elections will be held Tuesday, Feb. 17.

The UNC Media Board is accepting applications for a new editor for The Phoenix. Interested students should come to 108 Union or call 962-0222 and speak to James Farrer of Guy Lucas.

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