

Craicmore Celtic Yuletide Celebration

On December 14, 2013, the Craicmore performed their “Celtic Yuletide Celebration” concert at Clatskanie Middle/Senior High School’s Donovan Wooley Performing Arts Center. Filled with seasonal songs and tales, this traditional Irish and Scottish music celebration, sponsored by the Clatskanie Arts Commission (CAC), mapped out the roots of classic American Christmas traditions to their Celtic origins. Songs on the playlist included *The Wassail Song, Sleigh Ride and I Saw Three Ships*. Craicmore also shared the origins of Gaelic Yuletide traditions such as the history of mistletoe, and holly and ivy. They led the audience in a sing-along of the *12 Days of Christmas*, and entertained them with a traditional Irish Christmas farewell and a set of jigs.

Just prior to the concert, Craicmore held a special one-hour free workshop, “Celtic Connections,” open to aspiring musicians of both instruments and vocals. Through the workshop, Craicmore promoted an engaging program open to all ages and interest groups including emerging musicians, historians, and those who enjoy good music. They encouraged attendees to study the music, including how it’s made and where it comes from, giving the opportunity for the music to be heard, appreciated and enjoyed.

Lively question & answers during the session involving students and adults provided direct and honest dialogue with the Craicmore artists. This program has been shared with over 65,000 students in more than 280 performances by this world-renowned group based in California since they began in 1992.

Pictured left to right standing onstage in front of an interactive world map, used during the workshop to demonstrate along with vocal and musical presentation how traditions and geography are a positive influence that diverse cultures can have on each other, are performer John MacAdams, local students Jackson Huntley (holding his recorder), Lucie Huntley and Natasha Wehrley, and performers Nancy Johnson (holding a Bohdran drum), Dave Champagne and Sean FayeCullen.

One mission of Craicmore is to promote cultural understanding and help listeners realize the benefits and positive influence diversity can have. By incorporating traditional

Irish and Scottish music, and by using simple vocalizations, Craicmore identifies the influence Celtic music has had on the musical world, and its incorporation into other genres as well.

As a group, the Craicmore has performed together for more than fourteen years. They have been on the stage of the Tonight Show, and their music has been heard on the sets of How I Met Your Mother, Without a Trace, and Days of Our Lives. Presented in part of the CACs 25th Performing Arts Season, the performance received grant support from the Oregon Cultural Trust administered through the Columbia County Cultural Coalition, and a grant was also received from the Clatskanie Chamber of Commerce. For more information regarding Craicmore or any other CAC events, please call 503.728.3403, or visit the Clatskanie Arts Commission webpage at: www.clatskaniearts.org



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