

MASS MoCA

NEWS RELEASE

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Liam Ó Maonlái

Irish on Tap for St. Patrick's Day



North Adams, Massachusetts — As the front man of the legendary band Hothouse Flowers, the devastatingly charming singer-songwriter-raconteur Liam Ó Maonlái has done as much as anyone to connect traditional Irish music with rock and roll. He took MASS MoCA's 2014 FreshGrass Festival by storm, singing half his solo set in Gaelic. Now he's back, with some Hothouse bandmates in tow, for a very special St. Patrick's Day show. **Liam Ó Maonlái** performs at MASS MoCA on **Tuesday, March 17, at 8pm**.

One of Ireland's most celebrated musicians, Ó Maonlái is treasured worldwide for prodigious musical talent and a lifelong dedication to Irish language and tradition. His music fuses Irish flutes, traditional drums, and mystical, ethereal Gaelic singing with rock, soul, pop, and world music. Renowned for poetic songwriting, Ó Maonlái's music is as interesting as it is beautiful, with heartfelt, thought-provoking lyrics that run the gamut from upbeat and capricious to introspective and profound. *The Independent* says, "Liam Ó Maonlái looks at the world from his unique, oblique angle which results in interesting insights and beautiful music."

During a career that spans over two decades, Ó Maonlái has had number one hits in over twenty countries, and collaborated with a host of notable musicians, including U2, Rolf Harris, and Van Morrison. From stadium stages to intimate club shows, Ó Maonlái never fails to enchant audiences with his charismatic and captivating stage presence, old-soul sincerity, and passionate musicianship. Indeed, he captivated our festival audience with just his voice and a hand drum. The crowd was nearly riotous after his abbreviated set.

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Born in Dublin, Ó Maonlái grew up speaking Irish fluently with his parents, who exposed him to music early in life. In 1979, he formed his first band, Irish punk-rock group The Complex, which disbanded in 1984 and saw two members join successful rock band My Bloody Valentine. In 1985, Ó Maonlái and a classmate, Fiachna Ó Braonáin, formed Hothouse Flowers, one of Ireland's most successful rock bands. Ó Maonlái is still active as the pianist and lead singer of Hothouse Flowers. The band has released seven albums, and won the Gradam Shlogadh, an Irish music award. In 2005, Ó Maonlái released his first solo album, *Rian*, an Irish-language collection of traditional songs from his childhood. In 2007, he recorded *To Be Touched* with the help of Once's Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglová.

Liam Ó Maonlái performs in MASS MoCA's Club B-10 on **Tuesday, March 17, at 8pm**. Dinner and snacks are available from Lickety Split before and during the show. A full bar serves Berkshire Brewing Company beers and Berkshire Mountain Distillery spirits. Tickets are \$5 for members, \$8 for students, \$12 in advance, \$18 day of, and \$24 preferred. Tickets for all events are available through the MASS MoCA box office located on Marshall Street in North Adams, open 11am - 5pm Wednesdays through Mondays; closed Tuesdays through spring 2015. Tickets can also be charged by phone by calling 413.662.2111 during box office hours or purchased online at massmoca.org. All events are held rain or shine.

Sponsorship

This performance is sponsored by the Porches Inn at MASS MoCA.

Images

High-resolution images of MASS MoCA's Spring 2015 events are available through this link:

<http://bit.ly/1ByVwVx>.

About MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest (and largest) centers for making and enjoying today's most important art, music, dance, theater, film, and video. Hundreds of works of visual and performing art have been created on its 19th-century factory campus during fabrication and rehearsal residencies, making MASS MoCA among the most productive sites in the country for the creation and presentation of new art. More platform than box, MASS MoCA strives to bring to its audiences art experiences that are fresh, engaging, and transformative.

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MASS MoCA's galleries are open 11am to 5pm every day except Tuesdays. The Hall Art Foundation's Anselm Kiefer exhibition is open seasonally beginning spring 2015. Gallery admission is \$18 for adults, \$16 for veterans and seniors, \$12 for students, \$8 for children 6 to 16, and free for children 5 and under. Members are admitted free year-round. For additional information, call 413.662.2111 x1 or visit massmoca.org.

Additional

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