

NEWS



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LEGENDS OF THE CELTIC HARP IN SUNNYVALE JANUARY 14

Patrick Ball, Lisa Lynne and Aryeh Frankfurter perform together

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Three of the world’s top Celtic harpers, Patrick Ball, Lisa Lynne and Aryeh Frankfurter, will perform together at Sunnyvale Theatre on Saturday, January 14, at 8 p.m. in a new show celebrating the music and myths of the fabled instrument.

The ancient Celtic harp nearly disappeared when Ireland was made part of the United Kingdom, under English rule, more than 200 years ago. Much of the traditional music, handed down through generations of harpers but never been transcribed onto paper, was lost. Since the 1970s, historians and harpers have worked to revive the instrument and its forgotten melodies.

Award-winning harper and storyteller Patrick Ball, who has performed annually in Sunnyvale for more than 20 seasons, has played a major role in re-introducing the harp. Ball, who has sold more than half a million copies of his instrumental and spoken-word

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albums world-wide, will perform on his rare wire-strung harp and recount myths, legends and history of the Celtic harp.

Multi-instrumentalists Lisa Lynne and her frequent collaborator Aryeh Frankfurter are also internationally recognized Celtic harpers. Both were rock musicians who first heard the Celtic harp at Renaissance fairs.

Lynne, who also performs on the Irish bazouki and mandolin in this show, is a New Age music chart-topper with recordings on the prestigious Windham Hill label. Lynne has been widely profiled in the national media for her innovative work in music therapy. Her original harp scores are heard on soundtracks, including the award-winning PBS series *Alone in the Wilderness*, and many commercial television and independent films. She began her musical career as a bass player in a heavy-metal band.

Aryeh Frankfurter, who also performs in the cittern and the seldom-heard Swedish nyckelharpa in this show, studied classical violin from the age of 3 and played electric violin in the progressive rock band Azigza. His uncommon approach to Celtic harp has earned him invitations to perform private concerts for royalty, including Prince Charles and Lady Camilla Parker Bowles, and for festival audiences of thousands.

The first half of the *Legends of the Celtic Harp* show will include stories, memoirs and vignettes with works by anonymous composers and pieces by Turlough O'Carolan, a blind harpist who lived from 1670 to 1738 and has been called the "last of the Irish Bards." The second set features Ursula K. LeGuin's story *Gwilan's Harp*, haunting and bittersweet fairytale about a young Irish harpist who traveled between rural villages serenading the people in 1000 AD.

The intimate Sunnyvale Theatre is located at the Community Center, 550 E. Remington Drive, between El Camino Real and Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road. General admission tickets are \$28. Discount tickets for students and seniors are \$22. Single Subscriptions start at \$80. All Evenings of Cultural Arts programs are Saturdays at 8 p.m. Group discounts are available. For tickets, please phone the Sunnyvale Theatre Box Office at

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(408) 733-6611. The Box Office is open Monday – Friday, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., and two hours prior to shows. For additional information, call the Sunnyvale Theatre Administrative Office at (408) 730-7725, TDD (408) 730-7501, or visit *Arts.inSunnyvale.com* on the Web.

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