



Friday, February 28, 2020, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

The Chieftains

Tonight's performance will be performed without intermission and last approximately 90 minutes.

Cal Performances' 2019–20 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

This year marks **The Chieftains'** 58th anniversary. Since 1962, they have won six Grammy Awards and been highly recognized for reinventing traditional Irish music on a contemporary and international scale. Their ability to transcend musical boundaries to blend tradition with modern music has established them as one of the most renowned and revered musical groups of our time.

As cultural ambassadors, their performances have been linked with seminal historic events, such as being the first Western musicians to perform on the Great Wall of China, participating in Roger Water's *The Wall* performance in Berlin in 1990, and being the first ensemble to perform a concert in the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. In 2010, their experimental collaborations extended to outer space, when Paddy Moloney's whistle and Matt Molloy's flute traveled with NASA astronaut Cady Coleman to the international space station.

Although their early following was predominantly a folk audience, the range and variation of their music and accompanying musicians quickly captured a much broader audience, elevating their status to that of fellow Irish band, U2.

In Ireland, they have been involved in many major occasions, such as Pope John Paul II's visit to the country in 1979, when they performed to

an audience of over 1.3 million, and in 2011, as part of the historic visit to Ireland of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. In 2012, marking The Chieftains' 50th anniversary, they were awarded the inaugural National Concert Hall Lifetime Achievement Award at a gala event in Philadelphia hosted by the American Ireland Fund "in recognition of their tremendous contribution to the music industry worldwide and the promotion of the best of Irish culture."

To celebrate their 50th anniversary, The Chieftains once again invited friends from all musical styles to collaborate on their most recent album, *Voice of Ages*. Featuring some of modern music's fastest rising artists (Bon Iver, The Decemberists, and Paolo Nutini among them), this album is proof that their music transcends not only stylistic and traditional boundaries, but generations as well.

The Chieftains are never afraid to shock purists and push genre boundaries and the trappings of fame have not altered their love of, and loyalty to, their roots; and they are as comfortable playing spontaneous Irish sessions at local pubs as they are headlining concerts at Carnegie Hall. After 58 years of making some of the most beautiful music in the world, The Chieftains' music remains as fresh and relevant as when they first began.