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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents Celtic Nights,
a majestic mix of music, storytelling and lively Irish step dance**

*Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Celtic Nights, telling the rich story of Irish emigration
to America, on Saturday, March 15*

PHILADELPHIA — Drawn from the history, folklore and culture of Ireland and its Celtic cousins, the **Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts'** St. Patrick's Day weekend presentation of **Celtic Nights: A Night of Music, Song and Dance** (March 15) takes audiences on a stunning musical journey of leaving and arriving.

Weaving together lilting melodies and plaintive lyrics against a thunderous backdrop of Irish step dance, Celtic Nights employs Ireland's most promising singers and accomplished dancers to tell the story of the Celtic people's emigration from Ireland to America and their trials and triumphs along the way.

From bluegrass to polka, country to the songs of the Civil War, a vast variety of American sounds have been inspired and influenced by Irish music; Celtic Nights audiences can expect old favorites like "Danny Boy" and "Whiskey in the Jar" as well as some surprise numbers. An "unmissable spectacular" that brings "audiences to their feet all around the world" (*The Guardian*), the two-hour showcase is performed by three male and three female vocalists, six of Ireland's most talented dancers, and an ensemble of fine musicians. An artist meet-and-greet will follow the performance.

The Annenberg Center's 13/14 season continues with **BODYTRAFFIC** (April 3-5), **Ghost Train Orchestra** (April 12), **Malavika Sarukkai** (April 12), the **Philadelphia International Children's Festival** (April 30-May 4) and **MOMIX** (May 8-11). For more information and a full season listing, visit annenbergcenter.org.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Celtic Nights: A Night of Music, Song and Dance

Saturday, March 15, 8 PM

120-minute performance with 20-minute intermission; post-show meet-and-greet with the artists

\$20-\$55 (Prices are subject to change)

Tickets to Celtic Nights are available by calling 215.898.3900, visiting annenberghcenter.org or stopping by the Box Office at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 3680 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

ABOUT THE ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts has been the region's leading multi-disciplinary performance venue for theatre, dance, jazz, world music, new music and children's programming since its inception in 1971. The Annenberg Center's curatorial vision emphasizes four primary values: artistic integrity, cultural diversity, curatorial balance and a willingness to take risks. By presenting world-renowned and cutting edge artists and companies that express adventuresome perspectives on contemporary issues, timeless ideas and diverse cultures, the Annenberg Center promotes critical thinking and dialogue among its audiences, creating a uniquely rewarding arts experience.

The Annenberg Center has achieved national recognition for its outstanding Dance Celebration series (presented in partnership with Philadelphia's Dance Affiliates), touring theatre series, and for its superior offerings for children, including both its Student Discovery Series and the acclaimed 30-year Philadelphia International Children's Festival, the oldest festival of its kind in the United States.

Generous support for the 13/14 Annenberg Center season is provided by The William Penn Foundation, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, The Philadelphia Foundation, PNC, The Philadelphia Phillies, The National Endowment for the Arts and The University of Pennsylvania as well as many individual donors. The Sheraton University City is the exclusive hotel sponsor.

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To request interviews, photos and more information, please contact:
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