

## THE WEEKEND

### FRIDAY



Kirk Hanley performs with the Second City Touring Company 8 p.m. at the Farmington Players Barn, 32932 W. 12 Mile, (1/2 mile west of Orchard Lake Road), Farmington Hills. Tickets \$25 per person, includes afterglow with refreshments. Proceeds benefit the Farmington Players' building fund. Call (248) 653-2956.

### SATURDAY

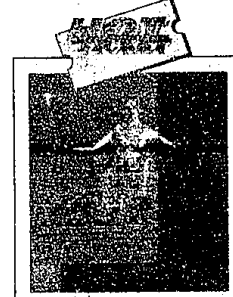


Gladys Knight stars in the Grammy Award-winning musical "Smoochy Joe's Cafe," a celebration of hits from the 1950s and 1960s, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Tickets \$20 to \$45, available at the box office, and all Ticketmaster locations, (248) 433-1515.

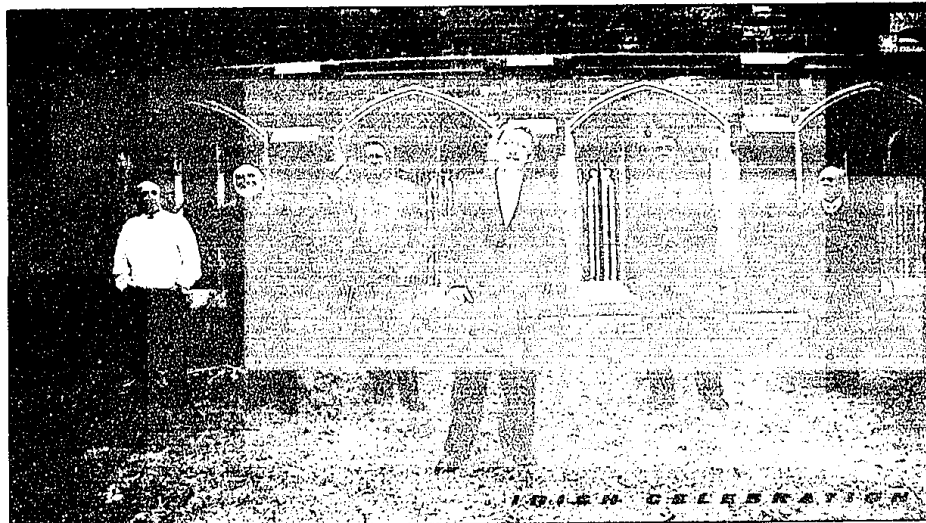
### SUNDAY



Paul Ripiello (left) and Thomas Hoagland star in "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," 2 p.m. at the Performance Network, 408 W. Washington, Ann Arbor. Tickets \$15, \$3 discount for senior citizens, (734) 663-0681.



Hot Ticket Item: Wish upon a star and the dazzling Blue Fairy from "Pinocchio" makes dreams come true in "Disney on Ice Celebrates 75 Years of Disney Magic," through Sunday, March 6, at the Louis Arena in Detroit. Show times vary. Tickets \$35, \$18.75, \$16.75 and \$13.75. Call (248) 646-8668 or online www.ticketmaster.com. For more information, call (313) 983-8606 or online www.olympianentertainment.com.



# THE Chieftains

DRAW FOR TRADITION

Irish roots: The Chieftains play the traditional music of their homeland.

## The Chieftains

**Where:** 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 8.  
**Where:** Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor.  
**Tickets:** \$12 to \$30. Call (734) 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229 or visit the Web site www.ums.org

BY LINDA ANN CHROMIN  
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If Paddy Moloney were in Ireland, he'd go to Mass on St. Patrick's Day and then watch a small parade wend its way through 'town - a sprig of shamrock tucked into his lapel.

Since he can't go home on March 17, Moloney and the Chieftains (Matt Molloy, Seán Keane, Derek Bell, Kevin Connolly, and Martin Fay) will think of their country's green hills while playing traditional Irish music in a concert for the University Musical Society series Wednesday, March 8, in Ann Arbor. The Chieftains are on the road promoting their new album, "Water From the Well." They'll celebrate St. Patrick's Day as they have for the past 20 years at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Never in his wildest imagination did Moloney think the band's appeal would cause them to tour eight months a year. Long before anyone had heard of U2 and Thin Lizzy, the Chieftains were well on their way to becoming the most beloved Irish band in the last four decades. Their 36 albums - for which they've won six Grammys - have sold millions of copies.

"When we first started playing together 36 years ago, who would have ever have dreamed that our traditional Irish music would be played throughout the world?" said Moloney in a phone interview from Boston. "Coming back to Ann Arbor is going to be a joy. We have a

great following there, and we'd like to invite your wonderful traditional musicians to come two hours before the show so they might come down and join us for the finale."

"Riverdance" fiddler Mairín Fyeh and award-winning step dancers Danny Golden and Dierdra Gould, along with students from the O'Hare School of Dance in Westland, will join the Chieftains on stage. Tim O'Hare, an Irish step dancer and owner of the dance school, toured with the Chieftains two summers ago. O'Hare won the All-Ireland World Championships in 1975 and 1976.

**Great opportunity**

"Before Irish dancing and music was really popular, the Chieftains were the premier Irish group," said O'Hare. "It's a great opportunity for the students to dance with them."

"Water from the Well" is a departure from the last few Chieftains' recordings - "Tears of Stone" and "The Long Black Veil" - on which they collaborated with performers ranging from Mick Jagger to Sting and Joni Mitchell. The Chieftains have a history of working with performers in the studio and on the concert stage. Michael Flatley danced with the band seven years before earning acclaim as "Lord of the Dance."

Although they've never strayed far from their roots, the Chieftains' "Water From the Well," released on Feb. 22 on RCA Victor, revisits the traditional folk

songs of their birth land with stories about a red-haired lass and wild goats that roam the hills of County Kerry. A musical tour of Ireland that goes back as far as the 17th century, the album was recorded half in the studio and half in counties and towns throughout Ireland. The lead cut, "Lots of Drops of Brandy," is Moloney's favorite because "it's a very old Irish tune" that he rearranged "to show how great the music is."

"We're going back to the well and what we started 38 years ago," said Moloney, who produced the recording. "It was difficult to put together the array of some of these great tunes. You could go down the road 30 miles and hear a different tune."

**Documenting the journey**

A film crew from Dreamchasers followed the Chieftains around the countryside including Matt Molloy's pub in County Mayo. Molloy is flutist for the group. The documentary on the making of "Water From the Well" will be shown on A&E this spring.

"We had 25 in a room at the back of the pub, sort of a big band sound of traditional music," said Moloney. "The documentary was to show the likes of the sound by meeting up with the Charlie Parkers and Miles Davies of traditional Irish music."

Moloney fell in love with the music as a child when his mother bought him a tin

Please see CHIEFTAINS, E2

## CONCERT

# Musicians share passion for British brass bands

BY LINDA ANN CHROMIN  
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Craig Strain fell in love with brass instruments the first time he picked up a cornet in seventh grade while attending school in Garden City.

Throughout his 27-year career teaching music in high schools, Strain looked forward to the day he could direct a brass band. His dream came true four years ago when he took the reins of the Motor City Brass Band.

"In a brass band, there's a sonority you can gain that you can't get with other instruments," said Strain, a Farmington Hills resident who teaches music at Macomb Community College. "It's like a choir. With each brass instrument there's a little different color, but it retains the sameness. As the Motor City Brass Band, we want to be the best possible band that we can be. There's a mood in the band, a passion for excellence, and a camaraderie between members that co-exists."

Last year, the 88-member group placed second at the North American Brass Band Association

competition. Based at the Southfield Centre for the Arts, the band presents a series of four concerts a year. Its members - attorneys, sales people, retired band directors and musicians - share a passion for playing in the British brass band tradition. They live throughout the Detroit area including Livonia, Westland and Redford.

### Revolutionary roots

Michael Schott, a Farmington Hills resident, loves British brass band music. Rooted in the Industrial Revolution, British brass bands were originally formed by workers who lived in villages, which lacked the entertainment of a big city.

Schott started studying euphonium while attending Clarenceville Public Schools in Livonia. He played in the Michigan State University band while attending college, and he played with the Farmington Community Band for 17 years before joining the Motor City Brass Band.

"We think it's unique, this British brass band concept," said Schott. "Brass bands were popular



British brass: Keith Kohring leads the Motor City Brass Band as they play music in the British brass band tradition, which originated during the Industrial Revolution.

Please see BRASS, E2