

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC

"They are ... a veritable folk orchestra" with 25 years performing experience



<http://www.mcdermottshandy.com>

Performances

New Jersey Folk Festival, New Brunswick; Waterfront Arts Festival, Camden ; Bethlehem MusikFest; Irish Music & Dance Festival, Philadelphia; South Jersey Irish Music and Dance Festival, Atlantic City; Celtic River Festival, Gloucester, NJ; Glen Echo Park Irish Festival, Glen Echo, MD; Raritan River Festival, Perth Amboy, NJ; Middletown Folk Festival, NJ; Lake Fred Folk Festival, Pomona NJ; Appel Farm, Circlewood Coffeehouse, Minstrel Show, The Troubadour ; Mom & Pop's Coffeeshouse; Cat 'n Fiddle Coffeehouse, Luke's Place Coffeehouse; Cumberland County Performing Arts Center; Watchung Arts Center; Painted Bride Arts Center, Philadelphia; Down Jersey Folklife Center, Millville; Mine Street Coffeehouse, Minstrel Show Coffeehouse; Penns Landing, Philadelphia; Collingswood Library, Oaklyn Library, East Brunswick Library, Millville Library, Philadelphia Free Public Library, Tom's River First Night, Medford Eve New Year's, Historic Village of Allaire, Cold Spring Village, Wheaton Village, Millville; Mauricetown Historical Society, Bucks County Irish-American Cultural Society, Burlington County College, Rutgers University, Lasalle University, Irish Chamber of Commerce USA, Philadelphia; Irish Famine Memorial Opening Gala, Philadelphia; Jeannie Johnston welcome, Philadelphia

Recording Credits

McDermott's Handy: *Come Take the Byroads*
Kathy DeAngelo: *Harpers Escape 10 Years of Tunes*
with Debbie Brewin-Wilson and Gráinne Hambly
Dennis Gormley: *Uncommon Bonds* (Mick Moloney & Eugene O'Donnell), *Travels with Broudy* (Saul Broudy), *With Her Head Tucked Underneath Her Arm* (Caryl P. Weiss)

McDermott's Handy

Kathy DeAngelo and Dennis Gormley are a superbly talented multi-instrumental duo who are as at ease playing the traditional Irish dance music as they are with singing songs and ballads in Irish or English. With a stage presence honed by more than 25 years of experience performing in a wide variety of venues and in front of audiences of all ages, this pair always brings a refreshingly energy to their concerts. They are seasoned professionals who really enjoy their music and have no trouble conveying that to their audience!

Kathy DeAngelo plays mainly Irish harp, fiddle, and banjo and adds the bodhran or mandolin on occasion. She has a commanding and expressive voice that belies her diminutive stature and sings in English as well as Irish. Although she started playing guitar and folk music as a teenager, it was her meeting Irish fiddler Ed McDermott in 1971 that sparked a lifelong passion for Irish traditional music. She started on the fiddle in 1977 and took up the harp in 1984. She has been actively engaged on the New Jersey folk music scene since the early '70s and is well known in folk harp circles as a performer, teacher and event organizer.

Husband **Dennis Gormley** had a long-standing performing career on the Philadelphia folk scene prior to meeting his wife and taking up Irish music in the late '70s. A talented multi-instrumentalist, he is the most tasteful guitarist and is an accomplished flute and tinwhistle player with a huge repertoire of tunes He also is quite handy on the bouzouki and mandolin. Dennis does some fine singing in English and Irish and is just as comfortable with an unaccompanied ballad as with the harp and guitar backing him up.

Available for : Concerts, school programs, libraries, weddings, corporate functions, private engagements

"They are ... a veritable folk orchestra"

The Irish Echo newspaper

To Book McDermott's Handy

Please Contact: Kathy DeAngelo, 856-795-7637,
kathy@harpagency.com www.harpagency.com

BOUND FOR AMERIKAY



Photo: The Irish Memorial, Philadelphia

The Irish Emigrant Experience: Coming to America as told through Music, Song & Story

McDermott's Handy

"Their music took the facts about immigration and transferred them into the emotion and experience."—Marie Ely, living history coordinator, Strawbridge School PTA

What must it have been like? How did it feel to leave everyone and everything that is familiar to go off to a fabled land of freedom with streets paved with gold and untold wealth and opportunity? What was it like—that journey to America?

McDermott's Handy has been collecting the music, stories and songs about "going to America" for more than 25 years and integrating this music into their concerts. Now they have assembled this broad repertoire into a distinctive musical program in order to tell the emigrants' story. This is the Irish viewpoint, to be sure, but in essence it is the story of *every* ethnic group who struggled in their homeland against political upheaval and repression, endured grinding poverty and racial or religious persecution to build a new life in America and something better for their children.

They were happy to leave. They were heartbroken to leave. They were mostly young. And it was not easy when they got here. They toiled and worked at the dangerous jobs or the ones that nobody wanted, all in the hope of building a future. Every immigrant then became part of the patchwork quilt of America—each contributing a distinct color and texture to the fabric of American culture. And now we're here to sing their stories.

Target Audience: the program can be tailored for schools (by age group), historical and heritage societies, libraries and concert settings

Duration: 30-60 minutes, depending on the audience and venue.

Their songs tell their stories

Excerpts from some of the songs used in the program

"We were taken on board by a pleasant crew, bound for Amerikay. Fresh water then we did take on, 5000 gallons or more—in case we grew short, going to New York, far away from the Shamrock Shore."

"But to live poor I could not endure, like others of my station. For Amerikay, I sailed away and left this Irish nation."

"Your sons and your daughters are now going away and thousands are sailing to Amerikay."

"No longer digging praties (potatoes), I'll be digging lumps of gold."

"When I landed in Philadelphia the girls all jumped for joy!"

"In her little bag she carried all her past and history—and her dreams for the future in the land of liberty."

To Book McDermott's Handy

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AN IRISH CHRISTMAS



McDermott's Handy, one of the premier traditional Irish music bands in New Jersey, has been building and performing their Christmas music program for more than two decades. And now, for these once-a-year concerts, they create a unique family band with their daughter, Emma Gormley, joining them on fiddle and vocals.

Sampling of the Program Repertoire

The Holly & the Berry
Oíche Nollaig
The Wren Boys Song
Christmas Comes But
Once a Year
Christmas Eve Reel
Dark December
Drive the Cold Winter
Away
The Wexford Carol
The Christmas Letter
Auld Lang Syne

Target Audiences:
Libraries
Cultural & Historical
Societies
Performing Arts Centers
Coffeeshouses

Christmas Comes But Once a Year!

A perfect holiday concert program
for your venue

Kathy DeAngelo and **Dennis Gormley** have been performing traditional Irish music together as McDermott's Handy since 1978. Their Christmas music program is a natural extension of their passion for the wonderful varieties of Irish traditional music and their talent for synthesizing the rich cultural lore of the season into a rollicking holiday house party, right in front of the audience. This is not the music you're likely to hear at the mall!

The holidays are all about family so it's no wonder they would be joined in these performances by their daughter Emma, who has been attending these holiday concerts since she was a baby, and now plays fiddle and is a lovely singer. The mother & daughter twin fiddles are awesome! This concert is a blend of lively dance tunes, songs with the kind of choruses to make you sing along, and poignant stories about some of the customs that are now part of the seasonal tradition. You'll hear the harp, fiddles, flute, tinwhistle, guitar, bouzouki and bodhran.

Kathy and Dennis wrote the scripts and performed for the popular Joys of Christmas Past program at the Historic Village of Allaire for many years. They have also performed this concert at: The Watchung Arts Center, Gloucester Township Library, Mom & Pop's Coffeeshouse, Wheaton Village, and for the Delaware Valley chapter of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and the Colts Neck Historical Society.

Limited Time to Book For December Engagements!

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THE HARP & SHAMROCK



The Harp in Irish History **Kathy DeAngelo**

Ireland is the only country in the world with a musical instrument, the harp, as its national emblem. From the time the Celts arrived in Ireland in 5th century BC with their harp-like instruments, music has inextricably been linked with their history: warriors and scholars, pagans and poets, conquerors and conquered.

This program takes a musical journey through Irish history with a wide variety harp repertoire, folk songs, and Irish music styles that tell the story of the Irish. Significant historic events have always been captured in folk songs. The early harpers had an exalted and honored status in Irish society and they and their music are known in tales and legends. The later conquest of Ireland and the misfortunes of its harpers are reflected in the music of the 17th and 18th century. Then the Great Famine and '98 Rebellion saw the harp's near extinction and its elevation in the patriots' psyche and nationalists' and emigrants' fervor to "unchain the harp".

A Sampling of the Material

The otherworldly powers of music: the early Celtic sagas and harpers and the meaning of geantraí, goltraí and suantraí.

14th century: Musical consequences of the Norman Conquest

1200-1600: The Bardic Tradition & the Gaelic Order

17th & 18th century: the music of Carolan and the last harpers of the period; influence of baroque music in Ireland and the decline of the old Irish order and music of the '98 Rebellion.

19th century: The Great Famine and Emigration reflected in music, song and story. The Harp & the Shamrock of the nationalist movement.

20th century to present: the Irish music revival and resurgence of the harp in traditional music.

To Book Kathy DeAngelo

Please Call You Gotta Have Harp Productions
at 856-795-7637

kathy@harpagency.com www.harpagency.com

About the Presenter

Kathy DeAngelo has been playing the Irish harp since 1984 and traditional Irish music since 1971. She is half of the music duo McDermott's Handy, which has been performing together since 1978.

Kathy is a well-respected teacher of Irish music on the harp and fiddle. She is the founder and director of the nationally-recognized harp retreat called 'The Harpers' Escape and she teaches and performs at other harp conferences as well. She directs the Delaware Valley Celtic Harp Orchestra and has been producing harp concerts in the Delaware Valley for a number of years. She runs You Gotta Have Harp Productions, which represents and promotes harp-playing artists.

Kathy has 2 CDs and has published a music book of traditional music arranged for harp. The NJ Council of the Arts awarded her a Folk Arts apprenticeship grant for study on 18th century Irish harp repertoire with noted Irish harper Gráinne Hambly.

