



SPRINGFIELD AREA
ARTS COUNCIL

Enriching the community through the arts – Serving Sangamon & Menard counties

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February 19, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for the wonderful Celtic-Americana duo Switchback. The Springfield Area Arts Council was fortunate to secure a series of performances with them in December and I'm pleased to report that all feedback was very positive. Their educational residency with us included performances at four local elementary schools: Hope Learning Center, St. Patrick Elementary, McClernand Primary and Wanless Primary.

"The performance was high interest, modern, fast-paced – excellent." Hope Learning Center (5-22 year olds with multiple disabilities)

"Personable, well prepared, knowledgeable of their work. Students were very engaged and interested in the program. Very good!" St. Patrick Elementary (K-7th grades)

While they were in town for the educational programs, they also made an appearance at the Arts Council reception for First Night volunteers and sponsors. It was certainly not expected of them, but we were so appreciative of the time they spent with our constituents. They were very friendly and spent a great deal of time visiting with attendees. It also help build interest in their follow-up appearances at the First Night Springfield family activities and evening concert later in the month.

I personally witnessed the performance during the First Night family activities, held in the afternoon of December 31. Children and adults alike really seemed to connect with Switchback; dancing to the music and participating whenever asked. Feedback from the evening concert was also tremendous and we've received several requests to include them on our lineup for next year. The performances themselves were of the highest caliber despite the venues which included a bank lobby and a high school cafeteria. I sensed that these performers would give 100% whether they were performing for children in a classroom or in a state-of-the-art recital hall for season subscribers.

Brian and Marty are not only consummate professionals in their field, they are delightful performers and lovely human beings. Additionally, their management team is a pleasure to work with; organized and timely in their communications. I would highly recommend Switchback to any presenter, and look forward to working with them myself again in the future.

Many Regards,

Christina L. Steelman

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