

Switchback Returns to Play at the Majestic Coleman Theatre

By Shelly Sparks

The beautifully restored, historical Coleman Theater in downtown Miami, Oklahoma played host again to the enchanting music of Switchback. With the unmatched acoustical perfection the theatre structure provides, paired with the talent of Martin McCormack and Brian Fitzgerald, pure magic was achieved.

The audience was taken on an enchanted journey through the beautiful countryside and spectacular architecture of the beautiful lands of Ireland by a slideshow of outstanding pictures shown on the titanic screen behind them. They played many traditional and original Irish Ballads and jigs and told stories of the adventures of the

people they sing about.

Both Martin and Brian stand on shallow wooden platforms, called Stomp Boxes, during much of the show. It produces the unique percussion sounds heard in a lot of their songs and they play it by stomping their feet to a beat. They both play acoustic and electric guitars and Brian's mandolin adds a pure Celtic sound that's heard in every note he plays. Martins' crystal clear tone is hauntingly beautiful and he often sings without a microphone. Songs like "Danny Boy" are sung this way by the classically trained Tenor and is achieved with sheer perfection of every note.

McCormack and Fitzgerald are both married and enjoy quality time at home. They also enjoy the disciplines of both Yoga and

Tai-Chi, which helps them stay healthy and fit with their heavy schedule.

The Duo spends a lot of time with their many fans and friends of the business with fabulous annual events held every year. Taking cruises down the Mississippi, playing intimate cave concerts, sponsoring trips and "rondys" all over the world and songwriting workshops where they pass on their talent and passion to others, plus volunteering their time and talent to help the communities where they're playing are just a few of the things Switchback shares.

They have a super website with schedules, photos and all the information about what Switchback is all about and can be found at www.waygoodmusic.com. You can also purchase any or all of the 16 CDs they

have put out since 1994 or book them for an upcoming event in your area.

Whether you're Irish or not, you will be moved by the unforgettable talent of these remarkable musicians who are loved in Canada, America, Ireland and wherever their music is played. They are scheduled to return to The Coleman Theatre next year in April, so plan to attend.

The Coleman Theater is a beautiful landmark as well as an important part of the history of Miami, Oklahoma. Barbara Smith, with the help of her staff and the many volunteers, have made the Coleman Theatre a beautiful venue and valuable asset to folks in NE Oklahoma and surrounding area and The Chronicle would like to thank them for being remarkable hosts and supporters.



On the Titanic size screen at the Coleman Theatre, beautiful scenes of the band and places they visited on one of their annual tours of Ireland were shown during the show. The beauty of the Emerald Isle was truly welcoming.



Traditional Irish humor and comedy was part of the story told by the American born Irish rooted sensation... Switchback.



Beautiful old world architectural masterpieces can be found across the countryside of Ireland.

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