New England's live Irish music scene
by Jack Hickey

'Celtic Folk' play to top audiences

The Celtic Folk, one of the most popular American-based Irish groups, have recently added a new member to their ranks. The group, formerly comprised of the O'Flaherty brothers from Galway, have added Noel Nash a very talented and accomplished musician.

This remarkable folk band has been one of the most consistently popular Irish groups now playing in the United States. In addition to countless concert and club dates, The Celtic Folk's calendar of special appearances in this country is unprecedented for Irish musicians. They played at the Inaugural Ball for President Reagan; they sang at the National Cathedral for Pope John Paul II; on Irish Awareness Day, they were the sole musical group asked to perform for the throng from the U.S. capital steps; on Solidarity — sharing the platform with only the legendary Pete Seeger — they played before an audience estimated at half a million people. For the past eight years they have been headliners at the Grand Irish Jubilee; they also have made several appearances on national television — most recently singing "Hail to the Redskins" just before the last Super Bowl.

Celtic Folk

Noel Nash is no stranger to the spotlight in his own right. His "Limerick Lady" and "Kerry Victory Song" both found their way to the top of the Irish charts when he was performing as a single. His other hit, "Ballybunion Batchelor," celebrates the famous summer festival in his home town in Co. Kerry. Noel has also performed on RTE (Irish Television), at the Gaeity and Olympia Theatres in Dublin, at the National Concert Hall and all the leading clubs and cabarets around Ireland. He Liam O'Flaherty. Not surprisingly they have brought more than a strain of the wild, bewitching beauty of Connemara to their music. Danny is a very accomplished singer and his expertise on accordion, 12-string guitar and tin whistle are well known. His brother Patrick is an excellent mandolin player.

The Celtic Folk are in the process of releasing their third album called "The Voice of the West." For information on the group's New England appearances or information on their albums contact them c/o Terance Folan, 510 Ranger Road, Lexington Park, Maryland 20653.

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the most beguiling voices in Ireland today. Like other members of the group, she draws from a wide knowledge of contemporary music to infuse traditional with the freshness De Danann is known for. She was a member of the group General Humbert and recorded two albums with them and has also appeared on the album Christy Moore and Friends.

Martin O'Connor replaces Jackie Daly and is a very fine two-row button accordionist. The Galway native has toured with such groups as The Boys of the Lough and Reel Union. He has recorded a solo album, "The Connaughtman's Rambles," on Green Linnet. Brendan Regan is a new name to American audiences but is regarded as one of the brightest talents to emerge on the traditional scene in the last few years. As a guitarist and tenor banjo player he has many years of experience touring with bands in Ireland and should fit right in to De Danann. Since the group's debut tour of the U.S. in '76, the group has held a special place in the hearts of American music lovers. Appearances at such diverse venues as New York's Bottom Line, Louisville's Kentucky Fried Chicken Bluegrass Festival, the Annual Milwaukee Irish Fest, and the Walnut Valley Festival in

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