

Mark and Colleen Raney

This versatile brother and sister duo have been playing music together since one of them was only a few months old and the other was in college. With Irish, Scot and English ancestry, these Seattle natives have century old roots in the area and their music reflects their love of tradition and kindred. Colleen and Mark grew up in a family of ten children where music, education, soccer and dance were the fabric of life. **Colleen** went on to train professionally in theatre and voice at the University of Washington's Professional Actor Training Program and now lives in New York City where she is pursuing her career (www.colleenraney.com). She is featured on vocals and also plays the bodhran (Irish drum) and has recently taken up the guitar. **Mark** lives and works as a Country Doctor in Sultan, Washington, and contributes guitar, cittern and pennywhistle along with a mental library of countless songs from the British Isles. Mark studied the ancient art of Irish 'sean nos' song under the legendary Joseph Heaney during the early 1980s. He is a founding member of the Irish band Rapparee (www.seattlerapparee.com) that now includes Colleen and has headlined at F.X. McRory's and the Seattle Centerhouse Irish Heritage Club gala for 30 St. Patrick's Days. In the last few years the group has added performances at the annual Everett Irish Cabaret show each March. Along with their sisters, the Raney Irish Dancers, they completed a nine city tour in December as part of the critically acclaimed Magical Strings Celtic Yuletide concert series.

Rapparee

We are pleased to announce that this year's line up is once again a blend of ingredients that have marked the history of this group through three decades and two generations. Founding members **Mark Raney, Clyde Clevenger, Louanne Fugal, and Emily Keene** will be joined by family and friends **Colleen Raney, Mark Heberlein, Robert Waterhouse, Nicki Clevenger, and Maura Raney**, who travel to the NW from 4 states and 8 cities for this annual reunion tour of appearances. As always, an emphasis on vocal harmonies is tastefully embroidered with the brilliant accompaniment and interpretive abilities of the group's multi-instrumentalists. The broad range of talent in the group allows for on stage adaptation to both the situation and the audience which makes this the most versatile Irish band in the region as well as one of the longest lived. **Louanne Fugal** treks northward from Scio, Oregon with her Traditional Irish Doghouse Bass, clear vocals and infectious smile to add spark and class to the crew. **Robert Waterhouse** travels from his home in the mountains of Oregon where he is resident rocket scientist and fiddle master. Also traveling from Oregon is the unforgettable **Clyde Clevenger** with mandolin in hand and bass harmonies at the ready. This year we will once again be treated to the peerless vocal harmonies and the guitar of **Mark Heberlein** who journeys from his rural Wisconsin farm and medical practice to his second home in the Pacific NW. Multi-instrumentalist and local Celtic music legend **Emily Keene** on fiddle, banjo, mandolin, harmonica, and pennywhistles links it all together. Whether playing the family heirloom fiddle, low whistle or anything else with strings or holes that can make music, she truly embodies the presence and breadth of the great Celtic bards and harpers of the ages. **Nicki Clevenger** steps in with standup bass at the ready for many of the shows. Mark's daughter and vocalist **Maura Raney** survived early childhood imprinting and returns from college in Bellingham for her third year with the group.

When these folks get together, their shows are a delightful blend of the old and the new in Celtic music and culture. Whether it is your first exposure to the music or you come with some experience. You are certainly going to find yourself enchanted and even singing along as they weave a charming fabric of story and song sure to satisfy and delight.

For more information please email rapparee@verizon.net or call Mark Raney at 360.793.3474