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Robbie O'Connell & Dan Milner Sing Irish Love Songs

Saturday, February 13, 2pm at Renee Weiler Concert Hall



Greenwich House Arts announces the first installment of its family concerts series for 2010. On the eve of Valentine's Day, **Saturday, February 13 at 2pm, Robbie O'Connell and Dan Milner** (photo: left) sing traditional ballads and folksongs from Ireland and Irish-America. Additionally, Robbie writes songs that range from poignant to hilarious. The duo is sure to throw in a few others too with all songs relating to love in one way or another.

This performance will be held in the **Renee Weiler Concert Hall at 2pm**. The cost of admission is \$12 general, free to those aged 17 and under, and payable at the door 30 minutes prior to concert time. Renee Weiler Concert Hall is located at 46 Barrow Street, NYC (between Seventh Ave. South and Bedford Street).

Robbie O'Connell, is Irish-America's foremost folk singer. He was born in Waterford and grew up in Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary. Moving to the United States in the 1970s, he joined his uncles, the famous Clancy Brothers, with whom he recorded three albums. With the release, in 1982, of his first solo album, *Close to the Bone*, Robbie emerged as an artist of major stature. Soon after, he began touring extensively with Mick Moloney and Jimmy Keane, and also with Eileen Ivers and Seamus Egan in the Green Fields of America. In 1987, the trio followed up their very successful first release with the album, *Kilkelly*, the title track of which was voted "Best Album Track of the Year" in Ireland. In 1991, he was featured in the highly acclaimed TV series "Bringing It All Back Home." In 1992 he performed at Carnegie Hall with the Clancy Brothers and was also seen by an estimated 500 million people worldwide on the telecast of a live tribute to Bob Dylan at Madison Square Garden, a performance, which Rolling Stone magazine described as "breathtaking." *Never Learned to Dance*, his 1993 album of original songs, was critically acclaimed on both sides of the Atlantic. *Older But No Wiser*, his last CD with the Clancy Brothers was released on Vanguard in 1995, followed in 1997 by the Clancy, O'Connell & Clancy CD and 1998 by *The Wild & Wasteful Ocean*, with Liam and Dónal Clancy. A retrospective collection album, *Recollections, Vol. 1*, was released in 2002.

Dan Milner is a singer, folk song collector and writer. He was born in Birmingham, England in 1945. He lived in Ballybunion, Co. Kerry prior to emigrating first to Canada and then to the United States. After service in the United States Air Force, Dan worked at various posts in the airline industry. His travels have taken him through North America and Western Europe, and exotic places like Greenland, Ecuador, Japan, Lebanon, Iceland and India. A former National Park ranger, Dan was stationed at the Statue of Liberty National Monument and the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. Deeply involved in folk song all his life, both his parents were musical. Bill Milner learned a number of traditional ballads from his maternal grandfather, Patrick McKay of Ennis, Co. Clare. In the early 1970s, Dan became friendly with the well-known Irish singers, Margaret Barry and Joe Heaney. In 1975, he and friends founded the traditional music club at The Eagle Tavern in Greenwich Village, presenting over 500 concerts in ten years, including a who's who of performers from both sides of the Atlantic. Dan Milner is a columnist for *Irish Music* (Ireland) and *Visions: the Journal of New York Folklore*. His writing has also appeared in *The Living Tradition* (Scotland), *The Log of Mystic Seaport* and *Sing Out!* His collection of Irish and British folk songs, *The Bonnie Bunch of Roses* was published in 1983 (Oak). His classic CD, *Irish Ballads & Songs of the Sea*, featuring Louis Killen, Mick Moloney, The Irish Tradition and others was issued in 1998 by Folk-Legacy Records. It was followed by *Irish in America* (2000) with Bob Conroy, and *Irish Songs from Old New England* (2003), which included 13 other fine singers including Martin Carthy, Frank Harte, Robbie O'Connell, Gordon Bok, Louis Killen and Ian Robb. His latest recording, *Irish Pirate Ballads and Other Songs of the Sea* (2009), issued by America's national museum, the Smithsonian Institution, has received lavish praise. Milner has sung at Lincoln Center and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York; festivals in Bremen, Brest, Inishowen, Lancaster, Nenagh, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Sidmouth and Chicago; at folk clubs in Boston, Cork, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow and London; plus a couple of really tough bars in Liverpool.

Robbie O'Connell & Dan Milner met in 1980. The two friends first performed together at the Fete des Chants de Marins in Saint-Jean-Port-Quebec in 2007. Visit <http://robbieoconnell.com/> and <http://www.myspace.com/geomusicology> to learn more.

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!All artists, programs, and concert dates are subject to change.
!!Contact Greenwich House Arts for artist interviews and press materials.

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