



Gorton Community Center

Marty McCormack and Brian Fitzgerald who form the duo SWITCHBACK are absolutely wonderful performers who will make a great addition to the Midwest Arts Council. I first heard them perform just 10 minutes of their work at an Illinois Arts Council Showcase two years ago where they played some of their music and asked for questions from the audience. We all yelled back, "...just keep playing"...which they did, to our delight!

Based on that brief encounter I booked them for my summer series "Serenade under the Stars" in July 2006 where they drew a large audience and were very well received. They play both original work and standards. They performed an Irish Celtic/Americana theme for this show. They are terrific musicians and delight the audience with their stories and their banter. They produce a program with both musical and comedic elements all in one, but their great talent is their musicianship. They bring their own percussive "stomp boxes" and dance while they play and sing. They deliver much more than a typical duo giving a full range of sounds equal to much larger groups.

Marty is a beautiful singer as well as an accomplished guitarist and bassist, and his version of "Danny Boy" brings tears to everyone's eyes and is never forgotten by those who have heard it. Brian is a consummate guitar and mandolin player on his well-worn and beloved instruments, and his technique is both original and mesmerizing. Their original songs are as engaging and entertaining as their renditions of traditional Irish music.

They are also very decent and cooperative people to work with both on and off stage. The audience begged me to book them again which I have; they will be returning to Gorton Center for the Performing Arts in November 2007. We will be doing a themed evening which will include an optional Irish Supper with a Ceili celebration of music, dance, and storytelling, and Brian and Marty will be performing in all these aspects of our program. They have tremendous musical abilities and are popular and effective performers for musical programs ranging from educational school presentations to themed concerts to festivals of all sorts.

They are very genuine in their performances and their love of their art, and their roots in Ireland shine through and make their audience feel great. They truly express their favored way of describing themselves: American roots, Celtic soul.

In short, they deliver.

Submitted by
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