A Southern Celtic Christmas
Featured Nationally on PBS in 2014 and 2015

“Moving, mystical and joyful.” “Hauntingly beautiful.” “A masterpiece.” Just a few of the
viewer responses to the Emmy Award-winning Southern Celtic Christmas.

Produced in Ireland, in the mountains of Appalachia and the stage of the Schwartz
Center for Performing Arts at Emory University, A Southern Celtic Christmas
celebrates in music, dance, poetry, song and story the high spirits and mystical beauty
of the Christmas traditions of the Celtic lands and their connections with similar
traditions of the American South.

Featured in the show are a number of world class artists including three Grammy
Award-winners: “First Lady of Celtic Song” Moya Brennan, bluegrass and Celtic banjo
virtuoso Alison Brown and Riverdance composer Bill Whelan with a stunning choral
setting of a 7th century Irish prayer-poem. Also the soulful gospel harmonies of Rising
Appalachia, madcap percussionist and fiddler Joe Craven and renowned songster John
Doyle in an achingly beautiful ballad that captures the ways in which music and other
cultural traditions gather families and communities together at Christmas.

Of special interest is a rare television appearance by the beloved Nobel Laureate
Seamus Heaney in which he talks about the reverence for nature at the heart of Celtic
spirituality as well as his own poetry. Shepherding us on the whole journey is noted
Yeats scholar and director, Irish tenor and storyteller James Flannery.

“A rollicking yet reverent time”, is how the Atlanta Journal-Constitution describes the
show. Bob Olive, the COO of Georgia Public Broadcasting which has presented A
Southern Celtic Christmas for the past three years, recommends it as “both
entertaining and inspiring, as well as evocative of the Christmas season in a way that
hasn’t previously existed in program offers to stations.”

After seeing the program on PBS last Christmas, a viewer sent a note about his
grandchildren joining in with the Irish step dancers in a piece by Alison Brown
celebrating the discovery of America by a six century Irish saint known as “Brendan the
Navigator”. Another young woman from Glendale, Wisconsin wrote of seeing the
program on Christmas Eve with her mother and grandmother. That morning, shortly
after the program ended, her grandmother passed away. “A beautiful ending to a beautiful life”, was how she put it.

A family entertainment for audiences of all ages and backgrounds, audiences across the country have found *A Southern Celtic Christmas* to be a fun-filled, moving and profoundly meaningful way to celebrate the Holiday Season.