

## The Music Beat

Music news from the Express-News

# Chieftains' show sure to go down as one of year's best

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Matt Molloy (from left), Kevin Conneff and Paddy Moloney of the Irish band The Chieftains play at the Lila Cockrell Theatre on Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012. (Billy Calzada / [gcalzada@express-news.net](mailto:gcalzada@express-news.net))

**The show:** Grammy-winning Irish band The Chieftains at Lila Cockrell Theatre on Wednesday. The legendary, virtuosic band is celebrating its 50th anniversary and a new album, "Voice of Ages."

**First take:** Whether playing festive music appropriate for a jig, novelty country songs or stunning the audience with an astounding harp solo, the Paddy Moloney-led Chieftains delivered what will go down as one of the finest concerts of the year. Among the local guests were the Silver Thistle Pipes & Drums. For his part, Moloney, 73, made mischief with his tin whistle and bagpipes. He was a hoot from beginning to end, especially during the "Toss the Feathers" jam. As the band returned for an encore after a 90-minute set, Moloney looked over the crowd. "Disgraceful, disgraceful, disgraceful — no home to go to?" he joked before closing with "An Dro."

**A tight musical family:** Musicians Matt Malloy, Sean Keane, Kevin Conneff, Jon Pilatzke, Triona Marshall, Jeff White, Deanie Richardson, plus stepdancers Nathan Pilatzke and Cara Butler generated a glorious, joyful sound with Moloney. There were the occasional mournful Irish moments, but this was a night mostly for frivolity, fun and spectacular dancing. Highlights included "Mo Ghile Mear" (from a collaboration with Sting); "Rocky Road to Dublin," complete with an "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" intro; and "I Know My Baby Loves Me in Her Own Peculiar Way."

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