

▶ **Bob Bickerton In Concert**

Specialising in Celtic music, Bob Bickerton has performed at most major concert venues and folk festivals around New Zealand in the past 30 years.

A multi-instrumentalist, typical performances include vocals, guitar, flute, uilleann (Irish) pipes, whistle, harp and bodhran.

Performance repertoire includes traditional and contemporary songs from Ireland and Scotland, foot tapping dance tunes and plaintive airs, self penned songs and tunes, all presented in a warm and humorous way.

He has been a guest at the New Zealand Chamber Music Festival, the Taranaki Arts Festival, the Wanganui Arts Festival, the Marlborough Wine and Food Festival and has performed and recorded with contemporary and ethnic music groups, choirs and orchestras including the NZSO.

His debut CD 'Music In The Glen' was a finalist in the 1996 New Zealand Music Awards as was his latest CD 'The Likes Of Us'.

He has recorded as a session musician on several albums as well as for Radio New Zealand and Television One. Albums he has featured on have been released in the United States, Europe and Russia.

He was a founder member of the popular Irish group 'Gael Force' which performed regularly around New Zealand at concerts and festivals in the 1980's.

His dance band, 'Flying Feet' is kept busy in the Nelson region playing for barn dances and fundraising events.

In the last fourteen years he has he has presented over 2000 performances to over 200,000 students in schools from Auckland to Invercargill.

As a performing arts manager, he has 20 years industry experience, including 10 years full time as General Manager of the Dunedin Sinfonia and Director/General Manager of the Nelson School Of Music.

MORE.....

He was founder and director of the School Of Celtic Music, a founder and convener of the New Zealand Uilleann Pipers Association and founder of Ceol Aneas.

He has given workshops and classes in Irish music and has studied uilleann pipes and flute in Ireland.

In addition to performing, he runs a state of the art digital recording studio in Nelson specialising in acoustic music and provides live sound for festivals and concerts in the Nelson region.

Projects he is currently involved in include North:South, a festival production with Glen Colquhoun and Richard Nunns, Fiona Pears, Cairde, the Tasman Brass Quintet, the Nelson Symphony Orchestra, the Nelson Arts Festival, the Nelson Jazz Festival and the Adam Chamber Music Festival.

MORE AT.....www.bickerton.co.nz

ENDS

For interviews contact Bob Bickerton on 0274 384 048

► Review

Bickerton A Celtic Pied Piper

Bob Bickerton might not have the Gaelic but he's certainly got the blarney - and a load of talent to boot.

The Nelson-based Celtic musician had the 80-plus strong crowd eating out of his hand at Tuatapere's Waiau College on Sunday night.

Instrumentals, song and humour were interlaced with informative - if not at times tall - stories of the tunes' origins.

Bickerton had his audience spellbound as he pulled out whistles, harp, flute, bodhran, uilleann pipes and guitar. The fiddle and mandolin, which he also plays, were left at home. He made the transition between differing fingering and blowing techniques seem effortless.

Jigs, reels and hornpipes set toes tapping furiously but it was his soulful slow airs that won hearts. Regardless of the instrument, he played with depth and feeling and sent us all floating home with a beautiful harp encore.

Southland Times

► Review

Island Mist, by Bob Bickerton

Judging by his most recent sold-out concert, Bob Bickerton's Celtic music has a big following in Nelson. Now you can take it home on his Island Mist CD, a collection of 13 traditional tunes and Bickerton originals.

This is truly a Nelson product, engineered by Bickerton at his BB Sound studio in Todds Valley, with the likes of Tom and Pete Rainey and Kate Sherwood backing up Bob's multi-instrumental talent.

The music is as good as you would hear from Ireland's best, and while Bickerton is a highly competent songwriter, the age-old and traditional music on this collection is outstanding.

Track four, Eleanor Plunket by 17th century harpist Turlough O'Carolan, is one of the most beautiful pieces of music written by anyone, at any time.

Thanks to Bickerton for reminding us that Celtic music is much more than Riverdance and prematurely middle-aged crooners in cable-knit sweaters.

Nelson Mail

► Excerpts from reviews:

“If talent and virtuosity equated to material wealth, Bob Bickerton would be a rich man. An enviably gifted musician, proficient with as many instruments as he has fingers, and blessed with a strong voice.....”

Evening Standard

“The instruments, bagpipes again, flute and harp played by Bob Bickerton, and the drums and piano-accordion were played with such skill, exuberance, subtlety, as never to be obtrusive and always enjoyable.”

Nelson Evening Mail

“It is difficult to single out the highlights from a performance which was of a uniformly high standard. But one of my favourites was the delicate air The Wild Geese, which featured a traditional Irish harp accompaniment by Bob Bickerton.....”

Oamaru Mail

“Bickerton quickly had toes tapping with his traditional jigs and reels, ably played on a selection of instruments.....”

Otago Daily Times

“The concert opened with an entertaining 40 minutes of the good voice and multi-instrumentality of Bob Bickerton”.

Christchurch Press