

Sands Performers at Fine Arts Center

Contributed by Kayla Robertson
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On the Tuesday before Spring Break, February 26, Irish music, folklore, and tradition filled Lake State's Arts Center. Tommy Sands and his son and daughter (Fionan and Moya, respectively) came to the Arts Center to perform a collection of Irish songs, dance, traditions, and stories.

Tommy Sands has been performing his folk celebrations since 1968, when he recorded his first record with his brother and sister; his children joined him in later when Tommy Sands decided that the sound needed a fiddle (Moya) and a tin flute/mandolin (Fionan). Tommy Sands is also the singer for Co Down. He has released 6 albums (on his own, he's also taken part in many other albums) and played in several amazing places like Carnegie Hall and Moscow's Olympic Stadium.

A huge part of the Sands' music relates to times of war and how to simply be friendly and peaceful. Tommy Sands opened with a song joining the audience as friends. His songs hit home and he even explained that he played at the United Nations Peace Talks in April of 2004.

The Sands family sang not only of Ireland but of friendship, peace, hope, love, and re-growth that is humanly, and therefore universally, true. A favorite song was "Home Away from Home" because with so many college students, a home away from home is indeed something to look for. One of the most interesting parts about the Sands' performance was the connection through both landscape and a feeling of family. Tommy Sands said that one of the best parts of this tour is having his children with him. He also relates to living directly on a lake.

Tommy Sands said, "I've been on the road for so long, on my own, ya know the kids were at home, but bringing them with me it's been a home away from home. And I look around me and it's like my own kitchen at home so no matter where I go I feel at home because of that."