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DUO KEEPS IRISH DANCE AND MUSIC TRADITION ALIVE

BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV -- The Morgan Arts Council presents an evening of traditional Irish dance and music with Shannon Dunne and Alex Boatright at the Ice House, Friday, September 4 at 7:30 PM.

Shannon Dunne, renowned percussive dancer specializing in traditional Irish sean-nos dance, demonstrates the captivating rhythms of the dance. The performance features old-style dancing with a focus on step dance, sean-nos and Appalachian flatfooting. Dunne is well known for her commitment to keeping alive the tradition of Irish dance, both through performance and teaching.

All-Ireland musician Alex Boatright provides the tunes on traditional instruments including harp, concertina and fiddle. She is a sought-after teacher who is dedicated to making traditional Irish music available to students of all levels.

“It’s such a delight to be around these two amazing artists,” said Jill Klein Rone, MAC concert coordinator. “The music along with the rhythm of the stepping gets you tapping your feet; it’s uplifting and fun for whole family.”

The performance caps a week of demonstrations and teaching for the duo in the Morgan County Public Schools. Dunne and Boatright held a series of workshops for students, sharing their love of traditional Irish dance and music. Old style step dance, a specialty for Dunne, features fancy footwork done in a small space. Students learned the connections between sean-nos dancing, a lively, low, battering style of step dance, and Appalachian flatfoot dancing.

Grant support for this program comes in part from the National Endowment for the Arts, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and local hotel/motel taxes. Admission is \$7 for adults; \$5 for MAC members; and \$3 for children under age 12. Tickets available at the door on a first-come, first-served basis. The Ice House is at the corner of Independence and Mercer Streets in downtown Berkeley Springs. For more information, call 304-258-2300 or check online at www.macicehouse.org.