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Press
Release

March 9, 2005

23rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Main Library (March 17 – Noon)

Celtic dance and music will fill the Atrium of the Main Library, 800 Vine Street, with the McGing Irish Dancers and the musical group Silver Arm during the 23rd annual celebration of St. Patrick's Day on Thursday, March 17, noon.

The McGing School of Irish Dance, under the direction of its founder and artistic director Mary McGing, has been in existence for 28 years. From its humble beginnings with 28 dancers, the school has established a rich history in the city of Cincinnati and is widely recognized around the world. Dancers have performed in Hollywood for the late great Gene Kelly, danced in the Soviet Union, and toured with the Cincinnati Pops. The McGing Irish Dancers are most proud, however, of their local ties to Cincinnati's hospitals, charities and schools.

The McGing Irish Dancers create their own experience, whether they are emulating Irish culture wearing a native dress or training for competition. The group was crowned National Champions last summer at the North American Championships in Philadelphia. The sixteen-member team performed an original choreography about the ancient history of Ireland entitled "Tombs, Circles and Stones," which received a unanimous first from all five judges.

For 15 years, Silver Arm has never failed to impress audiences with their energetic instrumentals and haunting ballads. They have appeared with the Cincinnati Symphony, Pops and Ballet Tech and are featured on a new animation DVD by Jen Delyth, *Beyond the Ninth Wave*, as well as on the Cincinnati Pops recording *Celtic Spectacular*. They have also worked with such luminaries as Ged Foley, Kevin Crehan, L.E. McCullough, Todd Denman, Liz Knowles and Kieran O'Hare and are featured on a compilation disk, *Trees Are Life*, in support of reforestation efforts.

Band members include: Cindy Matyi, flute and concertina, founder of the Cincinnati Celtic World Festival, and an internationally known Celtic painter; Stephen Matyi, bouzouki, guitar and banjo, well known for his photography of musicians; Justin Bridges, who has studied fiddle with Kevin Crehan, Peter Horan and Joe Ryan and competed many times at fleadh in Ireland and the U.S.; and John Sherman, finger style guitarist and multi-instrumentalist, a performer of traditional and Celtic music for over two decades. All the Silver Arm members have been teachers at the Riley School of Irish Music.

This is the 23rd year that the Main Library has hosted a St. Patrick's Day event. The program, sponsored by the Friends of the Public Library, is free and open to the public.
Information: (513) 369-6900.

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✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**

✓ **Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 513-369-4406 (TTY 369-4409).**