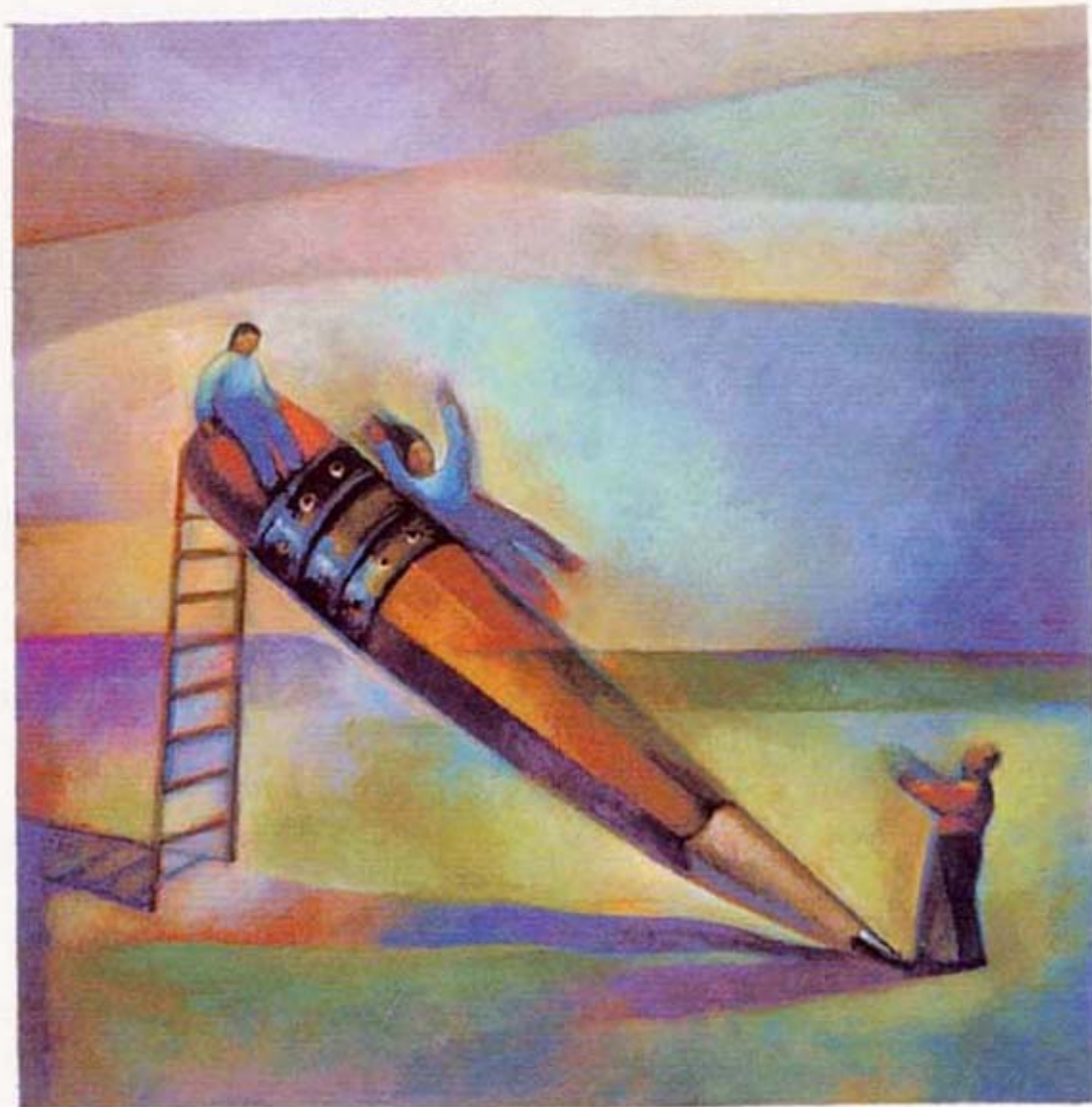


C e i l i R a i n



E r a s e r s O n P e n c i l s

CATHOLIC MUSIC TEENS WILL LISTEN TO

- Ceili Rain -



Fans of Ceili Rain say that the band offers Christian music a whole lot more than an incredible fusion of Celtic inspired rock - they offer hope from a whole different perspective.

Lead singer, songwriter and acoustic guitarist Bob Halligan, Jr. says it this way, "Ceili Rain is about helping people find their way to God and to who they're uniquely meant to be - not who other people say they should be. We have no interest in serving traditional preconceptions about how that's done, we're only interested in serving hearts and spirits."

A believer for most of his life, Halligan is passionate about bringing the message of love and hope to people in a style that "lets the Holy Spirit do most of the talking." And his

track record as a respected songwriter proves his point. Having garnered dozens of mainstream hits for artists such as Michael Bolton, KISS, Kathy Mattea and Cher - Halligan has effectively mastered the art of weaving Biblical truths into songs that often take the audience by surprise.

Ceili Rain (pronounced KAY-lee) hit the ground running in 1995, and quickly gained critical acclaim with their self-titled CD debut in 1998 featuring, "That's All The Lumber You Sent." That song and others have been recorded by a number of Christian artists including Eli, Bob Carlisle, Rebecca St. James, Rick Cuellar, Geoff Moore and the Distance, and others.

The band's unique blend of soulful lyrics and hard-driving rock licks, flavored with the playful sounds of the

tin whistle, button accordion, fiddle and bagpipes may be a musical departure from most commercial offerings, but is in fact, the very sound riveting the attention of fans and critics everywhere. Halligan smiles and says, "I've learned to put my faith in the audience, not current trends in music. We're a sound that's come of age, and I believe the music world is ready for us."

Also hailed as a "family-friendly" band, Ceili Rain enjoys an audience appeal ranging from ages 3 to 93. Their repertoire has a way of speaking to both spirit *and* soul, so it's not uncommon to see both young and old respond by leaping from their seats to dance a little jig during a show. Despite all the accolades, Halligan makes it clear, "I don't want people to say of us, 'Those guys are great,' but rather, 'we had a great time.'" He goes on to say, "If people's hearts have been touched and they are more encouraged and uplifted after our show than when they came in, then we hit the mark."

The release of their newest project *Erasers on Pencils*, Ceili's song list will feature such compelling tunes as "Junkyard," a song co-written with wife Linda, calling for people to be vigilant in guarding their minds and hearts from the assaults of worldly input. "This song is about having a righteous indignation toward evil and is probably pivotal to the album's personality," says Halligan. The title track, "Erasers On Pencils," incorporates a fun twist of Latin

rhythm to speak of God's forgiveness and compassion for our daily mistakes. And the upbeat "God Done Good" swells with praise and thanksgiving for his wife and little boy - a song that's destined to be a chart-topper.

Comprised of a talented group of seasoned musicians, the seven-member band includes 3-time All-Ireland Button Accordion Champion Buddy Connolly; lead guitarist Raymond Arias; fiddle player Gretchen Priest; drummer Chris Eddy (son of Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame's Duane Eddy); bass player Bob "Buff" Harmon; and tin whistle and bagpipe player Burt Mitchell.

Their "perspective" on drawing men's hearts to God is simple - put on a welcome mat for everyone, and love them right where they're at. Halligan says thoughtfully, "Ceili Rain exists to promote the-idea that Jesus wants us to help others know Him by demonstrating an attitude of love and joy, rather than of fear and judgment."

With that as their daily creed, Halligan is more excited than ever about the band's future and believes they are perfectly poised to see God use them to touch *all* who would cross their path.

For more information phone and fax to: (615) 791-9986; www.ceilirain.com, ceilimail@mindspring.com. CD's are also available at JustCatholic.com.



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NATIONAL NEWS

Catholic Pop Music Honored in First Awards Show

by JOSHUA MERCER
Register Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Singer Dana Scallan and liturgical music composer Marty Haugen dominated the first Unity Awards honoring the best Catholic music and videos.

Scallan, the onetime candidate for president of Ireland who records professionally as Dana, won or shared in seven awards, and Haugen won all four awards for which he was nominated.

The awards ceremony, sponsored by the new United Catholic Music and Video Association, was held Nov. 18 on the campus of The Catholic University of America, Washington.

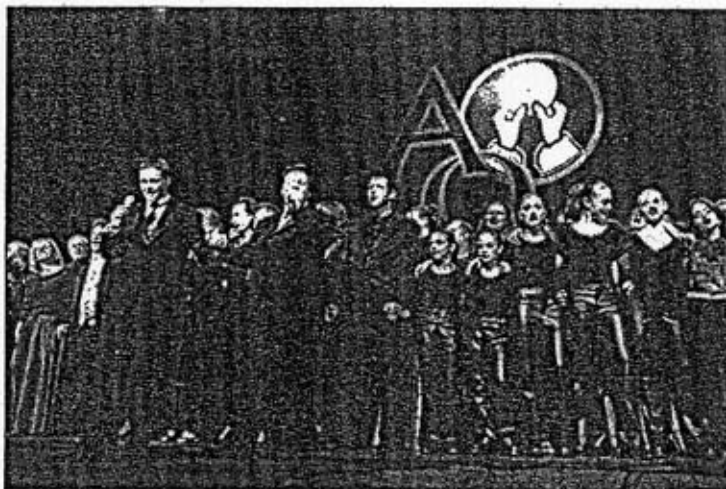
The association was founded last year to support, encourage and promote the development of all forms of Catholic-oriented Christian music and video, including liturgical, praise and worship, contemporary, classical and instrumental compositions.

The group was the brainchild of Deacon Ronald Stein and his son, Phillip, who helps manage Heartbeat Records, a Catholic recording company in Iowa. "We based ourselves on the Gospel Music Association, which is a Protestant organization, and their annual awards, the Dove Awards," Philip Stein told the Register.

He said the Unity Awards are designed to "shed light on the hundreds of Catholic artists who are not considered for Dove Awards because they are Catholic."

Also, for large Catholic functions, dioceses and other Catholic institutions often invite well-known 'Christian groups' who are not Catholic. Those groups are well known, to a large extent, because they have been promoted by the Gospel Music Association

Through the Catholic association,



The Unity Awards' grand finale. (CNS photo)

Heartbeat, Gregorian Institute of America and Oregon Catholic Press, have combined resources to promote Catholic artists, especially within the Catholic community.

The Washington awards ceremony was the group's first major effort to do just that. In all, 44 awards were handed out for individual achievements in music and video.

In addition, actress Gloria De Haven, in a special appearance during the awards, presented three inspirational awards.

Two went to musicians Tony Melendez and Renee Bondi. Melendez was born without arms and plays the guitar with his feet, and singer Bondi was paralyzed from the neck down following an accident. The third award went to Priests for Life founder Father Frank Pavone.

Dana won for best music video ("This Is My Body"), pop-contemporary song ("We Are One Body"), pop-contemporary album ("Say Yes"), spoken-word album ("The Rosary," with Father Kevin Scallan), song

("We Are One Body"), female vocalist and songwriter.

In accepting the best songwriter award, Dana said, "I share this with all of the songwriters. The songs that we write are all from God. ... God is the creator of everything we do—that is good."

Haugen won for best musical ("Mass of Creation"), choral collection ("Come and Journey," with David Haas and Father Michael Joncas), liturgical song ("Shepherd Me, O God") and liturgical album ("All Are Welcome").

Other multiple winners were:

— Mariella Ness, best international album ("Holy One of Israel") and best international artist.

— Denis Grady, best country song

("Running Too Long") and best country album ("Running Too Long").

— Franciscan Father Stan Fortuna, best rap/hip-hop song ("Kum Ba Ya") and best rap/hip-hop album ("SacroSong").

— Shawn Forrest, best modern rock/alternative song ("Keep Your Eyes on Me") and best new artist.

— EWTN, best special event video ("The Holy Father's Visit to Israel 2000") and best religious TV program ("Life on the Rock").

The evening's highlight came when the band Ceili Rain was named the winner of best rock album for its self-titled effort.

Group leader Bob Halligan Jr. vaulted from the front row of the auditorium onto the stage and accepted his Unity Award with similar enthusiasm.

"My wife said to me, 'Why don't you combine Irish music with rock 'n' roll and write songs about God?'" Halligan said in his acceptance speech. "I said, 'That's the dumbest idea I ever heard.'" Then, looking upward, Halligan said, "Not so dumb, eh, Boss?"

Many of the winners were not on

hand to receive their awards. "It's testimony that so many of the winners here tonight are out doing Christian ministry," said Haugen, who performed "Shepherd Me, O God," later during the ceremony.

The awards ceremony was taped

by the EWTN cable channel for future broadcast.

Information

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Joshua Mercer writes from Washington, D.C.

OUR SUNDAY VISITORS

Catholic

November/December 2000

Our Annual Advent Calendar

PARENT



Joyful Noise

CEILI RAIN

Erasers On Pencils

Cross Driven Records/Mima Rekizd, 2000,
12 songs (www.ceilirain.com; ceilirmail@mind-spring.com; call 615-791-9986)

As the year 2000 comes to a close, it's natural that we use this milestone marker as our final opportunity to draw that proverbial line in the sand, separating our earthly trials from our triumphs over the eclipsing two millennia. But this year of the Lord's favor can also be the line of demarcation where hope for a new tomorrow with Him in heaven reigns supreme — where past mistakes are forgiven and the former things will all pass away. That is precisely what "Erasers On Pencils" is for.

This CD could be deemed the "Official Soundtrack of the Great Jubilee." Sharing the Christ-centered *joie de vivre* exhibited here borders on being a pious act worthy of a plenary indulgence. Irish Catholic Bob Halligan Jr. & Co. have once again dished out 12 slices of life that examine the frailties of our human condition, exhilarate with against-all-odds victories and just plain remind us how good it is to be alive. "We can't let our jukebox just play the blues," Halligan says. "Life Is A Polka." Come on and dance, dance, dance! So, grab a partner that "won't let go" and get out there! But don't forget this CD. You'll need it.

Vignette no. 1, entitled "Jigorous," spins the true metaphoric tale of Bob's mother coping with her advancing age and some temporary dementia by holding on to the one thing that grounds her: "A song that she thinks she's heard before / She reaches for her Partner and heads out to the floor."

And the dance begins.

"God Done Good" follows with a peek at the Halligan family album, centering on their 16-year painful, prayerful pursuit of pregnancy answered by the adoption of a son from "far, far away": "Got no money / got no fame / got no title before my name / Got food and water / brick and wood / got love and laughter / God Done Good."

The Latin infused title track "Erasers On Pencils" illustrates the dichotomous relationship between right and wrong, and the promise of second chances from a God who asks we forgive seven times seventy, all with the help of a simple pencil.

Then, with a full measure of Celtic splendor, we learn how to pull ourselves out of life's devilish potholes. In this terpsichorean chase reminiscent of a certain sprightly leprechaun, Ceili Rain concludes that "life is what happens 'Tween the Jigs & Reels."

The waltz-ballad "It Only Tickles When You Do It" playfully yet poignantly explores father/son relationships, including the one we have with the Father of All: "Well, it's true that it smarts when He shouts in my ears / But the silence hurt more before He was here."

To conclude this rumba, this waltz, this jitterbug, we mistakenly saunter into a dank and dirty "Junkyard." But this one is located in the recesses of our soul where we regularly receive refuge from a confusing, violent cyberworld, hell-bent on destroying our temple. No one's safe, until we all say: "My heart is not a junkyard / My mind is not a dump for all the gunk around / My spirit's not a junkyard / No, it's Holy Ground."

PJ'S OK: Sure-footed Celtic pop/rock band Ceili Rain is message-laden family entertainment, spiritually in step with the dance of life, seeming to say, "Go ahead and fill your dance cards, but darlin', save the last dance for me!"



ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT
1234 WASHINGTON BLVD.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL

December 8, 2000

Mr. Bob Halligan, Jr.
Skyline Music
Old Cherry Mountain Road
Jefferson, NH 03583

Dear Mr. Halligan,

As we begin the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we pause from our daily routines to surround ourselves with friends and family and to give thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. Quite naturally, I look back to the Eucharistic Congress as one of the premier blessings we have received here in our Church of Detroit this past year. I thank you personally for your participation in, and contribution to, our Archdiocesan Eucharistic Congress this past September.

This historic event will provide thousands of Catholics throughout the Archdiocese a lifetime of wonderful memories: uplifting Liturgies, inspiring entertainment and faith sharing, gracious hospitality and accommodations, and the beautiful environment of St. John's Center. I am confident that Ceili Rain will be fondly remembered for having been a part of this special occasion.

As we wait in joyful anticipation for the coming of Jesus during this Advent season, I ask God's blessings upon you and your loved ones. May your generosity and the gifts you share bring you much happiness and peace.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+ Adam Cardinal Maida

Adam Cardinal Maida
Archbishop of Detroit



Boston Catholic Television Center

55 Chapel Street

P.O. Box 9109

Newtonville, MA 02460-9109

Under the Sponsorship of His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Law, Archbishop of Boston

Rev. Msgr. Francis T. McFarland
Director

Mr. Jay Fadden
General Manager

September 26, 2000

Ceili Rain
c/o Bob Halligan, Jr.
629 Watson Branch Drive
Franklin, TN 37064

Dear Friends:

How can I thank you enough for taping a performance for our Telethon. It was the best ever. The pledges amounted to \$235,000. This is \$35,000 more than last year. There were over 5,000 telephone calls. This certainly should impress the cable companies. What pleased me most was that so many calls came immediately following the Mass and the Rosary. Some people waited twenty minutes to get a line. This means that a lot of the viewers made their call after having prayed for half an hour. Apart from the money, I'm sure many graces and blessings came down on the diocese because of the viewers.

You demonstrated your faith by your appearance. Your words and talent taught, inspired, and caught attention. We were able to show many of the wonderful people in the archdiocese and the magnificent activities going on.

People were entertained, felt included, and not only liked the Church, but also expressed their love for it.

Know I am in your debt. I ask you to please remember me in your Masses and prayers, and I promise the same for you.

God Bless,

Rev. Msgr. Francis T. McFarland
Director



SAINC PHILIP CHURCH

113 Second Avenue, South
Franklin, Tennessee 37064

615-794-8588

Mr. Robert Halligan
629 Watson Branch Drive
Franklin, TN 37064

Dear Bob,
I do thank you for the concert given in our church on April 29, 1999.

The event provided financial support for a very important youth activity: a summer mission trip to Mobile, AL to work in poverty areas.

Ceili Rain's music, as provided here, was good family entertainment. Our families in good numbers attended and enjoyed the evening very much.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. C. Arnold".

Reverend E. C. Arnold