

Irish duo present jigs, love songs

The Lincoln Association For Traditional Arts is bringing one of Ireland's foremost musical duos to town this weekend.

Kevin Burke and Michael O'Domhnaill will perform Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. at the Joyo Theatre, 6102 Havelock Ave. The concert will include Irish jigs, reels and Gaelic love songs.

Burke is a fiddler in the tradition of the western Irish coastal town of Sligo, a place known for producing fine fiddlers and flute players.

The New York Times has referred to him as a virtuoso who "imparts a rhythmic intensity that is remarkably powerful."

O'Domhnaill is a singer and guitar player whose music has its roots in the tradition of County Donegal in northwest Ireland.

He sings love songs in Gaelic, the native language of Ireland, and, it has been said, weaves seamless webs of melody in a quiet, gentle voice.

Former members of the Bothy Band, a highly successful Irish recording group, Burke and O'Domhnaill have recorded numerous albums together and have toured together all across the United States, Europe and the British Isles. This is their first Lincoln appearance.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door and are available at Dirt Cheap, London's Stringed Instruments and the Joyo.

Taoist Pooh...

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A tree is a tree, not what a tree can be made into, Chuang Tzu (Wise Man) once illuminated.

And a Pooh is a Pooh, Pooh once said. However, is Milne a Taoist? Hoff never says. He only points out the similarities between the philosophy of Pooh and Taoism. They are remarkable.

Pooh does by not doing. Things come right in their own course. Piglet may get excited. Eeyore may get morose. Tigger will say about anything. Rabbit is cagey. Owl is a pundit. And all are usually wrong, but not useless. Their means tend to thwart their ends. Pooh, the uncarved block, is somehow usually right, wise, p'u. He reasons without cleverness and knows without knowledge. Pooh simply is.

Hoff's book is short and easy reading, as all good Taoist tracts should be. He quotes numerous passages by Milne, Lao Tzu and Chuang Tzu, and he intersperses it with spritely dialogue, as if the Pooh characters are at his elbow.

But he does Taoism injustice when, in one part, he implies it condemns science, technology and commercialism. His preaching is un-Tao, un-Pooh and out of place. Pooh receives better justice.

Taoists have likened the natural simplicity, the p'u, of Tao to becoming a child again. If this is so, Milne is a great Taoist who has touched many souls. Quoted Milne, the world of Cottleston Pie, provides the best reading in Hoff's book.

"When you wake up in the morning, Pooh," said Piglet at last, "what's the first thing you say to yourself?"

"What's for breakfast," said Pooh. "What do you say, Piglet?"

"I say, I wonder what's going to happen exciting today?" said Piglet.

Pooh nodded thoughtfully. "It's the same thing," he said.

David Wood



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