

**IRISH AMERICAN TOUR DE FORCE *CHERISH THE LADIES* JOINS
JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY ON MARCH 8 & 9**

“Cherish the ladies has been a leading group in the Irish traditional world.... It is simply impossible to imagine an audience that wouldn’t enjoy what they do.” - Boston globe

Jacksonville, FL (February 26, 2019) --- Grammy-nominated Irish American super-group **Cherish The Ladies** will join the Jacksonville Symphony for an early St. Patrick’s Day Celebration. Cherish the Ladies have just celebrated a milestone anniversary of 34 years together since their first concert on January 5, 1985. The Ladies are not resting on their laurels however, they are making the final preparations for their 2019 *Heart Of The Home* tour which will visit Jacksonville, performing three shows with the Jacksonville Symphony on Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9. *Heart Of The Home* is a riveting live show that will have the audience singing, clapping and tapping its feet, all the while being regaled with hilarious anecdotes from Cherish The Ladies founder and front woman **Joanie Madden**.

WHAT: The *Heart Of The Home* live show is a wonderful blend of the old and the new, the ultimate celebration of the musical culture and traditions of Ireland with Cherish The Ladies performing music from their latest album of the same name. Irish songs, lively jigs & reels and heart-wrenching slow airs transport the audience on a musical odyssey. The Ladies take centuries-old music that has been passed down from generation to generation and make it their own with tasteful new arrangements and talented renditions.

The live show also showcases catchy new melodies, inspired by Ireland’s rugged Wild Atlantic Way and almost certain to become traditional staples in their own right. Each song has been carefully selected and highlights the musicality and versatility of this outstanding ensemble that includes Joanie Madden (flute, whistles, harmony vocals), Mary Coogan (guitar, banjo, mandolin) Mirella Murray (accordion), Kathleen Boyle (piano, harmony vocals) and Nollaig Casey (fiddle).

WHO: **Joanie Madden** formed the all-female super group in New York City in 1985 to celebrate the rise of extraordinary women in what had theretofore been a male-dominated Irish music scene. For more than three decades the talented musicians that are Cherish The Ladies have performed at venues all over the world, and have been invited guest artists at The White House and the Olympics. They have recorded a staggering 17 critically acclaimed albums. Joanie Madden was the Irish American Writers & Artists Eugene O’Neill Lifetime Achievement Award winner for 2018, joining an illustrious group of past recipients such as Malachy McCourt, Pete Hamill, John Patrick Shanley, Judy Collins and Brian Dennehy.

Cherish The Ladies level of artistic, historic and purely enticing entertainment is unlike any in its genre. As their reputation and admiration from both fans and critics alike continues to grow, Cherish The Ladies blazes forward into another decade of music making.

WHEN: *Cherish the Ladies* will take place on Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9. Friday, March 8 will feature two performances, a one-hour *Raymond James Coffee Series* concert at 11 a.m. and a full *Fidelity National Financial Pops Series* concert at 8 p.m. Saturday’s performance will be at 8 p.m.

WHERE: The performances will take place in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts’ Jacoby Symphony Hall.

TICKETS: For more information or to purchase tickets, please call the Ticket Office at 904.354.5547 or visit JaxSymphony.org.

SPONSORS: *Cherish the Ladies* is a part of the *Fidelity National Financial Pops Series*. The Coffee Concert is part of the *Raymond James Coffee Series*.

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The Jacksonville Symphony is North Florida's leading music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts and other venues throughout the area. In addition, the Symphony provides music instruction for youth and operates the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras. For more information about the Symphony, visit JaxSymphony.org, like them at facebook.com/JaxSymphony; follow them on Twitter @jaxsymphony, on Instagram at JaxSymphony and on YouTube at JacksonvilleSymphony.