



NEWS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF READING

January 17, 2013

Worship Services

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2013

"Kids, Guns, Non-Violence and America"

Martin Luther King Sunday

Rev. Tim Kutzmark

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Martin Luther King, Jr. taught non-violence. He was outspoken against the Vietnam War. What would he, a victim of gun violence, make of America's fascination with guns today? Rev. Tim revisits and re-evaluates a sermon he preached six years ago about the intersection of kids, guns, and our Unitarian Universalist values. Come and be part of the discussion. Music: 9:15-The UUCR Choir; 11:00 AM-Roald Wilson, vocals

Click [HERE](#) to see a video invitation to this weekend's worship.

9:15 AM Service

Please volunteer:

[Click here to sign up for Busy Boxes](#)

[Click here to sign up for Coffee Maker\(s\)](#)

[Click here to sign up for Usher](#)

[Click here to sign up for Welcome Table](#)

Time	Role	Name
09:15 AM	Altar Flowers	Devika Ellen Hill in dedication to my Aunt, Gloria Karakashian, who attended the UUCR with her family in the 1960's and died on 1/7/13.

11:00 AM Service

Please volunteer:

[Click here to sign up for Coffee Maker\(s\)](#)

[Click here to sign up for Usher](#)

[Click here to sign up for Welcome Table](#)

Time	Role	Name
11:00 AM	Usher	Bruce Bacon

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2013

"Hinduism"

Betsy Tabor, Intern Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

In this service, we will look through an interfaith lens and explore how Hinduism—a religion in which the divine has many distinct faces—might inform our spiritual response to disturbing events in the world today. Pianist Igor Iwanek will play two compositions inspired by the Sufi poet, Hafez.

About our musician today: Igor Iwanek is a Polish composer who has lived in the Boston area for the last 12 years. Currently he is finishing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Composition at Boston University. At UUCR he'll present a set of three piano pieces for left hand alone. These works are inspired by the mystical poetry of the medieval Persian poet, Hafez. You were introduced to the left hand pianistic genre earlier this past fall, when the Church's magnificent pianist, Jennifer, suffered a temporary injury to her right hand. Spiritually, the music of late J.S. Bach and late Alexander Scriabin have always been a source of inspiration for Iwanek. His non-western influences include the Persian and Indian Classical music idioms as well as the Afro-Cuban dance music tradition. He is greatly interested in the mystical relationship between music and geometry. In 2008 Iwanek's "Three Mazurki" for piano, left hand alone, won a special prize at the Second International Paderewski Composition Competition. Iwanek was awarded the Williamson Foundation of Music Award and is the winner of the Kaji Aso composition prize and the recipient of the Roger Sessions Memorial Composition Award. Additionally, Iwanek received the Emerging Artist of New England Award from the Saint Botolph Club Foundation and was the winner of the Boston Conservatory Wind Ensemble Composition Competition. He teaches privately music theory, composition, keyboard harmony and the related arts.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2013

"Living in the Age of Incivility"

Rev. Tim Kutzmark, Minister

9:15 AM and 11:00 AM

Are we living in a new age of incivility? From the halls of Washington to the aisles of the supermarket, do people seem harder and less understanding? Have basic manners and respect been replaced with rage, stubbornness, intractability, and the inability to see someone else's perspective? What do our Unitarian Universalist moral values have to say about all this? Music: 9:15-Al Murray, vocals, and George White and Beth Murray playing four hands on one piano; 11:00 AM- UUCR Choir

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays

9:15 and 11:00 AM

Nursery care, playschool and all children's Faith Development during 9:15 service only.

Our full service schedule can be found on our [Upcoming Services page](#).

Please consider volunteering to help out at a worship service on our [Volunteer Signup page](#).

Featured

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR - WE ARE HAVING A ONE SERVICE SUNDAY ON MARCH 3

Let's all get together!

It's not too early to ask you all to mark your calendars for the special date of Sunday, March 3. On this day we will have only ONE worship service at a special time of 10:00 AM.

We'll bring together all the folks from the 9:15 and 11:00 am services so we can meet each other and celebrate together. Faith Development classes for children will be offered. The choir will sing. The sanctuary will have room for all. We'll follow the service with a brunch to which everyone is invited, sponsored by our Operating Budget Drive Team.

UU BASICS - SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2013

Unitarian Universalist Basics

Sunday, January 27, 2013 from 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

What do Unitarian Universalists really believe? Would you like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism? Join other folks new to the church community for this interactive and informative introduction to our faith and church community. You'll get to spend time with Rev. Tim, Amy Burton, our Member Services and Volunteer Coordinator, and other special guests. Together we will learn, connect and maybe even have a little fun! We offer lunch and childcare as part of this condensed course. Registration is required so please click [HERE](#) to sign up for this session or you can also contact the church at 781-944-0494 with any questions!

OUR AUCTION IS SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9 AT 6:00 PM



The Auction is coming! The Auction is coming!

The annual Starlight Soiree is Saturday, February 9 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the UUCR Fellowship Hall.

Do not miss the event of the winter season!

Live auction, silent auction, group sign-ups, delicious food and drink, and live music all make this a magical evening.

Stay tuned for more information.

For questions or donations please contact Dru Wood-Beckwith by clicking [HERE](#) or Liz Lovell by clicking [HERE](#).

Worship Notes

BE A STAR - USHER ON SUNDAY!

Ushers are integral to the success of Sunday morning service, having the key duties of welcoming people as they enter and taking the collection. All of us who enjoy Sunday services are encouraged to usher four times per year. If each of us did that, then we could easily fill this important need. Please see our upcoming worship services page to see when you can contribute next in this meaningful and essential area.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A TRADITIONAL PASSOVER SEDER SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2013

Rabbi Bart Perlman will hold a traditional Passover Seder at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 30, 2013 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Doors will open at 5:30 PM. This event will include a full Passover meal. To RSVP and receive information on the cost of meal donation please contact Lou Damelin by Wednesday March 20th. You can contact Lou by clicking [HERE](#). This RSVP deadline is necessary in order to prepare for the purchase of the full Passover meal. All are welcome to share in this festive holiday.

Intern Minister's Messages - January 17, 2013 - Once A Fortnight



Intimate Worship

The summer before I went to college, my French host family spent weekends in the country. We would drive through tiny villages to get there, and each one had a small stone church with a squat black steeple. I'd ask Monsieur if we could stop along the way. Though I wasn't religious, something in these ancient spaces fed me. I would go in alone, walk around the sanctuary, and then just stand there in the damp cold air.

Our church bustles on Sundays with so many familiar faces and with people every week visiting for the first time. A couple of weeks ago, with wonderful Christmas Eve in my recent memory, I looked forward to preaching the next Sunday, the last service of the year. Well, it snowed the night before...and what better time to take a long winter's nap? It turns out that the hardiest few made it to the 9:15 service!

We had an opportunity for something different—intimate worship. We sang and reflected and laughed, as we do every week. Adults and children all shared our ideas of ways we could live from the heart in the next few days. At the end of the service, we gathered in a circle for the benediction and spoke our names to each other. What a gift that, during coffee hour, we had a new family to welcome! I dare say that everyone in the entire church welcomed them personally!

Unitarian Universalists are guided by seven principles. The first is, "We affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person." In our fourth principle, "We affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning." That snowy Sunday was a wonderful time to celebrate the inherent worth and dignity of every individual who braved the snow that morning and to honor their search for truth and meaning. How precious each person's presence is in our midst.

We come to church looking for truth and meaning, whether many of us or a few. Making meaning can happen in a crowded sanctuary or a bare stone church in the French countryside. It can also happen right here, when a young mom and dad bundle up their baby on a snowy morning and try out the church down the street, the one with the rainbow flag.

Betsy Tabor is UUCR's Intern Minister.

President's Messages - Right Relations Covenant



As Unitarian Universalists, we value the inherent worth and dignity of every person and we celebrate the rich diversity that exists among us. Yet our church functions within the wider culture that surrounds us, the default culture, which may not share our values or articulate them as clearly as we do.

The culture that currently surrounds us can be a challenging one in which to live. Who among us has not felt belittled or misjudged in our lives at some point? While experiences of personal conflict are a natural part of life that can help us strengthen our character as we overcome them, there is historical evidence (see Rendle, below) to indicate that societies cycle through levels of civility related to their historical context. In American culture, the post WWII "Greatest" generation stressed order, consensus and security that required high levels of civil order; whereas the Baby Boomer generation stressed individual expression and exploration. Later generations are more reliant on electronic communication, bringing change to our cultural norms about relationships and conduct.

Every church reflects the surrounding culture of its day and yet some churches, because they are aware of it and because they intentionally tend to it, maintain a higher level of civility and connectedness than that of the cultural default. These churches create a space where people feel safer and freer to be themselves and more effectively share their greatest gifts. UUCR has fared very well throughout these generational changes, creating a strong, loving community, and yet there is also history here from past and recent times when UUCR has experienced difficult and controversial periods when healthy disagreement and rich diversity of opinions gave way to bickering and division. These times have been especially difficult to weather because we did not have in place an intentional and formal process to express ourselves, understand the viewpoints of others and ultimately return to right relations.

The Governing Board has been exploring the process of formal Right Relations Covenants. These are used to create a more intentionally and specifically articulated civil culture – a more loving community. The Board itself has a covenant, as does the Core Staff Team, the Faith Development Committee and the Pastoral Care Team. Covenants are also being developed in churches throughout our denomination and will be the main focus of the 2013 UUA General Assembly when representatives from all UU congregations gather in Louisville, Kentucky.

This year the board is taking the next logical step in living our Unitarian Universalist principles by leading the congregation in the development of a UUCR church-wide Right Relations Covenant. Unlike a bylaw or a policy, a covenant is not a rule enforceable by a higher body. It is a promise that we create together and make to one another. And unlike a law, a broken covenant does not require compensation or punishment; it requires earnest

inquiry, forgiveness and recommitment, further strengthening the covenantal bond. A covenant will enable us to reap the energy inherent in our differences for creative purposes instead of letting that same energy diminish and divide us. As UUCR continues to grow in terms of our numbers and influence, the existence of such a covenant can serve as a way to welcome new people into our community with clear statements that enable us to share with them our strong history and living commitment of a loving community that learns and grows together during our times of strife.

To inform our work, we are reading a book by Gilbert R. Rendle called "Behavioral Covenants in Congregations – A Handbook for Honoring Differences" and researching the experiences of other churches. We have formed a Covenant Task Force that is working with the Safe Congregation Committee to reach out to various groups and committees in order to listen to and share our stories and to seek input on this congregational covenant. On February 3rd, Reverend Tim will be preaching on Covenants and we will be hosting a Deeper Dives discussion after the services to gather your input. We will also be holding larger meetings for anyone that we have not been able to engage through a group or committee. By the end of the year we plan to draft a covenant upon which everyone will be invited to provide feedback. In the fall, we will host a worship service during which we can celebrate and adopt our finalized covenant. In this way, we will have started a conversation upon which we can build over the years about how we can best create loving community and what it means to be a part of one.

Imagine if such a conversation existed in our world at large? What if everyone in the world felt safe, loved, valued and understood to such an extent that they could freely give all the wonderful gifts they have to offer? Imagine the challenges we could overcome as a global community. Imagine what we could create together.

With deepest respect,

Your Governing Board: Tracy Sopchak (President), Jane Jolkovski (V.P. Programs), David Oakes (V.P. Finance), Matt Wilson, Robbie Kohn, Christine Lusk, Christine Thomas, Andy Furst (At Large), Chad DaGraca (Treasurer), Theo Noell (Clerk), Rev. Tim Kutzmark (Minister), Betsy Tabor (Intern Minister), Anne Principe (Director of Faith Development)

Adult Enrichment

WHAT DO I WANT TO DO WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE? - FEBRUARY 23, 2012

What Do I Want To Do With The Rest of My Life?

Saturday, February 23, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Facilitated by Ann McClorey Fisher

Are you at that point in your life when you're stepping back – taking stock of where you've been and thinking about what lies ahead? Are there interests that you yearn to pursue? Are there changes – big or small – that you want to make? Is the life you're living in alignment with your passions and principles? Join with others for a morning of personal exploration. Using exercises involving private reflection and group conversations, we will clarify values, articulate dreams and make commitments aimed toward creating lives of passion and purpose.

Please sign up by clicking [HERE](#).

For more information about this program, contact Ann McClorey Fisher by clicking [HERE](#).

INTERGENERATIONAL BOOK CLUB MEETS FEBRUARY 27, 2013 TO DISCUSS THE BOOK "RULES"

The next meeting of the Intergenerational Book Club takes place on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM in Loring House, Room 101. Our next book is "Rules" by Cynthia Lord.

What 12 year old child doesn't want to just have a *normal* family? Just what is normal? Catherine is dealing with just that in a family that revolves around the needs and often inappropriate behaviors of her younger autistic brother, whom she cares deeply about, yet is frequently embarrassed by. Catherine forms an unlikely friendship with a boy named Jason, who leads her take a close look at herself, her family, her brother, and almost anyone with disabilities in a whole new light.

Please Join us! Snacks will be served.

Please sign up by clicking [HERE](#).

For further information, please contact Diane Chapin by clicking [HERE](#) or Beth Brauer by clicking [HERE](#).

News

Buddhist Meditation Group

HALF DAY RETREAT - WAKEFIELD

The Buddhist Meditation Group @ UUCR will be joining the Wakefield UU church's Sacred Pause meditation group for a half day retreat. Please join us on Saturday January 26th, from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM in Wakefield.

The retreat is one of the Wakefield Church's Bicentennial Year events and will be in the Social Hall. Join Rev. Maddie, Rev. Ralph Galen and Andrew Furst of the Buddhist Meditation @ UUCR for a day of spiritual practices including Qigong, walking meditation, singing meditation, Vipassana (Mindfulness) meditation and more.

We will share a potluck vegetarian lunch; please bring something to share. Free will offering.

Registration is required and FREE at the following website <http://wuu2013.eventbrite.com/>

Choir

NEWS FROM THE CHOIR

Dear Choir Members and Friends,

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! What great things we have accomplished and what great opportunities await us! Read on and tell us what you think!

Following our highly successful performance of Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" we are now excited to talk about singing Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. We're hoping for a performance date of May 19 in the afternoon, after the church service. For planning purposes, it would require a couple of Saturdays over the course of late winter/early spring (beginning in late January) to rehearse. In early spring - 8 weeks out - we would begin the longer rehearsals. To have the same kind of power and majesty we experienced Christmas Eve with the Hallelujah Chorus, it would be fabulous to have more folks join us, so we'll need your enthusiasm to invite friends, in and out of church, to join us.

Click on the link provided below and see what you think. There are online learning tools available to help you out. For those interested, there are solo and small ensemble opportunities.

So...give it a click and listen, [HERE](#).

Mark and the Music Committee

Ivy Chord Coffee House

CALLING ALL IVY CHORD BAKERS AND JOHN GORKA TICKETS FOR SALE AT UPCOMING COFFEE HOURS

The Ivy Chord Coffee House needs bakers for the John Gorka concert on January 26. Let Beth Murray know if you can contribute.

Perhaps you have extra treats at your house from all those extra holiday desserts? Would you consider freezing them and contributing them?

Contact Beth Murray by clicking [HERE](#) or by phone at 781-229-9394.

Ivy Chord tickets will also be sold for the John Gorka performance during our Social Hours on Sunday, January 6, January 13 and January 20th.

Finally, Ivy Chord tickets can be purchased online by clicking [HERE](#).

Social Action

READING FOOD PANTRY: HOW TO HELP

On Christmas Eve, at the 5:30 church service, our congregation donated food for the Reading Food Pantry. **Indeed, we can donate paper goods and nonperishable food items year-round, to support the roughly 90 families--our UUCR church members and friends and our Reading neighbors--who turn to the pantry for help.** The donation basket is in the front foyer (Woburn St. entrance), under the coat rack. Ed Barbagallo kindly transports donations to Old South Methodist in Reading Square, where the pantry is located.

Some of the most requested items are juice, juice boxes, coffee, canned meats and fish, stew, hash, chili, canned fruits, rice (brown and white), boxed and canned potatoes, canned pasta, brownie and cake mix, peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, unsweetened cereal, detergent, toilet tissue, shampoo, and toothpaste.

The pantry also needs cash donations to provide supermarket vouchers for perishable items. Checks (payable to Reading Food Pantry) can be sent to Reading Food Pantry, 6 Salem St., Reading, MA 01867-2697.

Social Action

SAVE THE DATE OF MONDAY JANUARY 21 FOR A MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY CELEBRATION

Please plan to join the Town of Reading Human Relations Advisory Committee, and the Town of Reading at this important gathering. This event will take place on Monday, January 21 at the Reading Memorial High School Performing Arts Center. A continental breakfast will be available between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM. The program will commence at 10:00 AM with entertainment from local Reading schools, as well as a featured speaker. All are welcome! For further information, please contact HRAC members Lori Hodin at 339-927-7121 or Monique Pillow Gnanaratnam at 781-944-5315.

Social Action

IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE CALL - UU MASS SOCIAL ACTION CONFERENCE CALL ON FEBRUARY 4, 2013 AT 7:30 PM

Conference Call And YOU Are Invited!

You are invited to join this month's opportunity for education and discussion with your fellow activists in the Immigration Rights community. This month's call will feature Natalicia Tracy from the Brazilian Immigrant Center and Jesse Jaeger, Executive Director of UU Mass Action. By participating in this conference call, you will be updated on the latest developments concerning important immigration rights legislation: The Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, The Right to Drive Act and the TRUST Act. The Brazilian Immigrant Center, Boston New Sanctuary Movement, SIM, Centro Presente, MIRA and UU Mass Action are working together to see these bills passed in law. Support from all who are involved with immigrant's rights work will be needed to see this goal met. Please plan on joining the discussion to learn more how you, your congregation and your community can be involved. Mark your calendar for Monday February 4th at 7:30 PM To register your intent to participate in this conference call, please send your name and email

to: immigration@uumassaction.org

Conference Call Info: 949-812-4500 code: 315236#

More News

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY: LEADER FOR UUCR GARDEN GROUP



"A garden should make you feel you've entered privileged space -- a place not just set apart but reverberant -- and it seems to me that, to achieve this, the gardener must put some kind of twist on the existing landscape, turn its prose into something nearer poetry."

— Michael Pollan, *Second Nature: A Gardener's Education*

While our church may not have the nicest lawn in town, we are justifiably proud of the landscaping of our various planting areas. Look around our grounds some time and you'll see beautiful plantings adorning our pathways and border areas. As you can imagine, these did not just plant and grow themselves. They are there as a result of the efforts of several of our members who have worked often below the radar screen for years helping our campus to look as nice as it does. Most recently, our Garden Group has been led by Whitney Perkins who has had to step away due to other commitments. We now need someone interested in putting their own "twist" on our existing landscape...to come forward to pick up Whitney's pruning shears and coordinate this committee for us. While a complete job description is available, most of the responsibility entails organizing and coordinating the efforts of a small group of volunteers who can sustain what we have and use our much-too-small budget to make some gentle improvements each year.

If interested, please contact Mark Taitz and David Kay by clicking [HERE](#) and we can give you a better idea of what's entailed.

More News

SNOW CANCELLATIONS

Should it be necessary to cancel worship services/Faith Development at the UUCR due to inclement weather this winter, the cancellation announcement will be posted on the WBZ Storm Center. Please log on to www.wbz1030.com Cancellations will be broadcast via a scroll also on WBZ-TV and CBSBoston.com.

More News

SNOW SHOVELER WANTED!

The Sawyer Nursery School at 243 Woburn Street is looking for a responsible adult who would be willing to shovel and sand the front and back walkways to the school by 8:00 a.m. on weekdays when there is a light snowfall (4 inches or less). Shoveling is not needed for major snowstorms as a commercial service will handle that job then. The task is expected to take less than an hour, and Sawyer would pay \$ 30 to \$ 40 per snowfall, depending on the amount of snow. The ability to return to shovel again for 11:30 a.m. dismissal time in the case of ongoing snow would be desirable but not necessary.

If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact school Director Deb Harvey at the school at 781-944-9581, or by email by clicking [HERE](#).

Upcoming Events

January 17, 2013 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Mothing Connection (Lor-205)

January 17, 2013 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Choir (Sanctuary)

January 18, 2013 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
"New to UUCR Potluck" (FH)

January 19, 2013 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Quilter's Group (FH)

January 20, 2013 9:15 am - 10:15 am
Worship Service (Sanctuary)

January 20, 2013 10:00 am - 11:00 am
"Tidbits & Tour" 10:15am & 12:15pm

January 20, 2013 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Worship Service (Sanctuary)

January 20, 2013 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
SHYP (Lor-103)

January 21, 2013 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Handicraft Group (Loring-101)

January 21, 2013 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm
OWL (CH)

January 21, 2013 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Program Council (Lor-101)

January 21, 2013 7:15 pm - 8:15 pm
Buddhist Meditation (FH)

January 21, 2013 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Finance Council (Lor-103)

January 22, 2013 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Rounds of Creativity, Conversation & Spirituality (RoCCs) (CH)

January 24, 2013 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Choir (Sanctuary)

January 25, 2013 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Ivy Chord Set-up

January 26, 2013 8:00 am - 10:00 am
Men's Group (FH)

January 26, 2013 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Ivy Chord Set-up (FH & Sanctuary)

January 26, 2013 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Ivy Chord Coffeehouse -John Gorka (Sanctuary) (FH)

January 27, 2013 9:15 am - 10:15 am
Worship Service (Sanctuary)

For more upcoming events, visit our Calendar by clicking [HERE](#).

Ivy Chord Concerts

JOHN GORKA ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2013



Energetic, acoustic folk

***"Listening to him sing, one can get goose bumps all over. There are many reasons—fresh lyrics, a stunning emotional baritone, his twisted humor ..."* New York Times**

Saturday, January 26, 2013
8:00 pm

Tickets:
\$ 25 general admission
\$ 23 students/seniors

Buy tickets for this concert online.

From Ben Wakeman, Take Me To the Bridge:

There are few contemporary songwriters that come anywhere close to the talent of John Gorka. His songs have a way of working on you long after you thought you had it all figured out. I will listen to a song that I know all the words to and can sing along with and then one day sitting at a traffic light I realize that there was a whole other layer of meaning that I had missed.

In 1984 John Gorka won the prestigious Kerrville New Folk competition. He has over ten albums to his credit. John is a songwriter's songwriter and his songs are championed by an amazing circle of artists including Nanci Griffith, Mary Chapin Carpenter, David Wilcox and many more.

MATT & SHANNON HEATON ON SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2013



"Their playing is masterful and inventive, their arrangements city-smart and spacious. Still, they never forget that Irish music is, at its heart, a neighborly form meant for sharing, not showing off." — Scott Alarik, Boston Globe

Saturday, April 13, 2013

8:00 pm

Tickets:

\$ 16 general admission

\$ 14 students/seniors

Buy tickets for this concert online.

Musically speaking, the Heatons play the heck out of their instruments (Irish wood flute/accordion, guitar/bouzouki). After years of study in Chicago, and many nights of music in Clare, Galway, and their adopted home of Boston, Irish Music Magazine's John O'Regan wrote, "their duet playing is tight, sweet, and tasteful, lacking nothing on either technical expertise or instrumental virtuosity."

As for their singing, when Matt and Shannon perform centuries-old songs, it feels current, conversational. They make traditional music relevant to American audiences. O'Regan wrote "songwise [there are] hints an older domestic sound, the familiar down home harmonies of The Carter Family and Tim and Mollie O'Brien."

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(Only items put into your cart soon after clicking on the image above, and purchased soon thereafter, will support the church.)

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