



CACHE VALLEY
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Ellen Eccles Theatre • Bullen Center • Thatcher-Young Mansion

ACADIAN CULTURE COMES TO LIFE

LOGAN, UT- **Grand Dérangement** will bring its fusion of traditional Acadian music, rock, jazz, and Louisiana and Irish Celtic rhythms to the Ellen Eccles Theatre stage on Thursday, March 1 and Friday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Hailing from St. Mary's Bay in Nova Scotia, Grand Dérangement won the 2000 East Coast Music Association Francophone Recording of the Year award for *Danse dans les flammes*. They were also nominated as Group of the Year by the ECMA, an association that recognizes musicians throughout the Atlantic/Canadian region.

"The Acadian culture was dispersed throughout the US, and a large number landed in Louisiana, creating the vibrant Cajun culture," said Wally Bloss, executive director of the Cache Valley Center for the Arts. "The sounds of Acadian culture will ignite the stage with New Orleans music, dance, tradition, and culture."

Formed in 1998, Grand Dérangement (De-RAHNJ-mont) combines vocals, instrumentals on guitar, fiddle, piano, drums and other percussion with the artistry of three accomplished step dancers. Following the release of their debut work, *Tournons la page*, the group has toured extensively in the United States, France, Europe, Canada, Switzerland, and Germany. Their name, meaning "great disturbance", comes from the French name for the Great Expulsion of Acadians by the British in 1755—a major turning point of Acadian history—but also refers to the group's desire to "rouse its audience." The music is exciting, the show is a visual feast, and the highly poetic songs, while insightful, defying the audience to sit still. The bow fires up the fiddle...the sparks fly...

The group acts as an Acadian ambassador and its popularity in Europe and the United States is on the rise. The musicians are raising the profile of Acadians and Michel Thibault's songs are setting new standards for Acadian songwriting. Michel Thibault is from Nova Scotia, Canada, Michel is the songwriter, composer, producer and co-arranger for Grand Dérangement's 4 CDs. Grand Dérangement holds a special place in the world of French-language music. The group builds a bridge between the old and the new, between the local and the universal. Grand Dérangement is creating a new Acadian musical repertoire, one that will survive for as long as Acadian culture remains alive and vital.

Influenced by elements of Acadian folk music, American country, folk and rock styles, Celtic music, French chansonniers and even Broadway show tunes. The group's vocals are in varying dialects of French, ranging from a fairly neutral standard to the dialect of Acadian French spoken around the Baie Sante-Marie. Current band members include Briand Melanson, Daniel Leblanc, Jean-Pascal Comeau, Armand Dionne and Charles Robicheau. The dancers consists of, Jean-Pascal Comeau, Christiane Thériault, and newcomer Erin Westby.

On Thursday, March 1, at 12:30 p.m., Grand Dérangement will present a story celebrating the Acadian cultural through music and dance. Each year, the Cache Valley Center for the Arts shares the magic of live performance with eager students, this performance will be geared towards 8th grade curriculum. To find out more about this education opportunity or other upcoming school connections, Please contact Wendi Hassan at 435-753-6518 ext. 11 or at whassan@CenterForTheArts.us.

Tickets for the Grand Dérangement range from \$16-\$26. Child, group, and student discounts are available. For more information about this or other upcoming productions in the 2006-2007 Performing Arts Series, call (435) 752-0026 or visit us online at www.CenterForTheArts.us.

The CVCA Ticket Office hours are Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The center is found in historic downtown at 43 South Main in Logan, just 70 miles north of Salt Lake City.

The Ellen Eccles Theatre, Bullen Center and Thatcher-Young Mansion are owned by the City of Logan and managed by the Cache Valley Center for the Arts, a nonprofit organization that operates the performing arts complex.

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