ForeWord Reviews

JUVENILE FICTION

Celtic Treasures
Jim Weiss, narrator
Paul Machlis, contributor
Greathall Productions
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Storyteller Weiss uses his voice in several different ways to bring Celtic legends to life. This enchanting production includes seven tales from Celtic myth and is enhanced by the piano music of Machlis.

Traveling on a journey with the legendary Saint Patrick, one is transported to the ancient days of Ireland where heroes were larger than life, but imbibed with human frailties. The tales are simple and well known, but new when listening to this renowned storyteller.

After a brief introduction, which explains Celtic tales, one becomes involved in the stories. These stories include “The Bard” and his legendary songs and “Dectera and Fifty Maidens,” which tells of the spiriting away of a court beauty by a mythical god and the birth of their son. The child is brought back to the court of King Conner to be raised and becomes a great man of honor and hero. His tale continues in “Cuchulain’s Name” and “The Wooing of Emer,” wherein Cuchulain becomes a man, finds the woman of his dreams, and vows to marry her at great cost. As in all good tales, they live happily ever after.

In the story of “Angus’s Dream,” Angus, the God of Love, falls in love himself. “Finn McCoul and the Battle for Tara” tells of Finnigus the Bard and his search for the Salmon of Knowledge. The wisdom, however, comes to Finn McCoul who uses it to serve the King and keep Ireland safe and free. The final tale is that of one of the men accompanying Saint Patrick. “Oisin’s Journey” describes the adventures and sorrows of Oisin.

A delightful set of tales to be enjoyed by those of any age.

Deborah Jesseman