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Champion Step Dancers Bring A Touch of Ireland to Lima this Weekend

Photos by [Robert Stolpe](#)

High-kicking, foot-stomping Irish step dance is a thrill to watch, as any fan of "Riverdance" can tell you. That excitement will light up the stage of the Santa Ursula Auditorium this weekend, when champion dancers from the Breffni Academy of Irish Dance perform with the Celtic-rock band The Three Jacks, as part of an extraordinary fundraising effort to help Peru earthquake victims. The benefit concerts will be held Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16, at 7 p.m. at the Santa Ursula Auditorium located at Calle Santo Toribio 150, in San Isidro, Lima.



Tickets are on sale for S/.50, S/.75, S/.105 and S/.135 soles, and are available at TeleTicket sales outlets and online at www.teleticket.com.pe. All money from ticket sales goes to fund the construction of a new medical clinic in Pisco, through the efforts of the Rotary Club, Lima-Sunrise.

Nimble-footed Kiera Daley (17), Carolyn Ho (19) and Cristina Rodriguez (20) are among the to-ranked Irish step dancers in the United States, and have entertained audiences there and in Ireland, Europe and the Caribbean.

The trio performed with The Three Jacks in Miami in September '08 as part of the first leg of the "Angels with a Mission" Peru tour. This will be the dancers' first time visiting Peru, and they couldn't be more excited:

"I've used my dance talent in other service projects but the Angels on a Mission tops them all," says Cristina Rodriguez. "I love to dance, and the duality of dancing and serving others is an incredible feeling!"



Kiera Daley agrees: "To be able to share my love of dance with the people of Peru and at the same time help in the fund-raising efforts to build a Policlínico in Pisco is an honor."

Although they are young, the Miami-based dancers already have a wealth of talent and experience among them, both onstage and in formal Irish dance competition.

Rising star Kiera Daley represented the United States at the World Irish Dance Championships in April '09 and is ranked among the top 50 dancers in the world. The daughter of two Irish-born step dancers, Kiera is known for her phenomenally quick steps and her long-legged kicks – abilities that

she hopes will earn her a spot in the cast of "Riverdance" in the near future (after she graduates high school).

Carolyn Ho has been lauded for her grace, precision and agility by the prestigious (US) National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts (NFAA), which declared her the top Irish Dancer for 2008. Now going into her sophomore year at the University of Florida, in Gainesville, Carolyn competes in open championships and has qualified to dance at both the National and World Irish Dance Championships.

Another NFAA awardee, Cristina Rodriguez wins over audiences with her exuberant smile and fierce footwork. A top dancer at the state, national and international levels, Cristina teaches at the Breffni Academy and is finishing her senior years at Florida International University.

The Breffni dancers will perform in traditional Irish step-dance costumes, with both hard- and soft-soled shoes depending on the type of dance (jig, reel, hornpipe, etc.).

In addition to appearing in concert in Peru with The Three Jacks, the Breffni dancers can be seen on this week's episode of "Sonidas del Mundo" (various dates, TV channel 6), hosted by Mabela Martinez, and on "Oh Diosas" (Thursday night, May 14, 8 p.m.).

For more information, visit The Three Jacks online at www.thethreejacks.com

