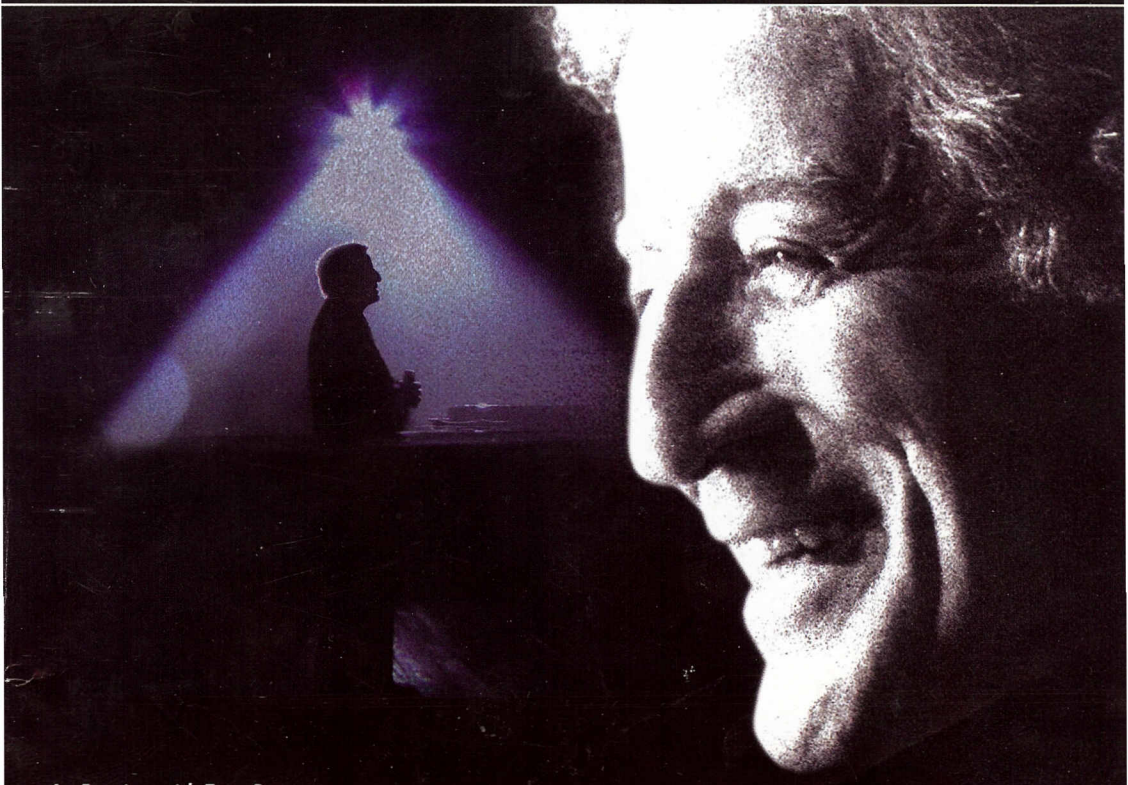




SPOTLIGHT

September/October 2008

Presented by Whitaker Center
for Science and the Arts



An Evening with Tony Bennett



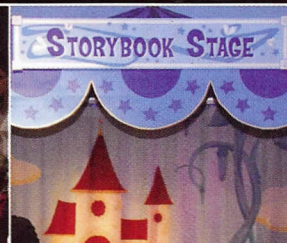
Susan Tedeschi



Simone



OUR BODY: THE
UNIVERSE WITHIN



PNC On Stage at KidsPlace



Lisa Williams



**Whitaker
CENTER**
For Science and the Arts

October 24, 2008

Black 47

Whitaker Underground at STAGE TWO, 8pm

Tickets are \$32.50



Black 47 espouses an unblinkingly political and thoroughly Irish form of rock 'n' roll, with songs covering topics from the Northern Ireland conflict to civil rights and urban unrest in contemporary New York City. Black 47 earned their chops playing the pub scene in Manhattan and self-producing their self-titled indie record debut, before converting Ric Ocasek of The Cars to the cause and gaining mainstream attention with their second album.

The band began as a duo with Larry Kirwan on vocals and electric guitar and Chris Byrne on whistles. Black 47 has maintained a front position in the Celtic music genre ever since. The band's name originates from the worst year of the Irish Potato Famine, which took place between 1845 and 1847. Their debut performance was in the Bronx on October 2, 1989. During their first year, a horn section was added with Fred Parcels on trombone and Geoffrey Blythe on saxophones, later joined by Thomas Hamlin on drums.

In 1991, the band created a stir in the downtown Manhattan scene with their weekly residency at Paddy Reilly's on Second Avenue. Ocasek produced *Fire of Freedom*, the band's first major label release, in 1993. During this year, the singles *Funky Céilí* and *Maria's Wedding* made heavy rotation on alternative radio and MTV's *120 Minutes*. By 1996, the band shifted from EMI to Mercury Records and released *Green Suede Shoes*, which had been their most critically successful album since *Fire of Freedom*. In 1999—their tenth year together—Black 47 released a limited edition compilation, *Ten Bloody Years*, along with the band's first live recording, *Live in New York City*. The following year, founding member Chris Byrne left the band to focus on his solo music project, Seanchai and the Unity Squad, a Celtic hip-hop band.

Current band members include: Geoffrey Blythe (tenor saxophone/soprano saxophone/clarinet), Joe Burcaw (bass/vocals), Thomas Hamlin (drums/percussion), Larry Kirwan (lead vocals/guitar), Joseph Mulvanerty (uilleann pipes/flute/bodhrán) and Fred Parcels (trombone/tin whistle).

Black 47 has never shied away from taking a political stance. The band's 2004 release, *New York Town*, was an album about their perspective on the events of 9/11. Their new album, *Iraq*, released in March, voices the band's opposition to the war in Iraq. The band offers a view on life in combat in war zones of Iraq in songs including *Downtown Baghdad Blues*, *Battle of Fallujah* and *The Last One to Die*. ■

**TICKET SALES**

whitakercenter.org
717-214-ARTS

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