

HoCoPoLitSo

Howard County Poetry and Literature Society
10901 Little Patuxent Parkway • Horowitz Center 200 • Columbia, MD 21044

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alice McDermott and O'Malley's March headline HoCoPoLitSo's 42nd Annual Irish Evening

HoCoPoLitSo's annual Irish Evening on February 21, 2020, will feature award-winning author Alice McDermott, Celtic rock band O'Malley's March and the Teelin Irish Dance Company. McDermott, three-time Pulitzer Prize nominee and National Book Award winner, will read, followed by a rousing concert of electric Irish folk music and championship step dancing. Tickets are available by phone, mail, or on-line <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4416880>. To purchase by phone, call 443-518-4568, or by mail, send a check and self-addressed envelope to HoCoPoLitSo, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Horowitz Center 200, Columbia, MD 21044.

"Everything that her readers, the National Book Award committee, and the Pulitzer Prize judges love about McDermott's stories of Irish-Catholic American life is back," a Kirkus starred review noted about her most recent novel, *The Ninth Hour*. The Associated Press said "[T]he story is exhilarating, largely because of McDermott's lyrical language and unforgettable characters . . . [T]he nuns of the Little Nursing Sisters of the Sick Poor . . . are as fierce, funny, complicated and brave as any women in our fictional universe today." *The Guardian* noted "McDermott's award-winning body of work constitutes its own fictional world; she returns again and again to the Irish in the U.S., to the heartlessness and the consolations of Catholicism. . . . her new book unfolds without sentimentality or pity, but with a frankness of gaze that elevates her characters rather than diminishes them."

The evening program begins at 7:30 p.m., but Irish coffee, Guinness, and other beverages and snacks will be offered for sale beginning at 7 p.m. and during intermission. Book sale and signing by the author after her reading. After intermission, O'Malley's March, fronted by former Gov. Martin O'Malley, will play traditional Irish music and Celtic rock, with guitar, fiddle, harp, bodhran, electric bass, trombone, accordion, bagpipes and tin whistle.

McDermott joins the long list of illustrious Irish authors HoCoPoLitSo has brought to Howard County audiences, including Frank McCourt, Colm Tóibín, Anne Enright, Colum McCann, and Emma Donoghue. For more than 40 years, HoCoPoLitSo's Irish Evening has celebrated the substantial impact of Irish-born writers on the world of contemporary literature.

HoCoPoLitSo works to cultivate appreciation for contemporary poetry and literature and celebrate culturally diverse literary heritages. The society sponsors literary readings and writers-in-residence outreach programs, produces *The Writing Life* (a thirty-minute writer-to-writer talk show), and partners with the public schools and cultural organizations to support the arts in Howard County, Maryland. For more information, visit www.hocopolitso.org.