

# MUSICAL MARCH

Irish dancing,  
Japanese drums  
and American pop

**MARCH MARKS THE BEGINNING OF SPRING AND IT'S THE MONTH WHEN WE CELEBRATE EASTER THIS YEAR. BUT WHY NOT ENJOY SOME MUSIC TOO, WITH THE FOLLOWING TIPS FOR WHAT TO SEE AND HEAR IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC?**

## TAPPING FEET

On March 17, the Irish and lovers of Ireland from all over the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day, remembering the saint who brought **Christianity** to Ireland. You can spend it with one of the most famous Irish music and dance shows – Lord of the Dance.

The show was created by the step-dancing champion and flute-player Michael Flatley, a son of Irish immigrants from Chicago. It tells a story of the fight between good

and evil, **loosely based on** Irish folklore tales, and it has enjoyed such success that several dance groups were formed to be able to tour the world **simultaneously**. Some people **point out** that it is mostly just a **glitzy spectacle**, with attractive decorations and **pompous** music but if you like big shows and quickly moving feet, watch out for the Czech tour (March 12 – 18). And you can try counting the taps the dancers make during the performance. **Allegedly**, they make over 150,000 of them! ([www.lordofthedance.com](http://www.lordofthedance.com))

## DRUMMING STORM

If drums and exotic rhythms are your cup of tea, you may want to look forward to Yamato, the energetic band of Japanese drummers. The band was formed in 1993 in the town of Nara, whose older name, Yamato, gave the band its name. All the members play



All the Yamato members play taiko drums. "Taiko" in Japanese means "drum", in other languages it is often used to refer to Japanese drums.



The show Lord of the Dance was created by Michael Flatley, a champion in step-dancing. The movements of the feet are the most important part of the dance; the act of touching the ground with the foot is called a tap.

drums – tens of different taiko drums of all sizes, including a huge one made from the **trunk** of a 400-year-old tree. They are known for extremely **vigorous** performances, trying to simulate the heartbeat of the human heart or the rhythm of falling rain, and to **spread** as much energy as possible. You can try to absorb some of it at performances in Plzeň, Prague, Brno and Zlín (March 11 – 16). ([www.yamato.jp](http://www.yamato.jp))

## ROCKING TWINS

The Maryland band Good Charlotte was formed in 1996 after two brothers – and identical twins – Joel and Benji Madden saw a concert by the Beastie Boys and decided to start their own band. **They were not discouraged by** the fact that neither of them had sung or played an instrument before. Joel became the singer, Benji took up the guitar, and they invited their high-school friends to join on the bass and drums.

Combining elements of punk with rock ballads and mainstream pop, they **eventually gained** popularity on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Some listeners say they play just conventional pop, but you can form your own opinion on March 30 in Kongresové centrum in Prague. ([www.goodcharlotte.com](http://www.goodcharlotte.com))  
**Zuzana Pernicová** (CR)



The band Good Charlotte actively supports PETA, an organization fighting for animals rights, and also the fight against AIDS.

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PUNS

**WHAT DO YOU CALL A FAKE STONE IN IRELAND? A SHAM ROCK!**

A shamrock is a **three-leafed clover**, the symbol of Ireland and of St. Patrick's Day (because legend has it that St. Patrick explained the concept of the **holy trinity** with the help of shamrock). However, the word seems to consist of "sham" = false, and "rock" = stone.

**WHAT KIND OF BOW CAN'T BE TIED? A RAIN BOW!**

The word "bow" has several meanings in English. One of them is something **curved** in shape – therefore "rainbow" is the colourful curved shape you can see in the sky after rain. Rainbows have their place in Irish folk tales because leprechauns, magical creatures in Irish folklore, are said to hide **pots** full of gold at the end of rainbows.

## → Vocabulary

**Christianity** [kristi'ænti:] - křesťanství  
**loosely based on** [lu:sli beɪst] - volně inspirovaný  
**simultaneously** [sɪm(ə)'teɪnəslɪ] - zároveň, naráz  
**to point out** - poukázovat na  
**glitzy spectacle** ['glɪtzi 'spektəkl(ə)] - nabýskaná podívaná  
**pompous** ['pɒmpəs] - pompézní  
**allegedly** [ə'ledʒədli:] - údajně  
**trunk** [trʌŋk] - kmen  
**vigorous** ['vɪg(ə)rəs] - energický, dynamický  
**to spread** [sprɛd] - šířit  
**twin** [twɪn] - dvojče  
**they were not discouraged by** [dis'kʌrɪdʒd] - nenechali se odradit

**eventually gained** [ɪ'ventʃ(ə)li geɪnd] - nakonec získali

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PUNS

**fake** [feɪk] - falešný  
**three-leafed clover** ['kloʊəv] - trojlístek jetele  
**holy trinity** ['həʊli 'trɪnɪti] - svatá trojice  
**bow** [bəʊ] - mašle  
**to tie** [taɪ] - uvázat  
**curved** [kɜ:vəd] - ohnutý, zakřivený  
**pot** [pɒt] - hrnec

## ••• Glossary

**cup of tea** (idiom) - something you like