

## The Virginia Pilot, March 2007

The Screaming Orphans, Friday at the Suffolk Center For Cultural Arts.

(Note: The group also performed Saturday in Kill Devil Hills. This review is based on the Friday performance).

By FRANK ROBERTS.

The Screaming Orphans enchanted, entranced, and endeared themselves to the folks who visited the Suffolk Center For Cultural Arts Friday as they played and sang a mix of authentic Irish music, and semi-authentic early rock 'n roll.

The music was a blast, the girls were a hoot. The four Diver sisters (cq) from Donegal, Sinéad O'Connor's former backup singers, are completely different from each other so far as personality is concerned.

The brunettes stood quietly by as the blondes talked up a storm. What else is new? Their personalities and attitudes went a long way in creating the pure enjoyment that ended with a rousing standing ovation.

Grainne (cq) is the chirpy family character. Listening to her chattering happily is like listening to a child describing his myriad presents on Christmas morning.

She talks and giggles, using her hands descriptively, as she introduces the music, discusses the program, praises Ireland, and New York City which is their current home.

During the after-show meet and greet she was still wound up, joyously carrying on with everyone, her thick Irish brogue beautifully intact.

She plays guitar, Joan plays drums, Angela alternates between violin and bass, Marie Therese (cq) alternates between keyboard and accordion. All of them sing, offering foine (that's a fitting Irish term) harmony, and acquiting themselves well on solos.

The musical mood was strictly up-tempo with a couple of ballads tossed in for good measure. There were a couple of surprises. One was their four-part harmony version of Dolly Parton's, "Jolene," and the other a fast-paced arrangement of Johnny Cash's, "Folsom Prison Blues."

Less familiar songs, such as "Here Comes Your Man," and the wonderful, "My Favorite Tune," were among the favorite tunes performed Friday, most of which were foot-tappers.

An interesting item was simply called, "Liar," and there was a medley of two songs, the first about love, the second about hate.