

# Dropkick Murphys give high energy mix of Irish-punk

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To accurately assess the energy level at Monday's Dropkick Murphys show at Sound Advice Amphitheatre, consider the following anecdote:

A man near the front of the stage was so carried away during *Sunshine Highway* that he took off his prosthetic leg, held it over his head and jumped up and down on his other leg.

And it didn't seem that unusual.

The show was so energetic that the only thing to do was jump up and down and sing along. And the guys in the band, which includes a bagpipe player and an accordion player, encouraged the crowd to join in with the show.

They're the pride of Boston, started in 1996 by a group of friends who grew up together in predominantly Irish neighborhoods. When they decided to start a band, they thought they'd be strictly punk, but they started incorporating the Irish music that was always on in the background, songs to which they knew all the words.

And the combination works. The rebelliousness of punk and Irish music mixed perfectly Monday night,

cushioning a working-class message in music with so much energy it was practically oozing calories.

Opening with *Your Spirit's Alive* off its most recent album, *The Warrior's Code*, the seven-member band didn't let up through *Citizen CIA*; *Heroes from Our Past*; *Black-out*; a song written by Woody Guthrie; and *Fields of Athenry*, which the bagpipes carried.

It was pure punk rock. It was transcendent.

Chicago band The Tossers got the show started with their energetic blending Irish folk and punk. At one point, they had some in the audience skipping in circles. They were followed by Horrorpops, whose lead singer, at one point, asked the audience whether they wanted to hear a song about zombies or a straight-up country song.

The final opening act was punk veterans Sick of it All, whose lethally high-energy set can be described thus: GGGRRRAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!! It rocked.

But the Dropkick Murphys brought it home: tight and with a certain something that kept people jumping around and singing and otherwise having a fabulous punk rock moment through the entire show.