

Come dance with me in Ireland



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The 1986 Canada/U.S.A. Comhaltas Tour Group – Front row (l-r) Eilish Byrne (fiddle); Francis Droney (concertina) Máiréad Ní Chathasaigh (harp); Eamonn Walshe (uilleann pipes); Bríd Harper (fiddle); Pádraig Moynihan (accordion). Back row (l-r): Francis McDonald (dancer/bodhrán); Frieda Gray (dancer); Gerard McAuley (dancer/bodhrán); John Cowley (seanachai); Clíodhna Dempsey (presenter); Kevin Webster (accordion); Denis Gollock (dancer); Mary Brogan (singer); Gerry Murphy (banjo); Edwina McGill (dancer); and Tommy Guihan (concert flute).

It's autumn again and with the great invasion of exile musicians for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann just over it's time for the annual return visit by the Comhaltas Tour Group.

Once again the exciting standards set by our great young musicians over the past year are reflected and represented on the Tour L.P. There is wonderful fiddling and virtuoso box playing; the harp, the flute and uilleann pipes are all represented in excellent traditional style; concertina and banjo in solos and duet, a song from Co. Wexford and a story-cum-recitation from Co. Westmeath.

The tunes include such old favourites as "Kiss the Maid behind the Barrell"; "The Rock of Cashel" and that fine Munster air "Mo Bhuachaill Bán", as well as such more recent compositions as the reel "Kilcoon" from the Joe Liddy collection "The Leitrim Fiddler", and the jigs "The Haunted House" and "The Whistler at the Wake" composed by the Galway flute player Vincent Broderick. Pádraig Moynihan's "Worn Torn Petticoat" is a Sliabh Luachra slide version of the reel "The Old Torn Petticoat", whilst the reel "The Shoemaker's Daughter", is from the Ed. Reeve collection.

KEVIN WEBSTER: A star in the under-12 grade several years ago, Kevin continues to live up to the promise of those early years and took the All-Ireland under-18 title on the 2-row accordion in Listowel last year.

EILISH BYRNE: One of our finest young fiddlers, Eilish is another of those talented young musicians who have come to the fore in the Comhaltas branches in Britain. She won the under-18 title on the fiddle in Listowel in 1985.

EAMONN WALSH: Eamonn is a young Mayo musician, now living in Dublin, who has built up a big reputation in recent years with his stylish and tasteful mastery of the uilleann pipes.

GERARD MURPHY: One of the really outstanding banjo players, Gerry has several successes at All-Ireland level to his credit. His playing was one of the highlights of this year's Tour of Britain.

PÁDRAIG MOYNIHAN: A great box-player in the famed Sliabh Luachra tradition, Pádraig brings the same 'lift' and exuberance to the music of other counties as he does to the slides and polkas of his native area. He has already toured North America and returns now by popular demand.

MARY BROGAN: comes from Finchogue, near Enniscorthy in Co. Wexford. Mary who won the All-Ireland Senior Championship in Listowel in 1974 has been one of the most popular personalities on the traditional singing scene over the past dozen or more years.

FRIEDA GRAY: Widely acclaimed as one of the really outstanding dancers of the past decade or more Frieda is an undefeated World Champion (3 times) dancer. She has toured Canada and the U.S.A., as well as Britain and Ireland and was also a member of the Comhaltas European Year of Music Group last year.

DENIS GOLLOCK: Denis was born in Cork but for most of his life he has been part of the lively Liverpool traditional scene. His unique style of traditional dancing was much appreciated on this year's Tour of Ireland.

MÁIRÉAD NÍ CHATHASAIGH: As well as being an All-Ireland harpist Máiréad is a gifted and versatile musician who can turn her hand to fiddle or whistle and is also a fine traditional singer. Máiréad is one of the Caseys of Bandon, one of the foremost musical families in Ireland.

TOMMY GUIHAN: comes from Keadue in the heart of North Connaught flute-playing country and represents the music of that area with great style and artistry. An All-Ireland Champion he has already toured with Comhaltas in Britain, Ireland and the U.S.A.

BRÍD HARPER: This very talented young lady from Donegal has already established a reputation as one of the really outstanding young fiddlers on the traditional scene. She is already widely – indeed internationally – known as a result of her brilliant fiddling on Tours of North America and Britain and on the Great European Year of Music Tour of 1985.

FRANCIS DRONEY: The current All-Ireland Champion on the concertina, Francis is, of course, a son of the famed Chris Droney and plays with all the drive and style associated with the concertina music of Belharbour, Co. Clare.

GERARD MCAULEY and EDWINA MCGILL are two most popular dancers who have turned in numerous outstanding performances at concerts and other functions throughout Britain. They starred in this year's Tour of Britain and their selection for the prestigious Tour of Canada and the U.S.A. has been widely acclaimed by lovers of traditional entertainment on both sides of the Irish Sea.

FRANCIS McDONALD: This young Tipperary dancer is one of the finest artists to have emerged in recent years with dynamic and tremendously exciting footwork. He has already toured extensively, in Ireland, Britain and North America.

JOHN COWLEY: The art of storyteller is as old as man himself and in Ireland the role of the seanachai has always been an integral part of folk life. John Cowley from Co. Westmeath is one of our most popular storytellers in the old style.

CLÍODHNA DEMPSEY: Formerly of Dublin and now living in Luxembourg, Clíodhna made a huge impact as presenter of the 1985 European Concert Tour. She is a member of a renowned theatrical family and is herself a fine singer.

Side A

1. **Bríd Harper – fiddle**
Reels – Kilcoon, Liz Carroll's Favourite
McLoughlin's Reel
2. **Gerry Murphy – banjo**
Jigs – Grogan's and The Whistler at the Wake
3. **Eamonn Walshe – uilleann pipes**
Reels – The Flax in Bloom and O'Mahony's
4. **Mary Brogan – song**
Carrick River
5. **Francis Droney concertina and Gerry Murphy banjo – duet**
Reels – The Shoemaker's Daughter and The Chattering Magpie
6. **Pádraig Moynihan – accordion**
Selection of Polkas
7. **Francis Droney – concertina**
Reel Selection
8. **Bríd Harper and Eilish Byrne – fiddle duet**
Jigs – The Haunted House and Vincent Brodericks

Side B

1. **Tommy Guihan – concert flute with harp accomp. by Máiréad Ní Chathasaigh**
Reels – The New Policeman and Kiss the Maid behind the Barrell.
2. **Eamonn Walshe – uilleann pipes**
Jigs – Matt Kiernan's Favourite and Cherish the Ladies
3. **Kevin Webster – accordion**
Selection of Reels – Paddy Fahy's; Mayor Harrison's Fedora and Crowley's
4. **Máiréad Ní Chathasaigh – harp**
Air – Mo Bhuachaillín Bán
5. **Eilish Byrne – fiddle**
Reels – Sergeant Earlie's Dream; The Rock of Cashel;
6. **John Cowley – story**
Come back here and get me the salt
7. **Pádraig Moynihan – accordion**
Slides – Denis Murphy's and The Worn Torn Petticoat

Buíochas

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann welcomes the association with Budweiser and very much appreciates their generous support.

Comhaltas wishes to express its appreciation of the consistent co-operation afforded by Aer Lingus in the promotion of the annual Concert Tour.

We wish to express our thanks to the Cultural Relations Committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs for their financial assistance.

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