

Budweiser

IRISH AIRS AND GRACES



*Music and Song from the North American Tour
with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann*

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When one hears an old Irish traditional tune played and received with rapt attention in a fine auditorium in New York, Chicago or Toronto, one cannot but marvel at the fact that this old music, composed and handed down in little rural communities in Ireland should flourish with such vigour and wide appeal in this quite different environment.

It is as much a tribute to the quality and vitality of the music itself, as it is to the commitment, perseverance and virtuosity of its exponents, that the music has, in fact, gained in popularity and esteem through the transition from traditional country kitchen to the many and diverse settings in which it may be found today.

The titles of the traditional tunes bear testimony, in many cases, to the simple rural life styles in which this music flourished (e.g. titles such as 'Boil the Breakfast early', 'The Green Fields of Rossbeigh', 'Maudabawn Chapel', and 'Devaney's Goat' in this album.) Such titles may sound slightly incongruous when heard in an American urban setting yet the tunes emerge clear and compelling, enhanced by the traditional artistry of today's generation of Irish musicians.

The Comhaltas Group for the North American Tour of '89 blends artistes from the four provinces and from the Irish communities in Britain, in an exciting presentation of Irish musical tradition.

The great strides made over the past decades and the excellent standards achieved in each and every county are reflected in this blend too; we hear flute music from Co. Antrim and banjo playing from Fermanagh side by side with piping from Leitrim, box playing from Limerick and a concertina selection from County Clare: songs from the North and from the Midlands; fiddle music from the Midlands too; fiddle, flute and accordion representing the Irish in Luton and London; the deep warm sound of the harp and the unique chuckling tone of the old melodeon; reels go leor from all parts and a couple of fine group selections. All these are items from the Tour concert, captured here at the Groups final rehearsals in July.

Is dóigh linn go bhfuil Grúpa Turais na bliana seo có maith - ó thaobh caighdeán agus foirfeachta cheoil, le grúpa ar bith dá raibh againn ó thosnuigh na Turasanna, i dtús na seachtóidí. Tá súil againn go mbainfear taithneamh as an ceol atá curtha ar fáil aca anseo.

DAVID SHERIDAN of Moate, Co. Westmeath, now in Carlow, is one of the finest young fiddlers of recent years. He was a member of the great Comhaltas Millennium Seisiún Group which presented that great concert in College Green, Dublin, last March.

BRIAN McNAMARA: Brian has had a string of All-Ireland titles in underage grades to his credit and capped the lot by taking the Senior Uilleann Pipes title in Kilkenny last August. He comes from a very musical family in Aughavas, Co. Leitrim.

DEIRDRE HAVLIN comes from Ballymoney, in Co. Antrim. She has been an All-Ireland winner on the concert flute in the various under-age grades over the past five or six years and is very highly rated among today's young musicians.

EUGENE TEEVAN is a versatile performer with All-Ireland wins to his credit on concert flute and melodeon. He comes from a great Comhaltas musical family and spent some years in Ireland before returning to Luton where he plays a busy part on the traditional scene.

PADDY CLANCY of Limerick is one of the most popular 2-row players in Ireland at the moment. Paddy has previously toured Britain and Ireland but his finest hour was in winning the coveted senior All-Ireland accordion title in Kilkenny last year.

BARRY KENNEDY; a versatile musician with All-Ireland wins to his credit on both fiddle and banjo. Barry is another of those great young musicians from the Luton Branch of Comhaltas.

MICHAEL SEARSON of London is another of those fine young musicians from the Comhaltas Branches in Britain and North America who have achieved such amazing standards in their interpretation of Irish traditional music. Michael has also figured on the All-Ireland lists on the 2-row in recent years.

GERARD McQUAID: Gerard, who hails from Emyvale in Monaghan won the men's senior All-Ireland title for traditional singing in English in Listowel two years ago and is highly regarded for his excellent interpretation of the songs of Ulster.

JULIE ANNE DESMOND is a talented young lady from Glanmire, near Cork City. She is a highly accomplished exponent of traditional music on the harp, both as soloist and accompanist.

LOURDA GRIFFIN comes from Tullabrack in West Clare, and is a worthy representative of the great concertina tradition of Clare. She has figured in the All-Ireland winning lists and is regarded as one of the most promising young concertina players of recent times.

ROSE DALY of Ballycommon, near Tullamore, is a singer with a striking list of awards to her credit, having won the Senior All-Ireland Ladies Traditional Singing Title three times in a row (1985-7).

BRIAN McGRATH. Brian comes from Brookborough in Co. Fermanagh but you may find him wherever there is a good session of traditional music. An outstanding exponent of the banjo, he is also a pianist of rare talent.

SIDE A

1. **Paddy Clancy (accordion) accompanied by Brian McGrath (piano)**
Reels - Boil the Breakfast Early and Berehaven
2. **Deirdre Havlin (concert flute) accomp. by Julie Anne Desmond (harp)**
Hornpipe - The Humors of Tullycrine
Reel - John Brady's
3. **Group Brian McGrath (banjo); Julie Anne Desmond (harp); Lourda Griffin (concertina); Brian McNamara (pipes); Eugene Teevan and Déidre Havlin (flutes); David Sheridan (fiddle).**
Reel - The Morning Thrush
4. **Lourda Griffin (concertina) accomp. by Julie Anne Desmond (harp).**
Jig - Kit O'Mahony's
5. **Gerard McQuaid - (Song) Sweet Keady Town**
6. **Barry Kennedy (fiddle) acc. by Julie Anne Desmond (harp)**
Reels: Larry Redigan's and The Green Fields of Rossbeigh
7. **Julie Anne Desmond (harp)**
Jig - Coppers and Brass
8. **Michael Searson (accordion) accomp. by Paddy Gallagher (guitar)**
Reels: Mary McMahon's and Paddy Fahy's (this track recorded at MSL Studios, London by Richard Creasey).

SIDE B

1. **David Sheridan (fiddle) accompanied by Brian McGrath (piano)**
Reels: Ladies' Choice (comp. C. Lennon) and Maudabawn Chapel
2. **Group - Paddy Clancy (accordion); David Sheridan and Barry Kennedy (fiddles) Eugene Teevan and Deirdre Havlin (flutes) and Julie Anne Desmond (harp).**
Selection of Mazurkas
Reels - O'Rourke's and The Wild Irishman
3. **Eugene Teevan - melodeon**
Reels - Paddy's Gone to France and Devaney's Goat
4. **Rose Daly - (Song) - Shule Aroon (with members of group on chorus)**
5. **Brian McGrath - Banjo solo**
Reels: The Road to Cashel and Toss the Feathers
6. **Brian McNamara (uilleann pipes)**
Hornpipes: Alexander's Favourite and The Fisher's
Reels: The Spike Island Lassies and Corney is Coming
7. **Paddy Clancy (accordion) (with piano accomp. by Brian McGrath)**
Jigs: The Humours of Ballyloughlin and The Woods of Old Limerick
8. **Eugene Teevan (concert flute)**
Reels: Miss McGuinness and The Rainy Day.

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BUÍOCHAS

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