

The Ships are Sailing



**Ireland's Traditional Musicians, Singers
and Dancers visit the U.S.A. and Canada,
October 1978**

THE SHIPS ARE SAILING

One of our finest old reels 'The Ships are Sailing' provides the title for this L.P. of the 1978 Comhaltas (CCE) Concert Tour Group. It is a tune played and named in the days when thousands of young Irish men and women flocked to the quays of Galway, Derry, Cobh, etc. to board the ships that would take them to a land of hope and prosperity on the other side of the Atlantic.

On this record we present some selections from the musicians and singers of the tour group, recorded just a few weeks prior to their departure. There is a fine combination of young and experienced artistes, illustrating both the diversity of styles of playing, and the brilliant virtuosity of the young generation of Irish musicians.

Ni h-eol dom rud ar bith a mbaintear an oiread ceanna suilt agus aoibhnis as agus a baintear as Turas Bliaintiúil an Chomhaltais go Canada agus na Stait Aontaithe. Gaeil on mbaile ag bualadh le Gaeil i gcein, agus iad ag deanamh co-cheoil le na cheile, —ba dheachair e a sharu. Ta sompla annseo againn den ceol a chloisfear ar turas na bliana seo, — 1978. mbainfidh sibh taithneamh as.



SIDE A

1. Group
Reels: The Ships are Sailing/The Templehouse Reel
2. Eoin O Cionnaith (pipes)
Willie Clancy's Fling
3. Deirdre Shannon (fiddle)
Charlie Lennon's Hornpipe/Donnegal Reel Selection
4. Tom Gleeson (song)
My Old Fenian Gun
5. Conall O Grada (flute) Fergal O Brolchain (bodhran)
Paddy Joe Maloney's Cregg's Pipes
6. John Regan (accordeon) & Celestine Boyle (piano)
Jigs: Do you want any more/The green fields of America
7. Chris Droney (concertina)
Reels: Josie McDermott's/Speed the Plough

SIDE B

1. John Regan (accordeon) & Celestine Boyle (piano)
Reels: The King of the Clans/The Eel in the Sink
2. Group
Jigs: Cherish the Ladies/Fraher's Jig
3. Maeve Donnelly (fiddle)
Reels: Maud Miller's/Ryan's Rant
4. Lena Bean Ui She (song)
Cailin na Gruaige Donna
5. Seamus MacMathuna (flute) and Fergal O Brolchain (bodhran)
Reels: John Egan's Reel/John Joe Gardiner's
6. Joe Burke (accordeon) and C. Lennon (piano)
Hornpipes: The Stranger/The Fly-by-night
7. Christine Considine (banjo)
Reel: The Congress Reel

JOE BURKE of Loughrea, Co. Galway must surely be one of the best known Irish traditional musicians of this generation. Over the past 20 years he has established and consistently maintained his reputation as a brilliant virtuoso on the accordeon. Even after so many years at the top his playing still retains the gaiety and vitality which have always been the hallmarks of his music.

JOHN REGAN is a very accomplished accordeonist from the Coleman country of Sligo. Since winning the Senior All Ireland title several years ago he has continued to develop an attractive well-defined style, and his stature and reputation have also grown with each year.

MAEVE DONNELLY of Kylemore Abbey, Loughrea comes from East Galway, an area where Irish music has flourished consistently down through the years. Her music has great spirit and verve, as well as technical excellence, whilst remaining true to the mainstream of the Irish fiddling tradition.

DEIRDRE SHANNON comes from Culnafeigh Green, Antrim, and started learning the fiddle from her father when she was knee high. She plays in the strong rich Northern style and over the past few years has won several of the major awards at Fleadhanna Cheoil.

CONALL O GRADA of Carrigrohane, Co. Cork, though only 17 years of age, is already being hailed as one of the 'greats' on the concert flute. His playing has great 'lift' and colour, and he, also, seems to improve with each performance.

SEAMUS MacMATHUNA comes from Cooraclare West Clare and has built up a big reputation both as a flute-player and as a singer of traditional songs. He was closely associated with the Baile Mhuirne Gaeltacht area for some years; he is also widely known for his work as Timire Ceoil with C.C.E., and he is recognised as an authority on Irish traditional music.

CHRIS DRONEY of Bellharbour, Co. Clare, is a household name in the world of concertina playing. This attractive sweet-toned instrument has been played by traditional musicians in Clare for over 100 years, and Chris, with ten All-Ireland titles to his credit, has done more than most to popularise it throughout the rest of the country.

EOIN O CIONNAITH, Dublin, is a member of a very gifted family—his brothers Noel and Diarmuid are All-Ireland Champions on concertina and flute respectively. Eoin, though only 16 years of age, already displays a surprising mastery of this difficult instrument, and a style reminiscent of the best of the old piping masters.

CHRISTINE CONSIDINE of Luton, Beds., England, is another of those young musicians who have achieved amazing virtuosity and brilliance at a comparatively early age. She has been a regular winner on banjo and in duet and trio competitions at Fleadhanna over the past five years.

LENA BEAN UI SHE of Cork, has won several All-Ireland titles for her traditional singing in both English and Irish. Her style has been strongly influenced by the sean nos of the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht where she is a frequent visitor. She also excels at National Ballads which she sings with rare feeling and spirit.

TOM GLEESON of Ballinaclough, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, is an All-Ireland champion ballad-singer, and has graced many a session throughout the length and breadth of Ireland. His manly style of singing revives memories of the hurling match and fair-day, and his liting is second to none.

Léiriú and Nótaí: Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
Griangraf: Green Studio.

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