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# The Spirit of Ireland





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There is scarcely any medium which captures the spirit of Ireland so truly as does Irish traditional music. The drone and wail of the píob uilleann; the fast-bowed fiddle playing a lilting reel; the gentle joyful harp; the evocative sound of the old wooden flute; Irish voices singing of 'Old Ireland's rights and wrongs' — each of these portrays something of the essence of that spirit.

On this L.P./Cassette we present some selected items from the 1990 Comhaltas Tour Group. These items represent some of the many strands from which the national tapestry is woven: they are performed with style and integrity and with that special pride which our traditional musicians take in their art. Of special interest are the two old airs, both probably dating from the 17th century; Róisín Dubh and Tighearna Mhuigheo, played respectively on harp and uilleann pipes. The songs are: "Sráid a Chlocháin Liath", a Donegal song rather in the vein of 'Priosún Chluain Meala'; 'I wonder what's keeping my true love tonight' — a song found mostly in the North; and 'Beautiful Ireland' a song which was widely known amongst the Irish in America four score years ago or so.

The dance tunes include many of the standard old favourites and also some tunes of more recent vintage — tunes such as the 'Josie McDermott selection' (played by Marcus Ó Murchú) and 'Vincent Broderick's reel', tunes composed by Seán Ryan (R.I.P.) and Eddie Kelly — new tunes with a genuine traditional 'sound' and character to prove that the tradition of composing still flourishes today.

Cúis mórtais agus dóchais do Ghaeil — idir Gaeil in Éirinn agus Gaeil i gcéin — na Turasanna Ceoil seo ag Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Ag dul i dtreise agus i dtorthúlachta atá an ceangal eadrainn dó mbárr. Gura fada an scéal amhlaidh.



**CON HERBERT:** Con is a versatile musician who excels on the 2-row and the concertina. He is also a gifted teacher of traditional music and has groomed several groups from the North Cork/South Limerick area to All-Ireland success.

**BERNIE CONEELY:** One of those very musical Coneelys of Bedford, Bernie came to live in Dublin five years ago and her sparkling banjo playing has enlivened many a session at the Cultúrlann over the past few years.

**ROBERT GLEESON:** A popular fiddler, Robert comes from and has been one of the inspirational figures in Comhaltas circles in the midlands in recent years. He was a member of the Comhaltas group which visited Iceland in 1983.

**PÁDRAIG DONLON:** Originally from Longford and now living in Dundalk, Pádraig has achieved All-Ireland status on flute, whistle and pipes over the past decade. He was a member of the 1988 American Tour Group.

**MARK LAVERY:** is another young musician whose reputation has been growing steadily over the past few years. He comes from Magherafelt, Co. Derry and won the All-Ireland under 18 fiddle title in Sligo last year.

**JOHN TOWEY:** This young accordionist from Kilkelly is another of those young musicians who have been putting Mayo very much on the musical map in recent years. He is also noted for his excellent work in teaching Irish music on the 2-row.

**MICHEÁL Ó RAGHALLAIGH:** Micheál is one of the very musical Ó Raghallaigh family of Ashbourne, Co. Meath. He has been an All-Ireland winner in all underage grades on the concertina and has now matured into one of our finest exponents on this popular instrument.

**MARCUS Ó MURCHÚ:** Marcus comes from Belfast; for style and repertoire he has few equals on the concert flute. He has already toured extensively and was a member of the very successful Comhaltas 1983 Group which toured Canada and the U.S.A.

**TRACEY FLEMING:** A top class young harpist, Tracey has had a string of successes to her credit over the past half decade. A regular with the Longford Seisiún group, she has also played with the Fonntraí group at the Cultúrlann.

**MONICA BEAGAN:** An All-Ireland Champion in the under-18 age group at traditional singing in both the English and Irish languages, Monica is also a fine flute player and one of the most active young musicians on the resurgent Monaghan scene in recent times.

**VINCENT CROWLEY:** Four times All-Ireland Champion at traditional singing, Vincet, who comes from West Cork, has already toured U.S.A. (1982), Britain and Ireland and now makes a return visit by popular demand.

## 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. As in previous years, we are indebted to WATERFORD CRYSTAL LTD., for their kind donation of Waterford Crystal.

## SIDE A

1. Marcus Ó Murchú (concert flute) (accompanied by Tracey Fleming (harp) on 2nd and 3rd tune

Reels: *Fr. O'Grady's trip to Bocca; Darby's Farewell to London The Landsdowne Lass*

2. Bernie Coneely (banjo)

Jigs: *Tell her I am and The High Road*

3. Micheál Ó Raghallaigh (concertina)

Reels: *Bunker Hill, The Old Bush and The Spike Island Lassies*

4. Mark Lavery (fiddle)

Jigs: *The Magherafelt Jig and Munster Bacon*

5. Vincent Crowley

Song: *Beautiful Ireland*

6. John Towe (accordion)

Reels: *Vincent Broderick's and The Plough and the Stars*

7. Tracey Fleming (harp)

Air: *Róisín Dubh*

8. Robert Gleeson (fiddle) accomp. by Tracey Fleming (harp)

Reel: *Farewell to Ireland*

## SIDE B

1. Duet: Ml. Ó Raghallaigh (concertina) and Marcus Ó Murchú (concert flute)

Jigs: *The Cullen Jig, Julia Clifford's Favourite and Paddy Taylor's*

2. Pádraig Donlon (uilleann pipes)

Air — *Tighearna Mhuigheo*  
Hornpipe — *Pat Kelly's*

Reel: *The Corner House* (accompanied by Tracey Fleming (harp) on the reel)

3. Mark Lavery (fiddle)

Reels: *The College Groves and The Maids of Castlebar*

4. Monica Beagan

Song — *Sráid a Chlocháin Liath*

5. Con Herbert (accordion) with Tracey Fleming (harp) on 2nd reel

Reels: *McGlinchey's and The Rising Spring*

6. Robert Gleeson (fiddle), with Tracey Fleming (harp) on 2nd tune

Jigs: *Eddie Kelly's and Seán Ryan's*

7. Monica Beagan

Song: *I wonder what's keeping my true love tonight*

8. Group: Reels — *The Mountain Top and The Morning Star.*



comhaltas ceoltóirí éireann

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