

## **Exploring new territory**

Watch out for Dublin-born harpist Maria Cleary's debut CD on the music of Louis Spohr. It is the first complete Louis Spohr CD using original instruments, and more importantly employing historically informed practises, including improvisation and elaboration, historical techniques, and using the manuscript or first prints as sources. Like much music for harp of the 18th and 19th centuries, the original scores have been edited and revised so many times throughout the last centuries, there remains little of the original music. This is also the first recording of Spohr's music on original instruments. Maria, who is a free-lance harpist specialising in the historical harps, from the medieval to the single-action harp, plays two single-action harps (J. Erat, G. Cousineau) from the 18th century and Davide Monti (Italy) uses a violin also from the 18th century with a similar set-up as Spohr's own violin.

The recording can be bought directly online from <http://www.stradivarius.it/scheda.php?ID=801157033848800> or ordered at any record store.

## **Some Seasonal Music**

East Galway Harp Ensemble will be having its first performance on the 20th of December with nine choirs in the Ceremony of the Nine Carols in Athenry church, Co. Galway. All proceeds go to purchase harps for Athenry Music School instrument bank. Call 087 7529 219 for directions/further information.

On Wed. 9th December the Kylemore Harp Ensemble (Ann-Marie Bourke O'Rourke, Shauna Gallagher, Ciara Gately and Emma Sargent) performed in Inchicore College of Further Education at a celebration of many of the different art forms developed across the City of Dublin VEC. All participants, including stage managers and sound and lighting engineers, are students of the VEC. It was one of the rare opportunities to hear the arrangements of Gráinne Yeats alongside hip-hop dancing, U2 tributes, classical ballet and the work of Seán O'Casey.

Other performances for seasonal occasions included the Alexandra College traditional music group's presentation at the Christmas festivities of Sandford and St Philip's parishes. The group featured several harpists under the direction of their teacher Orla Kelly.

### **Dates for your Diary**

In March 2010 the harp students at Kylemore College will be delighted to welcome Denise Kelly to give a masterclass to pedal harp and advanced Irish harp students.

### **Farther afield...**

Pallé Mikkelborg's 'A Noone of Night' for mixed choir and two harps will be performed in Chartres Cathedral on 20 February 2010 by the Tribal Chamber Choir conducted by Mark Keane. The harpists are Helen Davies and Anne-Marie O'Farrell. Their performance will also include the premiere of a work by Anne-Marie O'Farrell for choir and two harps. Harpist Cliona Doris joins with the choir for their recording of this work in spring 2010.

### **And even farther .....**

The International Harp Competition & Festival, The Netherlands will take place in Utrecht from 23rd to 27th March 2010. For the first time, an international harp competition & festival will be organised in the Netherlands. Founded by students, and supported by the *Dutch Harp Society* and the *Utrechts Conservatorium*, this event promises to be a whole new approach to pedal harp competitions. Jury members will give masterclasses and recitals. One such performance will be given by jury member Anne-Marie O'Farrell who will perform repertoire from her most recent album, *Just So Bach*. On March 28th some of the other festival days will feature themed concerts, paying tribute to composers of harp repertoire. More information: [www.harpfestival.nl](http://www.harpfestival.nl)

## **And if you're thinking this far ahead....**

St Patrick's Day provides harpists with many settings in which to perform and Ireland's National Museum in Kildare Street is one of these. Storyteller Nuala Hayes and harpist/composer Anne-Marie O'Farrell present 'Cailleach: The Wilder Wisdom of Auld Ones' which captures the many sided personality of the cailleach: wise woman, healer, goddess, nun, witch. The presentation combines stories and poems with traditional and newly composed music and has been grant-aided by the Arts Council's Deis Scheme.

Salvi harps are currently working on the design and production of a recital lever harp which is a realistic size for air travel. It is to be a modified version of the Donegal model with a range from low A to high G and prototypes are due to be ready in late spring.

## **News from Nobber**

On the opening morning of the festival competitions, workshops and lectures were in abundance and Harp Exhibitions by Salvi Harps and local Harp maker Jan Mullyeart really made you feel like playing even if you couldn't. The gala Saturday evening concert saw a performance by the Meath Harp Ensemble under the direction of Dearbhail Finnegan. This very talented group of ten harps players played a variety of different tunes. Of course O'Carolan was featured, but when they played a tune from South America, it was evident that all the harpers were literally in harmony with each other. As smiles grew, harps resounded to an infectious Latin beat and you would be forgiven if you thought you were in South America.

## **O'Carolan International Harp and Traditional Music Festival**

Competition Results:

- U10 Grace Ruddin 3rd
- 12-15 Aedin Poole 1st
- 15-18 Shane Taaffe 1st

**'The Harp's a Wonder' Competition in memory of Tomás Ó Meachair:**

Ciara & Shane Taaffe, Michael O'Neill

## **Meath Harp Accademy Student of the Year 2009**

Aine Allen from Moynalty,

## **TSB High Achiever Award**

Congratulations to Sadhbh Leahy from Kells, who received a TSB High Achiever Award.

For over one hundred years the Royal Irish Academy of Music has examined and inspired countless numbers of musicians through its highly successful Local Centre Examination System.

In 2000, as part of the Academy's ongoing commitment to music education in Ireland, the permanent TSB High Achiever Awards were established to recognise outstanding students of this successful and long-standing examination system throughout the country. Each year over 40,000 students of music and drama are eligible to compete for these special awards.

To date over 4,000 students of the system have received a High Achiever Award. Auditions, followed by award ceremonies and concerts are held throughout the country each autumn culminating in a Gala Concert in Dublin in December before a distinguished audience.

## Tony Finnegan Memorial Award



Congratulations to Katie Kerley (right) & Áine Flanagan (centre) who won scholarships to attend the annual festival for the Irish harp 'An Chúirt Chruitireachta' organised by Cairde na Cruite at An Grianán, Termonfeekin, Co. Louth

Established in 2005, this award is funded by Meath County Council as a commemoration and tribute to the work of the late Tony Finnegan, Kilmainhamwood. Tony Finnegan was co-founder of the Meath Harp School and former president of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. The award is a tribute to his dedication and commitment to traditional music and traditional arts locally, nationally and internationally and is run in partnership with the Meath harp Academy.

It assists outstanding pupils at the Meath Harp Academy to further develop their skills at 'An Chúirt Chruitireachta' where to date they have received invaluable experience and workshop opportunities.

**An Chúirt Chruitireachta**  
**Annual International Festival For Irish Harp**  
Sunday June 27th—Friday July 2nd 2010

Focusing primarily on the music of the ancient harping tradition and Irish traditional music, this festival attracts harpers from all over the world. The challenging, week-long programme of tuition, workshops, sessions and concerts offers an opportunity to gain a better understanding of Irish music, song and dance as well as developing the skills and repertoire of harpers of all standards.

**HOW IT WORKS**

Teaching is conducted on a modular basis so that participants can benefit from a collaborative, multidisciplinary teaching approach. A full range of harping techniques are covered and include:

- **Irish harping techniques**
- **Traditional ornamentation**
- **Session and group playing**
- **Wire strung harp styles**
- **Music of the 16th and 17th century Harpers**
- **Singing in Irish and English**

If participants have specific requirements and personal goals, we'll endeavour to ensure that they are addressed during the week.

Join us to celebrate An Chúirt Chruitireachta's 25th year with an exciting programme of workshops and concerts.

[www.cairdenaeruite.com](http://www.cairdenaeruite.com)

## **Wandering Harpers**

Moya Brennan of Clannad has been keeping the Irish harp in high profile in recent months with tours covering Holland, Germany, Poland and St Petersburg. Her band includes Cormac De Barra and from time to time, Anne-Marie O'Farrell, with music by O'Carolan featured in her presentations of old and new Irish traditional music.

## **Harp for Sale**

Larry Egar harp for sale under a year old, in red oak, in immaculate condition with 34 composite strings and Camac levers. Price EUR 4,500. Contact [Oonalinnett@aol.com](mailto:Oonalinnett@aol.com)

## **Don't forget**

Cairde na Cruite's series of books –Sounding Harps - are available directly from Mrs Mercedes Garvey at 01 2956968 or in your local music shop. Let us know if the books are not stocked near you and we will rectify it.

## **Help us celebrate our 50th anniversary**

We're looking for volunteers to help us mark our fiftieth year. Anybody with a good idea or interested in helping contact Aibhlín at 087 2800390 or [info@communiquie.ie](mailto:info@communiquie.ie)



# Cairde na Cruite

## Membership Form (Renewal)

Ainm: .....

Seoladh .....

Teileafón: ..... Mobile: .....

Dáta: ..... E-mail: .....

Please tick as appropriate:

Cash: _____	Student (10 euro): _____
PO/Cheque: _____	Individual (25 euro): _____
Standing Order: _____	Family (30 euro): _____

Payment is due on 1st January each year.  
Receipts are not posted unless requested.

Please return to: Dearbhail Finnegan, The Bungalow, Castletown, Kilpatrick, Navan. Co Meath. E-mail: dearbhail@me.com

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### Standing Order

**From:** (Insert name and address of bank)

Name (Capitals): \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Account Number:           National Sort Code:    -    -

Commencement date: \_\_\_\_\_ On the first day of each year, commencing \_\_\_\_\_  
20\_\_\_\_ until \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_, please pay the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ euro to the Bank of  
Ireland, Main Street, Dundrum, Dublin 14 for credit to Cairde na Cruite Account No. 105  
82665 branch code 90-10-95. Total number of payments \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_