

"Virtuosic, fascinating, dramatic, original, inspired, gloriously adventurous, dazzling, brilliant, stunning, impassioned, electrifying, bewitching, moving, achingly beautiful, influential, revered, unique..."

- THE TIMES, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, THE GUARDIAN, THE IRISH TIMES, THE SCOTSMAN, fROOTS...

The celebrated virtuoso partnership of "the doyenne of Irish harpers" (**SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY**) and "one of the UK's most staggering and influential acoustic guitarists" (**fROOTS**), has graced venues large and small - from the tiniest of historic churches in England, Germany and Italy to palaces in Kyoto and Istanbul, London's Barbican, Sydney Town Hall and the Philharmonie in Cologne - in twenty-two countries on five continents. Chris and Máire's performances are rooted but eclectic, emotional but adventurous: a breathtaking blend of traditional Irish music, hot jazz, bluegrass and baroque, coupled with striking new compositions and Chris's "delightfully subversive" wit. Of their sixth CD, *FireWire*, the critics said: "An eclecticism and spirit of adventure that is quite thrilling... bewitching string fantasies and a wonderfully clear and expressive voice" **THE TIMES** "Dazzling virtuosity... delightful" **THE DAILY TELEGRAPH** "In a class of their own" **THE GUARDIAN** "Takes one of the most effete instruments in traditional music and breathes a fire into its belly" **** **THE IRISH TIMES** "Brilliant, innovative harping and guitar-playing of astonishing virtuosity and versatility" **** **SONGLINES** "Album of the Year" **LIVE IRELAND** "Best Celtic Instrumental Album" **JUST PLAIN FOLKS AWARDS** Nashville, Tennessee. Their seasonal *Christmas Lights* is "A delightful, satisfyingly original, often refreshingly unpredictable take on festive favourites... Gorgeous and uplifting" **THE LIVING TRADITION** "Masterful playing... entrancing and delicate to wildly celebratory." **** **FOLK WALES** - and their *Celtic Christmas Strings* tours play to sell-out audiences: "(Their) mastery and magic... produced a rapt response" **THE GUARDIAN**

Breaking Bach, Chris's new solo album of his arrangements for steel-strung flatpicked guitar of sonatas and partitas written by JS Bach for solo instruments was released in July 2021. "Audacious and eminently enjoyable" **** **THE SCOTSMAN** "A ground-breaking project... a magnificent tour-de-force... a toweringly-impressive achievement" **THE LIVING TRADITION** "Life-affirming... (Newman's) achievement is colossal... Elegant, stylish and unmistakably from the heart." **** **RnR MAGAZINE** "Dazzling... utterly breathtaking... a triumph." ***** **FOLK WALES** His previous solo CD *Still Getting Away with It* was "Astonishing - a joy-filled romp through blues, back-porch pickin', Quebec reels, Django swing jazz chordings, bluegrass, African high-life, ragtime, latin, Irish jigs and beyond, and a must-buy for any guitar player" **** **SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY**

Máire and Chris appear on the front cover of the April / May 2021 issue of **THE LIVING TRADITION** magazine, which also features an interview with them. A TV documentary about Máire and her sister Nollaig (also featuring their sister Mairéad, Nollaig's late husband Arty McGlynn, and Chris) was recently broadcast on TG4 as part of its 'Sé mo Laoch series. (TG4 is Ireland's national Irish-language TV station.)

Their quartet CD *Heartstring Sessions* with guitarist Arty McGlynn and Máire's sister, fiddler Nollaig Casey, is "Inspired - a contender for album of the year" **fROOTS** "Traditional music at its very best" **** **THE IRISH TIMES** "An amazingly eclectic mix... Astounding" **THE ULSTER HERALD** "Magnificent... Virtuoso... Outstanding" ***** **SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY** "World-class" **IRISH MUSIC MAGAZINE** "Two of the mightiest pairings in current folk combine to give a tour-de-force of breathtaking order. Classic." **THE LIVING TRADITION** "Attention - chef d'œuvre! Bravo!!!" **TRAD MAGAZINE** (France) "A dream quartet - the sweetest and most exciting music to emerge for a long time. Amazing virtuosity matched with sheer good taste." **DIRTY LINEN** (USA)

Máire and Chris guest on Irish rock legend Rory Gallagher's posthumous *Wheels within Wheels* (BMG); Máire is harp/voice soloist with the New English Chamber Orchestra and the Choir of New College Oxford on John Cameron's *Missa Celtica* (Erato Disques); her singing features on the Goldcrest film *Driftwood* and her harping on Dan ar Braz's Gold Disc-awarded CD *Finisterres* (Sony). Broadcasts include televised concerts on **TG4** and **Rai Uno**; TV appearances on **RTÉ, BBC, S4C, HTV, WDR, ABC, France 3, PBS** (the associated TV special of the Polygram USA CD release *Celtic Harpestry*) and countless radio performances world-wide.



MÁIRE is one of Ireland's most important and influential traditional musicians and 2001 recipient of Irish music's most prestigious Award, that of **TRADITIONAL MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR - GRADAM CHEOIL TG4** - "for the excellence and pioneering force of her music, the remarkable growth she has brought to the music of the harp and for the positive influence she has had on the young generation of harpers". She began to play the harp at the age of eleven. A West Cork background steeped in the oral tradition led her, while still a teenager, to develop new techniques that made it possible for the first time to play traditional music on the harp in a stylistically accurate way. She won the All-Ireland and Pan-Celtic Harp Competitions several times and in 1985 recorded the first harp album ever to concentrate on traditional Irish dance music, *The New-Strung Harp* - "an intensely passionate and intelligent record and a milestone in Irish harp music" **THE IRISH EXAMINER**. Her approach has been profoundly influential wherever lever harps are played - "a single-handed reinvention of the harp". Her new CD with her sisters, *The Casey Sisters' Sibling Revelry*, was "First-class... wonderfully atmospheric" * * * * **THE DAILY TELEGRAPH** "Stunning" **THE LIVING TRADITION** "Très romantique... magnifique sonorité!" **LE CANARD FOLK** "Radiant... a treat" * * * * **THE IRISH TIMES** "Superbe" * * * * **TRAD MAGAZINE** (France) "Blissfully beautiful... channelling mythology, nostalgia and geography to bewitching effect in heartfelt music" * * * * **SONGLINES** "Virtuosic, rich, flowing, soulful... (with) sheer depth of feeling for the Irish tradition" **THE HERALD** (Scotland) Maire performs and gives masterclasses at harp festivals throughout the world. Two volumes of her arrangements have been published: *The Irish Harper* Vols. I and II. She contributed two articles about the Irish harp and modes in Irish music to the *Companion to Irish Traditional Music* (Cork University Press) and is profiled there, in *Celtic Women in Music* (Quarry Books, Canada) and in the *Rough Guide to Irish Music*. "Her work restores the harp to its true voice" **THE IRISH TIMES**

CHRIS is a "brilliant English master of the acoustic guitar" (**THE DAILY TELEGRAPH**), a "dazzling player" (**ACOUSTIC GUITAR**, USA) whose work is "nothing short of brilliant" (**DIRTY LINEN**, USA). He began to play guitar at the age of four and at fourteen played his first paid gig in a folk club. A prolific composer, arranger and record producer, he's played with luminaries of many musical worlds: folk (harper Máire Ní Chathasaigh and Boys of the Lough), jazz (Stéphane Grappelli and Diz Disley) and comedy (Fred Wedlock) - receiving a silver disc for producing Fred's international hit *Oldest Swinger in Town*, to which he also composed the tune and which reached No 2 in the charts in the UK and No 1 in several other countries. As Fred's Musical Director and bandleader, appearances on such iconic national TV programmes as BBC's Top of the Pops followed. One day in 1985 he decided he'd really rather play interesting music than pursue interesting paychecks, so turned his back on the commercial world and returned to his folk roots. He has since concentrated on composition and on playing the traditional music of these islands and beyond. In addition to his work with Máire, Chris toured until 1997 as a member of Boys of the Lough in North America, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Estonia, Denmark, China and Italy. He has been principal guitar tutor for Newcastle University's Folk B.Mus course since its inception and visiting tutor at the University of Limerick, the University of Ulster and the Carl Nielson Institute, Denmark. His book of guitar compositions and arrangements *Adventures with a Flatpick* was published in 2001. His solo CD *Fretwork* was "a stunning and stylistically-varied album, heaving with good tunes, from one of the UK's most staggering and influential acoustic guitarists" **fROOTS**; *Still Getting Away with It* was "Dazzling... A genuinely uplifting album of some of the most remarkable guitar playing you're going to hear all year" * * * * **ROCK N REEL** "Beauty and virtuosity from a master craftsman at the peak of his abilities... I couldn't recommend an album more highly" * * * * **MAVERICK**

"So moving... Technical brilliance and beauty that brings tears to the eyes..." **IRISH MUSIC MAGAZINE** (Ireland)

"Did things I have never heard a harp do before. Astonishing... An extraordinary event" **CLASSICAL GUITAR** (UK)

"Their blinding technique, sizzling Irish reels and hot jazz improvisation brought an extended standing ovation... Newman has the great gift of being informative and hilarious simultaneously" **WEST AUSTRALIAN**

"This celebrated duo took the place by storm. Stately Carolan tunes, jazzy Django-ish numbers, dazzling Doc Watson style flat picking fliers, driving Irish dance tunes - this pair can nonchalantly do the lot. Guitar players applauded and went sadly home to burn their instruments!" **THE BELFAST TELEGRAPH** (Ireland)

"Their stagecraft was masterly and their introductions informative and funny" **CHRISTCHURCH PRESS** (N.Z.)

"Their virtuosity leads them on... Máire chomps on the bit of the harp's respectability, playing storming jigs and reels... Music of fire and brilliance from the high-wire act in traditional music" **THE IRISH TIMES** (Ireland)

"Sublime" **SYDNEY MORNING HERALD** (Australia)