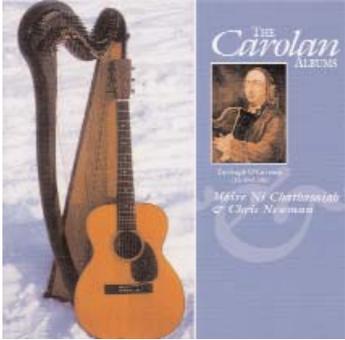


máire ní chathasaigh & **chris newman**



“THE CAROLAN ALBUMS”

“The Carolan Albums” contains 24 pieces by the blind Irish harper and composer Turlough O’Carolan (1670 - 1738). The most famous of the Irish harper-composers of his day, Carolan’s music is the most popular ever composed for the harp in Ireland. It affords a great deal of scope to the creativity of the performer, since only Carolan’s melodies survive. This recording consists of original arrangements of these beautiful tunes, informed by Máire’s knowledge both of the native Irish harp tradition and of baroque forms.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

“...a masterpiece of virtuosity from Máire Ní Chathasaigh, a scholarly Irish harpist, in truly inspired union with Chris Newman, a quirky English master of the acoustic guitar... an enticing introduction to the elegant, Italian-influenced music of Turlough O’ Carolan. This album is a must for any folk-related collection.”

THE IRISH TIMES

“If Máire Ní Chathasaigh wasn’t around, Irish harping would be so much the poorer... Her work, which goes beyond mere harp performance, could be described as an attempt to restore the harp to its true voice... (Here) harp and guitar partner each other in arrangements which leave conventional accompaniment far behind in their precision and attention to the finest detail. Unfussy, with all the spaces left empty and resonating, the long arm of the music reaches back into a noble tradition.”

TAPLAS (Wales)

“A cocktail to delight and intoxicate! Faultlessly played, with consummate skill and a perfect understanding of the grace and elegance of the music. Guitar complements harp beautifully, at times sounding almost harp-like... The arrangements for harp and guitar are carefully thought out and every piece is

exquisitely executed, the instruments always in complete sympathy with one another... Particularly impressive is ‘Máire Dhall’, where the silences ring out as clearly as the notes... A little gem. **Máire’s playing is truly breathtaking. Her deep understanding of the music, combined with technical skill and passion mark her out as the foremost modern interpreter of Carolan.**”

FOLKWRITE

“A delight...The sheer excellence of the musicianship...sets standards which should be aspired to not only in this field but throughout folk music. The sleeve notes are of a comparable standard. Very strongly recommended.”

FOLK NORTHWEST

“No one else could have done justice to such a project.”

FOLK ON TAP

“A magnificent collection from two superlative musicians... In a plethora of Carolan records, this is the best.”

TYKES NEWS

“The playing of this duo exhibits a virtuosity and balance of expression combined with a simple elegance which has a reviewer running to the thesaurus in search of superlatives. Enchanting, expressive, a remarkable piece of work.”