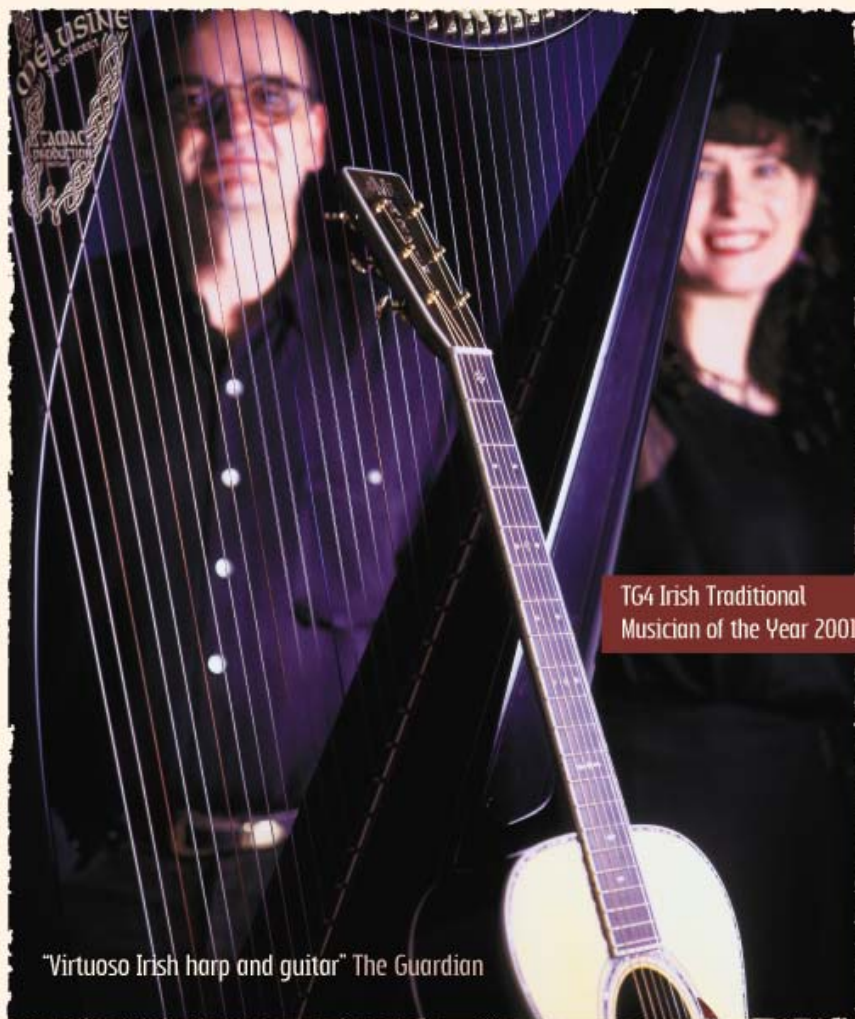


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TG4 Irish Traditional
Musician of the Year 2001

"Virtuoso Irish harp and guitar" The Guardian

Chris Newman & Máire Ní Chathasaigh

"The greatest Celtic harper of our age" Live Ireland with "one of the UK's most influential acoustic guitarists" Folk Roots
"Gloriously adventurous" The Daily Telegraph "Technical brilliance and beauty that brings tears to the eyes" Irish Music Magazine

“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, FOLK ROOTS...

The celebrated virtuoso partnership of Máire Ni Chathasaigh, “*the most influential Celtic harper of our time*” and Irish Traditional Musician of the Year 2001, and Chris Newman, one of the UK’s more extraordinary and revered acoustic guitarists, made its début at the 1987 Cambridge Folk Festival. They’ve played in twenty-one countries - from the Shetland Islands to New Zealand, from San Francisco to Calabria - and have given TV and radio performances on five continents. Though rooted in the Irish tradition, the eclecticism, emotional range and spirit of adventure of their performances, a breathtaking blend of traditional Irish music, hot jazz, bluegrass and baroque, coupled with Máire’s “*clear, warm and expressive voice*” and Chris’s “*subversively witty introductions*” ensure a busy international touring schedule. Their fifth critically-acclaimed album together **Dialogues** is “*Terrific: brilliant, beautiful, rich, virtuosic, delightful, classic, perfect!*” ★ ★ ★ ★ **THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE** (Ireland)

Máire is “*one of the world’s greatest harpists*” with an unparalleled international reputation as an exponent of traditional Irish music on the harp. In 2001 she received 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 grew up in a well-known West Cork musical family and began to play the harp at the age of eleven. As a teenager her originality was quickly recognised: having won the All-Ireland and Pan-Celtic Harp Competitions several times, a number of TV and radio broadcasts followed. In 1985 she recorded the first harp album ever to concentrate on traditional Irish dance music, **The New-Strung Harp** - “*a mile-stone in Irish harp music*”. The techniques that she invented for the purpose have been profoundly influential - “*a single-handed reinvention of the harp*”. Two volumes of her arrangements have been published: **The Irish Harper** Vols. I and II.

Chris began to play guitar at the age of four and at fourteen gave his first paid concert in a folk club. After dabbling in the jazz scene in his late teens, a brief foray into the commercial world resulted in a silver disc for producing **The Oldest Swinger in Town**. A prolific composer, arranger and record producer, he has been principal guitar tutor for Newcastle University’s Folk B.Mus course since its inception. 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. His book of guitar compositions and arrangements **Adventures with a Flatpick** was published in 2001. His 1998 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*” **FOLK ROOTS** (UK) “*Dazzling*” **ACOUSTIC GUITAR** (USA) “*Revered*” **TAPLAS** (Wales)

“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” **THE 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)
“Astonishing... Máire managed to do things I have never heard a harp do before... The skills with which they interacted and the beautiful music they performed left a lasting impression on me and anyone else who was privileged to witness this extraordinary event” **CLASSICAL GUITAR MAGAZINE** (UK) July 2003
“Their stagecraft was masterly and their introductions informative and funny” **CHRISTCHURCH PRESS** (New Zealand)
“Music of fire and brilliance from the high-wire act in traditional music” **THE IRISH TIMES** (Ireland)