

Another summer break is just about over and we're almost at the point when we start touring again. The previous few months were certainly the busiest ever: we played over 100 concerts on 3 continents (Australia, New Zealand, the US, Austria, Germany, Italy, the UK and Ireland...), so we've been quite happy to spend the past few weeks working in the studio on the next duo album. As yet untitled, it'll be released in January 2006. In the meantime there are some other recordings to mention.

Back in the early 80s Chris made a couple of solo albums. The first, the imaginatively titled **Chris Newman** came out in 1981. All traces of that recording have long since disappeared except for a handful of LPs that were kept as souvenirs. A couple of years later came **Chris Newman Two** (titles never were his strong point), an album that featured many friends and collaborators from that era. These included ace mandolin player Simon Mayor and Britain's foremost exponent of the triangle, Fred Wedlock.

A few months ago we uncovered the stereo masters of the second record and were surprised to find them in excellent condition. We're very grateful to Andy Allan, the original recording engineer, who's done a fine job decoding the original Dolby 'A' masters and creating the files needed to put the audio into the digital domain. The album hasn't been remixed, edited or altered in any way and is full of terrific tunes played on various guitars, mandolins, banjo, flute, piano, bass & drums. And triangle. **Chris Newman Two** (OBMCD16) will be available from September 26th from our secure online store, or by mail order from our usual address: Old Bridge Music, PO Box 7, Ilkley, LS29 9RY. If you'd like a preview, have a listen to some sound clips on our website [www.oldbridgemusic.com](http://www.oldbridgemusic.com)



Following the purchase of a new Collings guitar last year, Chris was invited to participate in a US-based recording project that included many very well-known American musicians, all of whom play Collings instruments. The CD, **Songs for Sophie**, is now available and features, among others, Chris Hillman, Herb Pederson, Mark Cosgrove, Tim O'Brien, Cody Kilby, Scott Fore and Steve Kaufman. All these people are very serious players indeed and Chris was thrilled to take part, contributing a specially composed and recorded track. The CD is actually a fundraiser for a very good cause (more info from <http://collingsforum.com/cd/index.html>). All proceeds from copies we sell will be sent directly to the fund.

In 1991 we released our third recording, **Out of Court**. It featured guest appearances by legendary bass player Danny Thompson and uilleann pipes supremo Liam O'Flynn, as well as Simon Mayor and both Maire's sisters Nollaig and Mairéad on fiddles. The album's been out of stock for some time as we managed to mislay the master files for the sleeve. These have now been recreated, the CD has been re-pressed and copies are once again available.

Máire thoroughly enjoyed participating in this year's World Harp Congress - held in Dublin for the first time in July. Lasting for a week, this prestigious event included performances by many world famous, mostly classical, harpists. This was the first year that the Irish harp was prominently featured at the Congress, and in addition to giving her own solo recital later in the week, Máire played in the opening concert (with Nobel laureate Séamus Heaney) held in St Patrick's Cathedral in front of over 1000 people. The event was also broadcast live on Ireland's foremost classical music station, RTÉ Lyric FM. No pressure then!

# Máire Ní Chathasaigh & Chris Newman

"The greatest Celtic harper of our age" **Live Ireland**  
& TG4 Irish Traditional Musician of the Year 2001  
with "one of the UK's most influential acoustic guitarists" **fRoots**  
"Technical brilliance and beauty that brings tears to the eyes" **Irish Music Magazine**

Chris has been principal guitar tutor at Newcastle University's folk music degree course since its inception four years ago - the original intake of students finished this summer (they all passed). Máire's now involved too as an increasing number of harpers are joining the course.

We had a very gratifying response to our appearance on BBC Radio 4's **Woman's Hour** last February: we were delighted to find that people who'd heard us for the first time on the programme were still turning up to our concerts in June!

Our booking agent, Kevin Martin, has a new phone number: 01943 601049. His email address is [kevin@oldbridgemusic.com](mailto:kevin@oldbridgemusic.com)

Don't forget that our website - [www.oldbridgemusic.com](http://www.oldbridgemusic.com) - is regularly updated and is full of information about our concerts, instruments, recordings and books. You can also find reviews, soundfiles, photographs and all sorts of other stuff. Lots of information too about Nollaig Casey, Arty McGlynn, Christy O'Leary, Clive Carroll, Mark Newman and Tom McConville. And the shop's always open...

Following significant price rises from Royal Mail we've reluctantly increased our flat rate postage charge to £1.25. We hope to keep this rate until Royal Mail introduces a completely new pricing structure in September 2006.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the concerts!

Máire Chris