

OLD BRIDGE MUSIC

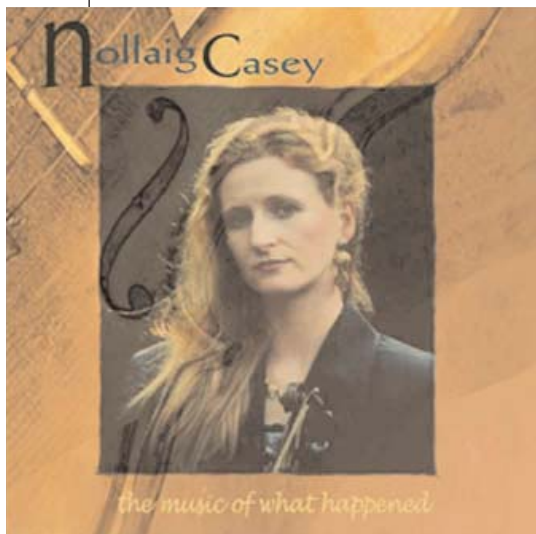
is delighted to announce the June 21st release of fiddler Nollaig Casey's début solo CD, "The Music of What Happened"

"When Oisín was an old, old man and when all the other Fianna were dead, he was asked by Saint Patrick what was the music that Finn and the Fianna loved best to hear.

Remembering those days and the sunburnt companions who were long gone he told the holy man that the best music was the music of what happened."

One of Ireland's most eminent musicians, fiddle player **Nollaig Casey** has just finished her long-awaited debut solo album, **The Music of What Happened**. This new album showcases her exceptional expressive gifts and is a unique mixture of powerhouse Irish dance-music, meltingly beautiful airs, exquisite songs and memorable new compositions - all suffused with her trademark lyricism and virtuosity. Produced by **Arty McGlynn** who also plays on the CD, the recording features many of Ireland's most renowned musicians including **Sharon Shannon, Mairéad Casey, Rod McVey** and **Liam Bradley**.

Nollaig is one of Ireland's most gifted musicians, with her own unique way of playing traditional Irish music on the fiddle and such an utterly distinctive sound that it would be impossible to mistake it for that of anyone else. This inimitable and characteristic style has held such appeal for other musicians that there exists hardly any major Irish artist of the last 20 years with whom she has not worked. Her powerful presence graced two of Ireland's most influential bands, the legendary **Planxty** (with whom she recorded the 1987 **"Live in Dublin"** album) and the ground-breaking **Coolfin**. Both also featured **Dónal Lunny**, who has involved Nollaig in most of his projects over the past 20 years. Nollaig's prodigious technique and her unique ability to play both classical and traditional music with equal proficiency, coupled with her exceptional expressive gifts has inspired a number of composers to write orchestral pieces for her. She's been star soloist for the first performances of major works by **Shaun Davey, Evan Chambers** and **Dónal Lunny**. On the world stage she has performed at the **2003 Special Olympics Opening Ceremony, Hanover's Expo 2000** and has toured throughout the world as featured fiddle player with the international hit show **Riverdance**. She is herself a prolific composer: "Twins on a Swing" (on this current CD) was used as a signature tune for the RTÉ / TG4 TV series **Sult** for several years. She's been a featured soloist in over 20 feature films with an Irish tinge, most recently **Dancing at Lughnasa** and **Waking Ned**.



Nollaig has also worked and recorded with **Enya, Van Morrison, Sinéad O'Connor, Nanci Griffith, Ricky Skaggs, Rod Stewart, Emmy Lou Harris, Steve Earle, Mary Black, Carlos Nuñez, Jim Rooney, Andy Irvine, Moving Hearts, The Indigo Girls, Spandau Ballet, Elvis Costello, Christy Moore, Liam O'Flynn, Dan ar Braz, Sharon Shannon, Maura O'Connell, Dick Gaughan, Paddy Keenan, Seán Keane, Máirtín O'Connor, Chris Newman** - and of course her sister, the innovative and influential harper **Máire Ní Chathasaigh**, among many others. She's recorded two critically-acclaimed duo albums with **Arty McGlynn**, her main musical collaborator of the past two decades.

The combination of Nollaig's virtuoso playing, beautiful and melancholic, haunting airs, electrifying tunes coupled with her poignant vocals make this

recording one to savour, offering a taste of the richness, the musical traditions and the sheer originality of one of our most treasured musicians. A rare and special treat.

From the ancient Irish Fenian Cycle, as re-told by Marie Heaney in **Over Nine Waves**, Faber & Faber, 1994.

CHRIS NEWMAN & MÁIRE NÍ CHATHASAIGH'S NEWS AND JUNE - DECEMBER 2004 CONCERT SCHEDULE

Plus! Old Bridge Music announces the release of Máire's sister Nollaig Casey's new solo CD (Details Overleaf)

SOME 2003 REVIEWS

"Máire is the greatest Celtic harper of our age" - Live Ireland

"It isn't every day one gets to hear musicians whose singing and playing are so moving, so wonderfully executed with such technical brilliance and beauty, that they actually bring tears to one's eyes: that evening will remain a lasting & unforgettable memory."

- Irish Music Magazine

"Máire managed to do things I have never heard a harp do before... I was alternately astonished and delighted with the entire concert. 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

Máire and Chris have had a very busy 2004 so far, touring in Germany, the USA, Ireland & the UK. 2003 touring included trips to Holland, Ireland, New Zealand (their sixth tour there) and four US trips! Festivals included Manchester International Harp Festival; Edinburgh International Harp Festival; Galway University Arts Festival; Zwammerdam Festival, Holland; New Jersey Spring Folk Festival; National Folk Harp Festival, Bloomington, Indiana; Dublin Ohio Irish Festival; Whitby Folk Festival; Wellington Folk Festival, New Zealand and Lommel Festival, Belgium.

Chris and Máire's playing features on Irish rock legend Rory Gallagher's posthumous album **Wheels within Wheels** (BMG, 2003), launched at a star-studded party at the Irish Embassy in London last March. Máire was recently **Lyric FM's** Artist of the Week: in a series of interviews she discussed her background, career and musical inspiration, and introduced her choice of music. (**Lyric** is Ireland's equivalent of BBC Radio 3.) 2003 Irish TV performances included RTÉ's **Open House** and TG4's **Geantraí** Christmas Day Special. Chris is principal guitar tutor at Newcastle University's Folk B.Mus. course.



JUNE			
	Fri 4	Winchester - Tower Arts Centre	01962 867986
	Sat 5	Trowbridge , Wiltshire - Arc Theatre	01225 756376
	Sun 6	Calver Village Hall, nr Bakewell, North Derbyshire	0114 2815324
	Fri 11	Aylesbury , Buckinghamshire - Limelight Theatre	01296 424332
	Sat 12	Windsor Arts Centre	01753 859336
	Sun 13	Stamford Arts Centre Guitar Festival - Chris only	01780 763203
USA	20 - 27	Maryville Tennessee - Chris teaches & performs at Steve Kaufmann's Flatpicking Kamp	www.flatpick.com
Ireland	27 - 2	Termonfeckin , Co Louth - Cairde na Cruite (Irish Harp Society)'s 19th Irish Harp Summer School. Máire will be teaching and performing. Info: mccranna@eircom.net	+353 1 285 6345
JULY			
UK	Sat 3	Helmsley Arts Centre (Harp Festival: afternoon harp workshop & evening concert)	01439 771700
	Mon 5	Colchester Arts Centre	01206 500900
	Tue 6	Dartford Folk Club	01322 222553
	Sat 10	Priddy Folk Fayre, Somerset	01749 674080
	Thu 15	Caernarfon , Gwesty'r Celt	01286 831111
	Sat 24	Belmullet , Co Mayo - Dunlevin Festival of Arts	
SEPTEMBER			
Australia/N.Z.	Sun 5	Auckland	
	Wed 8	Brisbane	
	Fri 10	Sydney	
	Sat 11	Melbourne	
	Sun 12	Perth	
	Tue 14	Adelaide	
	Wed 15	Adelaide	
OCTOBER			
	Fri 1	Orkney Arts Society	
	Fri 8	Cirencester The Sundial Theatre	
	Sat 9	Dorchester Arts Centre	
	13 - 15	North Yorkshire Rural Touring (venues tba)	
	Sat 16	Shelly Village Hall, Yorkshire	
	17 - 19	North Yorkshire Rural Touring (venues tba)	
	Thu 28	Ebbw Vale Beaufort Theatre	
	29 - 30	Northamptonshire Rural Touring (venues tba)	
NOVEMBER			
		USA / Austria / Italy	
DECEMBER			
		Austria / Hungary	