



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*

Newsletter Summer 2006

Máire and Chris have had a wonderful 2005 / 2006 touring season which took them to some very interesting places. Within the last six months they've toured in the UK, Ireland, the USA, Germany, Denmark and Italy. Their last concert of 2005 (with Máire's sister Nollaig) boasted what was undoubtedly also the most atmospheric venue: the gorgeous early mediaeval church of St Benedetto in Brindisi, Italy, two days after Christmas. The concert received extensive national press coverage (*La Repubblica* and *Corriere della Sera...*) and was televised by *Rai Uno*, the state broadcaster. They had positively balmy weather too, with a temperature of 18C that compared favourably with the -3C at the venue the previous night in Venice! The Italian concerts were a lovely end to the year. You can see some photographs on our website.

Festivals within the last year have included Chicago Celtic Festival and Steve Kaufman's Acoustic Kamp, Maryville, Tennessee - Chris solo (USA); Isolo del Liri Festival, Brindisi Festival, Folkest Festival, Celtica Festival and Andar per Musica

Festival (all Italy); O'Carolan Harp Festival, Nobber, Co Meath and Cúirt Chruitreachta Harp Festival (Ireland); Halkaer Kro Festival, Denmark; Folk Festival on the Pier, Cromer, Norfolk; Beaford Arts Festival, Devon; Haverhill Festival, Suffolk; Gillingham Festival, Dorset, Beverley Folk Festival, Belper Nailers Moot Festival, Wath on Dearne Festival, Wheaton Aston Festival and Whitby Folk Festival (all UK).

Several excerpts from the concerts Chris gave at the Acoustic Kamp in Tennessee can be found on YouTube.com: you can see video clips of some great duets with Steve Kaufman and Mark Cosgrove, among others.

A profile of Máire and Chris appears in the current (Summer 2006) issue of *Keltika*, an Italian magazine devoted to Celtic music, to coincide with their summer festival performances in Italy.

Additional career highlights for Máire included a 16-date nationwide lecture tour of the US in March / April 2006 at the invitation of the Irish

American Cultural Institute (she is Ireland's premier traditional harper and an expert in the history and repertoire of the Irish harp) and a prestigious solo recital at the World Harp Congress, held in Dublin in July 2005. She also played at the opening gala concert of the Congress (with Nobel laureate Séamus Heaney) held in St Patrick's Cathedral and broadcast live on Ireland's premier classical music station, RTÉ Lyric FM. (Last year Máire was Artist of the Week on the same station.)

Another notable 2005 broadcast was their very successful appearance on BBC Radio 4's ***Woman's Hour***.

Within the past couple of years they've toured in the USA, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Italy, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Ireland and the UK; the coming year will bring them to many of those places once again, to help promote their new duo album, due for release in September.