

MASTERS OF THE CELTIC HARP

Two Sides of Celtic by the Foremost Harpers of Ireland & Scotland



Gráinne Hambly & William Jackson



Their CD "Music from Ireland and Scotland"

"...the most creative interpretations of Irish and Scottish traditional music you're likely to hear."

—IrishPhiladelphia.com

Rarely is Irish and Scottish music arranged together with the dynamic and creative finesse of Gráinne Hambly and William Jackson. Besides the contrasting and complimentary sounds and styles of the harps, their performances also include concertina, whistle and bouzouki. Besides concerts, they also do educational hands-on workshops in Irish and Scottish music as well as musical lectures.

"...soaring airs and more down-to-earth dance music, and both genres are beautifully handled."

—Alex Monaghan, Irish Music Magazine

"Their tune selections were outstanding and their arrangements exquisite; couple that with the history and the humour and I felt it was an unbeatable night of music. "

—Sorrel Devine, Irish Ceilidhe Club, Rhode Island

"Dazzling Artistry. " —Sellersville Theater, Sellersville, Pennsylvania

"Simply the best! Our perennial favorite performers." —Somerset Folk Harp Festival

Booking Now for Their Upcoming Tour Schedules

Please Contact: Kathy DeAngelo, 856-795-7637, kathy@harpagency.com

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<http://grainne.harp.net>

"...a dazzling, rhythmically complex performance showcasing her unique playing style, an artful balance of power and finesse."

—IrishPhiladelphia.com

"...Grainne Hambly has to be among my favorite harp players in Ireland today... a tasteful player and a great interpreter of both the old harp repertoire and the traditional dance music of Ireland."

—Philippe Varlet at CelticGrooves Imports

"Her harp playing is always refreshing, uncluttered and genuine, speaking to the heart of the music."

—The Celtic Harp Page

Gráinne Hambly

Since touring extensively throughout the United States for more than 15 years, Gráinne Hambly has not only garnered an ever-growing following of devoted harp enthusiasts but has managed to cross over and capture the Irish music fan with the taste for the fast, driving reels and jigs of Irish traditional music. She has broken the genteel parlor image and elevated the stature of the harp right up there with the fiddles and pipes in the realm of dynamic dance music. Add to that the unsurpassed expressive quality the harp has in her hands in the rendition of age-old airs and laments and you have the masterful performance of an experienced and renowned player.

Mayo-born and bred, Gráinne has not rested on the laurels of winning the senior All-Ireland titles on harp and concertina in 1994 and then the prestigious Keadue and Granard harp competitions. With three critically acclaimed CDs of solo harp, she and William released their first major recording collaboration to dynamic reviews in 2009. She has also published two books of her arrangements. She tours most of the year and has appeared at most of the major harp and Irish music festivals in the U.S. and Europe as well as Japan.

"Gráinne Hambly is an internationally recognized performer on the Irish harp....widely acclaimed and.....in the front-line of performers in her genre world-wide."

*Dr. Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin,
Irish World Music Centre*

Recording Credits

Music from Ireland and Scotland (2009) with William Jackson

Gráinne's solo CDs: *The Thorn Tree (2006)*, *Golden Lights and Green Shadows* and *Between the Showers*

Accompaniment on Brian McNamara's *Fort of the Jewels*.

With the Belfast Harp Orchestra *Carillon, Colmcille, Celtic Harpestry*, CD and video & The Chieftains' *Celtic Harp, Feasting with Carolan* with Clarsheere, and

The Art of Harp, 2 tracks on Rudiger Oppermann's compilation CD. More performing credentials on Gráinne's website

Call Now to get in their next tour routing: Kathy DeAngelo, 856-795-7637
kathy@harpagency.com www.harpagency.com

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William Jackson

William Jackson has been a major figure in traditional Scottish music since being a founding member in 1976 of the influential folk group, Ossian, whose outstanding recordings remain a benchmark for Scottish music. The band, whose music influenced a generation of musicians, extensively toured the U.S. and Europe. Acclaimed for his musicality on the Celtic harp, he is also a renowned composer whose work is inspired by the history and landscape of Scotland.

In 1999, his song, "Land of Light" was selected as the winner of the year-long "Song For Scotland" competition, coinciding with the restoration of the Scottish Parliament, to select a "new anthem for a new era in Scotland." He has an impressive list of commissioned works and subsequent recordings, including *The Wellpark Suite*, *St. Mungo*, and *Inchcolm*. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra commissioned *A Scottish Island*, which fused traditional and classical music. (All now available on his new 4-CD set *Composition*.)

As a solo performer, he has toured extensively throughout Europe and North America, and has performed at many festivals, including the Edinburgh International Harp Festival, Somerset Folk Harp Festival, Ohio Scottish Arts School (Oberlin) and the Rio International Harp Festival. As part of his work combining traditional and classical music, William has composed for and performed with The Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Cape Cod Symphony and Asheville Symphony Orchestra.

"He's got the best ear of anyone I've ever come across, and he has total command of the Scottish traditional idiom." (*Sounding Strings*)
--Iain MacInnes, BBC's 'Pipeline' program

"... the great thing about Jackson - the skill and artistry of the man - lies in his lightness of touch. William Jackson will leave you asking for more."

—Alastair Clark of the Scotsman

"...sensitive and evocative ...original and inspiring..." – Alex Monaghan, *The Living Tradition*

"The best of the best." –Celtic Beat on *Duan Albanach*

2004 Swannanoa's Master Music Maker award for Lifetime Achievement

2015 Traditional Scottish Music Hall of Fame inductee with Ossian

2016 Somerset Folk Harp Festival Lifetime Achievement Award recipient

Recording Credits

<http://www.wjharp.com>

The Music of Ireland and Scotland (2009) with Gráinne Hambly
Composition (2016 4-CD set), The New Harp (2008), Land of Light, Duan Albanach, A Scottish Island, The Celtic Suites, Inchcolm, The Ancient Harp of Scotland, Celtic Experience Vol. 1-3, Notes from a Hebridean Island

With Ossian: The Carrying Stream, Light on a Distant Shore, Borders, Seal Song, Dove Across the Water, The Best of Ossian, Ossian, St. Kilda Wedding

With Others: Billy Jackson & Billy Ross: The Misty Mountain
