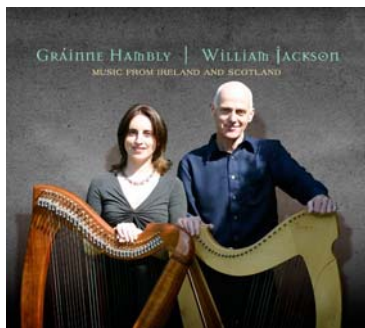


MASTERS OF THE CELTIC HARP

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



Gráinne Hambly & William Jackson



THEIR NEW CD JUST RELEASED JULY 2009.

Rarely has Irish and Scottish music been heard together in a way that compares with the music of Gráinne Hambly and William Jackson. Besides the contrasting and complimentary sounds and styles of the harps, performances will also include concertina, whistle and bouzouki. Educational workshops in Irish and Scottish harp styles as well as the harp in music therapy are also offered.

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

—IrishPhiladelphia.com

"What a delight it was to host Grainne and Billy this past weekend at McPherson Scottish Festival. I hope Billy & Grainne enjoyed themselves as much as their audiences did."

—McPherson Arts Council, Kansas

"The combination of Grainne and William on their harps and other instruments is absolutely phenomenal."

—Kathy Ressler, radio host of "Glor na hÉireann, New Brunswick NJ

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

Booking Now for their 2009/2010 Tour Schedules

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

See our website for other fine artists www.harpagency.com

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<http://grainne.harp.net>

Gráinne Hambly

Since touring extensively throughout the United States for the past nine 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 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 now living in Galway, 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 two critically acclaimed CDs of solo harp, she has just released her third album and recorded with numerous other artists. 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.

“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. Mícheal Ó Súilleabháin,
Irish World Music Centre*

“...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

Recording Credits

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 Clarsheree, and *The Art of Harp*, 2 tracks on Rudiger Oppermann's compilation CD.

More performing credentials on Gráinne's website

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William Jackson

William Jackson of Glasgow has been at the forefront of Scottish traditional music for nearly 30 years. In addition to his stature as one of the leading harpers and multi-instrumentalists in Scotland, William has gained an international reputation as a composer. His "Land of Light" won the international competition in 1999 as the new song for Scotland, announced on the eve of that Parliament convening for the first time in 300 years.

William was a founding member and creative tour de force of Ossian in 1976, which became one of Scotland's best-loved traditional bands. The band, whose music influenced a generation of musicians, extensively toured the U.S. and Europe. Besides harp, he also plays tinwhistle and bouzouki.

While working with Ossian, he also established himself as a composer and he has steadily knit together Celtic influences with classical instrumentation in a style uniquely his own. He has an impressive list of commissioned works and subsequent recordings, including "The Wellpark Suite," "St. Mungo", and "Inchcolm". A 1996 commission from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra resulted in "A Scottish Island", also used traditional and classical music together. His commission, "Duan Albanach", was created for the 2002 opening of the Celtic Connections Festival in Glasgow. In 2007 he performed his newest work "Scottish Fantasia" with the Asheville Symphony.

He has composed music in Scotland for the BBC and Scottish television and recently directed and performed the music for "The Battle of the Clans" for the History Channel. William's performance on harp, whistle and bodhran is featured on the soundtrack of *A Shot at Glory*, starring Robert Duval and Michael Keaton, which was filmed in Scotland.

"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

Recording Credits

<http://www.wjharp.com>

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

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