

A Piper's Dream



Aughavas Uilleann Piper, Brian McNamara.

A Piper's Dream is the new solo album from Aughavas Uilleann Piper, Brian McNamara. Described by the Scottish based music magazine 'The Living Tradition' as featuring "exquisite piping", this solo recording is certain to ensure that Brian takes his place amongst the creme de la creme of Uilleann pipers. Brian has been described by the New York Irish Echo's critic, Don Meade, as "one of the finest pure pipers in Ireland" and in producing this album has interwoven numerous piping classics with a unique repertoire from South Leitrim. Extensively and comprehensively researched sleeve notes (a 20 page booklet is included with the recording) provide a detailed reference to the musical heritage featured in this production, a heritage of which Leitrim can be justifiably proud.

Brian is the eldest member of the

widely renowned musical McNamara family of Carrickavoher, Aughavas. Introduced to the Uilleann pipes in 1979, he has become recognised widely for his unique musical style and repertoire. A winner of multiple All-Ireland titles at Junior and Senior level during the 1980s, he became a regular member of concert tour groups and travels extensively as a musician. He is also a regular performer and tutor at national and international workshops and Summer schools. When not involved in music, Brian can be found lecturing at Dublin City University where he is an academic staff member.

This recording follows hot on the heels of the 1998 recording by the McNamara family, 'Leitrim's Hidden Treasure' which went on to be win the award for 'Best traditional newcomer of the year' in 1998. Among the winners at the award ceremony

held in Dublin in June last year were such luminaries as The Corrs, Sharon Shannon, Paul Brady and Sean Keane. As with the family recording, much of the material recorded on Brian's album is taken from old manuscript collections of former South Leitrim musicians such as Stephen Grier and Alex Sutherland. Grier (1824-1894) compiled a collection of approximately 1000 tunes in 1883 at his home in Gortletteragh while Alex Sutherland (1873-1967) who lived in the parish of Carrigallen also collected many local and rare melodies which are featured on Brian's recording. Most enlightening, is the immensely strong tradition of Uilleann piping which existed in the South Leitrim area particularly during the 19th century. The importance of the contribution of contemporary pipers of the time to the survival and transmission of the tradition has been distinctly brought to prominence in this recording.

The recording also features Brian's sister Deirdre playing concertina with accompaniment from German guitarist Jens Kommnick and harper, Michael Rooney. For those interested in acquiring a copy of what has been referred to as "excellent" and "a rare treat of brilliant piping" by RTE producer Peter Browne and Shannon-side presenter Paddy Ryan, one can contact the McNamara family directly 078-36023 or visit Brian's web site at:

www.brianmcnamara.irish-music.net