

# Charlie Lennon

## The Emigrant Suite

Charlie Lennon's recently released solo album "The Emigrant Suite" (Gael Linn CEF 112) will strike many chords with Leitrim people at home and overseas.

The suite itself, written for fiddle, pipes, flute and viola, by Charlie describes the send off party as yet another emigrant is lost to the country and captures the loneliness and heartache felt by all involved.

The Album strikes a much lighter and happier note with many fine selections such as "The Leitrim Lilter", "Rossinver Braes", all compositions of Charlie and "Tom Mulligan's Favourites" a track dedicated to the late fiddler from Mohill who died last year but is remembered by all for his generosity and love of the music.

Charlie, of course, comes from Kiltyclogher, born into the very musical family of Jim Lennon and Sally McGrisken. His brother, Ben, from whom he learned much of his earlier music, now lives in Rossinver with his wife, Patsy (Eames). In addition to being a well known fiddler Ben is, of course, father of Maurice Lennon of Stockton's Wing fame.

Charlie was well known in music circles in Ireland in the late 50s playing with various bands on fiddle, piano, double bass and guitar.

In 1960 he emigrated to Liverpool University and was heavily involved in the music scene in that city. He was a leading member of the Liverpool Ceili Band and helped them win two all Irelands in 1963 and 1964. He picked up two more All Ireland medals with the late Sean Murphy when they won the duet competition in 1964 and 1965.

People in London will remember Charlie in the late 60s playing with Rober Sherlock, John Bowie and others in the King's Head in Fulham and also the White Hart.

In 1966, he married Sile Ni Fhleithearteigh from Spiddal, Co. Galway, who was also well known in



*Pictured above: Ben Lennon on right (brother of Charlie Lennon) shares a joke with Neil Mulligan (Dublin/Bornacoola) and Michael McNamara (Aughavas) at the Connacht Fleadh Cheoil in Mohill last June. All three are well known musicians. Neil (on left) plays uilleann pipes; Michael (in centre) plays concert flute and Ben plays fiddle.*

Irish traditional circles as an All Ireland sean nos singer and lover of the Irish language, her mother tongue. They have two sons, Sean and Donal, and a daughter, Eilis, all of whom are carrying on the tradition in both the music and the language.

Charlie has recorded with many famous musicians since returning to Ireland in 1969. These include albums with Joe Burke, Seamus Tansey, Paddy O'Brien, Seamus Connolly, Frankie Gavin — the list goes on endlessly.

His main interest now is in musical compositions in the traditional idiom and he feels that there is a need to produce new material to augment our existing stock and keep young players interested and satisfied.

### DRAMA FINALS

The Breffni Players, Carrick-on-Shannon host the National Drama Festival's One Act Finals (1985) in The County Hotel, Carrick on Dec. 6th, 7th and 8th.

### McDERMOTT?

Joe Mooney, Drumshanbo, is anxious to hear from anyone who may have any information about a Leitrim banjo player named McDermott.

Tunes like "Kilty Town" recorded by Frankie Gavin on his "Up and Away" flute album and "The Road to Cashel" recorded by Charlie on a previous album "Lucky in Love" have become absorbed into the folk culture and are played regularly at sessions in Ireland and abroad. His most recent contribution "Ril an Spideal", recorded by De Danann on their award winning "Anthem" LP has been well received everywhere.

If you want to send a gift to a friend in Ireland or abroad, then "The Emigrant Suite" is the ideal present. In addition to Charlie on fiddle, piano and viola, there are, as guest artists, Liam Og O'Flóinn the great piper, Frankie Gavin on flute and Charlie's wife, Sile, singing two lovely songs. While Leitrim is alive Irish music will never die.

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