

Connemara magic



The Connemara Suite composed by **Conor Keane** Tracks 1-6

- 1 *Connemara Reflection* 5.03
- 2 *Connemara Morning* 2.53
- 3 *Connemara Dance No 1* Polka 2.59
- 4 *Connemara March / Connemara Jig* 4.07
- 5 *Letterfrack* 4.50
- 6 *Connemara Dance No 2* Reel 2.30
- 7 *Johnny Seoighe* sung by Séamus Ó Flatharta 3.57
- 8 *Locked in the Church* **Marie Walsh** /
The Penny Candle **Paddy O'Brien** Reels 2.37
- 9 *Baile an Róba* sung by Caroline Conroy 3.55
- 10 *Bernie from Brittas* **Liz Kane** /
One for Leo **Yvonne Kane** Jigs 2.51
- 11 *Contae Mhuigheo* sung by Ronán Ó Conghaile 5.01
- 12 *Rathcroghan or Floating Crowbar* **Tíod** /
Speckled Hill **Mary Bergin** Reels 3.07
- 13 *Peigin agus Peadar* sung by Séamus Ó Flatharta,
Amy Gannon, Caroline Conroy, Ronán Ó Conghaile,
Michael Ó Cuaig 2.39
- 14 *A Simple Heart* **Conor Keane** Waltz 2.01

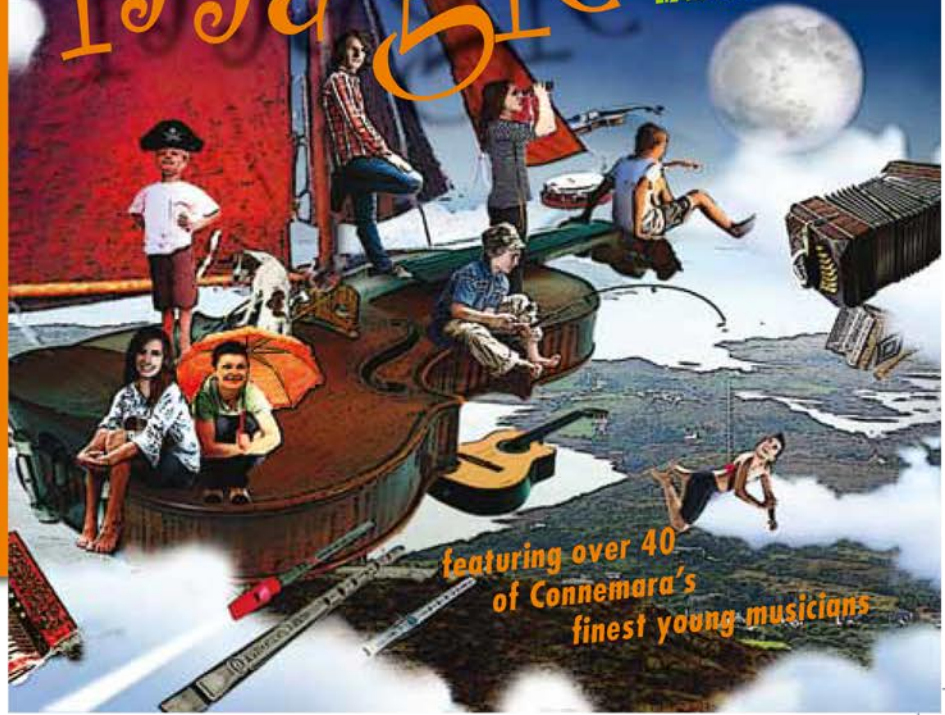


CEECC
Connemara Environmental,
Educational & Cultural Centre



Connemara magic

The Connemara Suite
composed by **Conor Keane**
and original compositions by
Mary Bergin, Marie Walsh,
Liz Kane & Yvonne Kane



featuring over 40
of Connemara's
finest young musicians

The Connemara Suite Tracks 1-6 composed by **Conor Keane**

Performed by Conor with Connemara music teachers and students

1 Connemara Reflection

Deep in a primordial past, a marriage of heaven and earth brings forth the land of Connemara, a place of beauty, tranquillity, mountains, rivers and sea.

2 Connemara Morning

The mystical marriage captured in *Connemara Reflection* now brings to birth Connemara's greatest treasure, her people. They fill her valleys, glens and coast with laughter, song and the rising optimism of a new day.

3 Connemara Dance No 1 Polka

Midday comes and so too does the Goddess of the Dance. Come dance! Throw away your cares and join us in Connemara's celebration of life captured in this simple and hearty polka dance.

4 Connemara March / Connemara Jig

Onwards we go and march off into the future. In Connemara we march forward bringing with us all we treasure, the gifts bestowed upon us by a beneficent land peopled by those who care and culminating in a jig, our oldest Irish dance.

5 Letterfrack

We pause to mark the passage of the seasons, the ineluctable sadness that comes with the passage of time. The bittersweet memories of all those fallen seasons return again to attend our hearts. But our regrets also bring wisdom.

6 Connemara Dance No 2 Reel

We finish our *Connemara Suite* with a glorious reel. The reel is the dance of renewal and celebration. Rolling and turning like a wave in the sea, it invites us to revel in all the good things we see in the world about us.



7 Johnny Seoighe sung by Séamus Ó Flatharta

This song describes the hardship endured by a particular family during the famine period. Having walked barefoot with his family to the food distribution centre in Carna, the father is told that Johnny Seoighe, the food distribution officer, is unavailable. The workhouse is full to capacity so his family face starvation.

Original lyrics and translated English version available on www.ceecc.org

8 Locked in the Church Marie Walsh / **The Penny Candle** Paddy O'Brien

I composed the first reel in January 2015. I like to compose tunes in keys that are a little challenging or different with G minor being one of my favourite keys. The reel remained nameless until the day of this CD recording when a few of us got locked in the recording venue, hence *Locked in the Church*. *The Penny Candle* is a composition of the late great Paddy O'Brien from Nenagh in Tipperary.

Liz Kane, Yvonne Kane, Mary Bergin, Marie Walsh and Noel O'Grady

9 Baile and Róba sung by Caroline Conroy

In this love poem the poet describes the physical beauty and character of his beloved. Twenty-one women have an eye on him but none can compare with his beloved.

Original lyrics and translated English version available on www.ceecc.org

10 Bernie from Brittas Liz Kane / **One for Leo** Yvonne Kane

Bernie from Brittas is dedicated to Bernie Geheran who is teaching in St. Martin's National School in Brittas, Co. Dublin. *One For Leo* was written for Leo Hallissey who has helped to keep the music alive in our village for over 30 years.

Liz Kane, Yvonne Kane, Mary Bergin, Marie Walsh and Noel O'Grady

11 Contae Mhuigheo sung by Ronán Ó Conghaile

The poet having enlisted as a sailor is thousands of miles from Co. Mayo. It is fated that his bones will lie in Santa Cruz and he asks that his comrades convey his blessings to friends and relations in his beloved Co. Mayo.

Original lyrics and translated English version available on www.ceecc.org

12 The Floating Crowbar Trad / **Speckled Hill** Mary Bergin

Speckled Hill is a tune I composed and I would like to dedicate it to Leo who does so much work on *Connemara Bog Week* and *Sea Week*. *Liz Kane, Yvonne Kane, Mary Bergin, Marie Walsh and Noel O'Grady*

13 Peigín agus Peadar sung by Amy Gannon, Séamus Ó Flatharta, Caroline Conroy, Ronán Ó Conghaile, Micheál Ó Cuaig.

Peadar goes off to work as a farm labourer, far from home leaving his young wife behind. He spends 21 years away and on returning home finds another man with his wife. To his relief and amazement it is his own son.

Original lyrics and translated English version available on www.ceecc.org

14 A Simple Heart Conor Keane

The title is taken from Gustave Flaubert's short story of the same name that tells the poignant story of Félicité, a Normandy servant. A special thanks to Noel O'Grady for his wonderful backing on bouzouki.

Conor Keane & Noel O'Grady



INSTRUMENTALISTS

All instrumentalists play *The Connemara Suite*, Tracks 1-6

Accordion/Concertina

Conor Keane
Marie Walsh
Luke Gannon
Meadhbh O'Neill
Rian Sheridan
Darragh Faherty
James Ruddy
Aisling Ní Cheannabháin
Kevin Holmes
Amy Gannon
Isabelle Ruddy
Amy Roberts

Fiddle

Liz Kane
Yvonne Kane
Grace King
Kate Griffin
Myles Ruddy
Caroline Conneely
Shauna Keaney
Róisín Gallagher Burke
Hilary Joyce
Grace Wade
Briana O'Halloran
Orlaith Davis
Ruth Morgan
Linda O'Malley
Tracey O'Malley
Caroline Coyne
Andrea Faherty
Katie Nee
Aodáin Ní Mhaini
Sarah Ní Chuirrin
Riana Ní Chuirrin
Caoimhe Ní Fhlatharta
Orla Leavy
Macdara Ó Curraoin
Aoife Ní Ghuairim

Whistle/Flute

Mary Bergin
Plunkett Ó Tuathail
Loretta Coyne
Nada Ní Chuirrin
Aighne Ní Chadhain
Séamus Ó Flatharta
Róisín King

Piano

Emma McCann

Bouzouki

Noel O'Grady

Harp

Séamus Ó Flatharta

Singers

Micheál Ó Cuaig
Séamus Ó Flatharta
Caroline Conroy
Amy Gannon,
Ronán Ó Conghaile



Connemara Magic

Picture the scene: a 19th century stone church sitting proud on a Connemara hill overlooking the town of Clifden. The elements are raging; it is blowing gale force 8 with more on the way, the Met Office has just issued an orange warning. Inside this elegant and hardy building are five music teachers and over forty young musicians playing *The Connemara Suite*, music especially commissioned by Forum for this project and composed by County Clare box player/composer **Conor Keane**. In between takes the roof rattles and surges of wind rush through the building causing more than a little headache for **Ronan Browne**, brilliant musician and sound engineer. The external elements add to the excitement as these young musicians play their hearts out in pursuit of excellence.



This is all part of an exciting project to present a high quality CD that captures the essence of the music. All the passion and excitement we associate with Connemara is in the mix and we salute the music teachers **Marie Walsh, Mary Bergin, Yvonne Kane, Liz Kane and Micheál Ó Cuaig** who have done trojan work on this project and who played a pivotal role in the exquisite arrangements of the tunes lovingly composed by Conor. On *Connemara Magic* you'll not only find stylish playing but also wonderful *sean-nós* singing.

Léiríonn an dlúthhdiosca seo go bhfuil ealaín ársa na h-amhránaíochta ar an sean-nós á chaomhnú agus á cur ar aghaidh go glúin óg fonnadóirí.

This is a Forum project in association with Conamara Environmental, Education and Cultural Centre (CEECC), Letterfrack. Funding was received through the LEADER project. This project marks the 25th birthday of Forum and also the 30th birthday of CEECC and what better way to celebrate than through nurturing our young musicians and singers.

Mol an áige agus tiocfaidh sí.

Special thanks to **Bridie O'Neill** and team at Clifden Town Hall for our rehearsal space and to **Reverend Stan Evans** and team at Church of Ireland Clifden where the CD was recorded.



Produced by **Ronan Browne, Marie Walsh and Liz Kane**.
Arrangements on Tracks 1-6 **Mary Bergin, Liz Kane, Yvonne Kane & Marie Walsh**.
Recorded in Church of Ireland, Clifden, Co. Galway.
Mixed and mastered by **Ronan Browne**.

Cover and instruments illustrations by **Hardy Langer**.
Design by **Vincent Murphy**, Artisan House, Letterfrack.
Photography by **Aoife Herriott**.
Panoramic image by **Ronan Browne**.
Executive Producer **Leo Hallissey**.

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