

Carlovian Folk Club

Dia dhaoibh go léir!

I know we haven't been running many of the gigs for the last couple of years, and we won't get the chance to run many this year either! However, we do have two fine nights planned for September and October.

On SATURDAY, September 24th, we feature the box playing of Paddy O'Brien. Paddy is regarded by serious players and collectors of Irish traditional music as one of the tradition's most important repositories; in a career that spans nearly forty years, he has collected more than 3,000 compositions—jigs, reels, hornpipes, airs, and marches, including many rare and unusual tunes. His collection, all the more remarkable because it is stored in his head, is the result of many years of careful listening, diligent practice, and sharing tunes with people for the sake of the music itself.

A product of County Offaly in the midlands of Ireland, Paddy travelled the countryside as a young man to spend time with older players, absorbing music and the accompanying oral tradition. His early influences came from many players he met in sessions, including Joe Delaney and Dan Cleary of Offaly (who, by the way, was also the first teacher of the young Dave Sheridan!), Donegal fiddler John Doherty, Paddy Fahy, Eddie Kelly from Galway, Frank McCollum of Antrim, Seán Ryan from Tipperary, and Johnny Henry from Mayo, among hosts of others. In the 1950s and 60s in Ireland, the radio also played a large part in the stimulation of interest in traditional music; he listened diligently to programs like *Céilí House*, and *A Job of Journeywork*, produced by Ciarán MacMathúna. Paddy had a hugely successful night in our folk club 5 years ago and we're delighted to have him back.

With Paddy is the uniquely talented Tommy Sullivan. Acclaimed as "one of the great contemporary folk voices of Ireland". Tommy O'Sullivan, "stellar guitarist", has remained one of the hidden treasures of traditional Irish music for many years. He has toured throughout North America and Europe, appearing at many major venues and festivals. Tommy has always kept an active recording schedule having recorded three albums as a member of Sliabh Notes and a duet album with Bothy Band piper, Paddy Keenan (with whom he played a memorable gig at the folk club!) as well as two solo albums 'Legacy' and 'Song Ablaze'

Born in London into a family with their roots deep in the heart of the West Kerry Gaeltacht. Tommy was always a keen singer and by the time the family moved back to their native West Kerry in 1972, he had already begun playing guitar. By his mid teens he started performing locally in Dingle, already a popular tourist destination largely due to the movie epic 'Ryan's Daughter' which was filmed in the locality. Encouraged by local publican and musician Fergus Flaherty, Tommy started to explore the world of traditional music. He dabbled with open guitar tunings and listened to everybody from Paul Brady and Dick Gaughan, to the acclaimed West Kerry musicians The Begley Family. A self taught musician, through trial and error he eventually settled into the DADGAD tuning, a trade mark sound of his later recordings. In 1982, with Ireland in deep recession, Tommy again moved to London. There, amongst the swell of a wave of Irish immigration, he found himself engulfed in a stream of traditional music from all over Ireland. Amid this vibrant scene, Tommy quickly established himself as a useful guitar player and singer. Many of the musicians in and around this circle would later come to national and international attention such as John Carty, Mike McGoldrick, Dezi Donnelly, Sean Keane, Ron Kavana, and actor Patrick Bergin (a regular bass player on the scene).

Paddy is coming to Ireland for one week only and has told me that if it helps to bring in a crowd, I can say he's nearly dead and we may not get to see him again!! The admission for this gig is an excellent value €10 and is in the usual venue, Teach Dolmain, Tullow Street, Carlow. This event starts at 9.30pm.