

IRISH DANCING MAGAZINE

trad Legends

We couldn't have an Irish Culture Supplement, without including Irish music, of course and here, Donal Lynch delves deep into his music collection to report on the most talented living trad legends in Irish music today. ►



Virtuoso No. 1:

Niamh Parsons is a singer who lives in Dublin and travels the world, entralling audiences with her exceptional voice. Nowadays, she's accompanied by guitarist, Graham Dunne, who enhances her songs with the subtlest strings. She's still a young woman, but 'tis a fair few days since she sang with trail blazers, Arcady, who were as influential and contemporary as Planxty and the Bothy Band, many moons ago.

Niamh's specialty is her choice of song. She seeks out the unusual, the dusty and neglected, the historic, the informative but, above all, the musical and melodic.

If it ain't musical, it ain't on her menu! Thus, Niamh's songs have a way of staying with you and the more you listen, the more subtlety and delight is revealed.

She is also one of the best informed singers in Irish song and, at her live performances, puts all compositions in context with their origins and meanings, which makes the evening all the more informative and enjoyable.

We recommend the CD 'Blackbirds and Thrushes' as her finest example to date, but that's just our opinion of course!

