



Pure Drop

ROUND UP OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC

by Tommy Fegan

TRAD ON THE WEB

As I write this, I'm listening to the first transmission of Clare FM's The Kitchen Sessions, live from Coraclare in the kitchen of the Marrons.

A powerful live "house" recording, it captures the intimacy of a kitchen session. The music is pure West Clare lilting, almost laid back pace, but pungent with energy and charm. The echo off the flagstone floor brings you closer to the players. Apparently, this new series has really taken off, with a big international listenership tuning in live over the Internet, and many also picking it up throughout the week on the net. Strongly recommended you can get this on the following link which I suggest you put on your favourites:

<http://www.clarefm.ie/Wed%2010-10-07.mp3>

VIMEO.COM

Vimeo.com is a new free hosting site that supports high-resolution content. After you click the links below, hover over the video window to bring up the player controls, click on "Full" to go full screen. While in full screen mode, click on "Scaling On" in the lower right to toggle between the native 1280x720 resolution and completely filling your display. Here's a few selections to whet your appetite;

Ben Power and Benedict Koehler playing "The Banks of Lough Gowna", "The Coolea (Cuil Aodha) Jig", and "Humours of Ballyloughlin":

<http://www.vimeo.com/393284>

Jimmy O'Brien-Moran playing "The Banks of the Suir":

<http://www.vimeo.com/393388>

Seán McKiernan playing "Jimmy Mo Mhile Stor":

<http://www.vimeo.com/393451>

The quality is much better than YouTube.

ARMAGH PIPERS SUCCESS

Once again, the famed Armagh

Pipers Club delivered an outstanding William Kennedy Festival last week. Performers from all over the world entertained in formal concerts, workshops and recitals, and they were joined by hundreds more at informal sessions in every licensed premises available throughout the City with classes by leading exponents in a wide range of instruments.

For me, the highlight was the Uilleann Piping concert on Sunday night. As usual, it was a showcase of an eclectic mix of styles and every act was truly sensational. If my back was to the wall to make a call on the truly outstanding acts, I would have to nominate Gay McKeon and his two sons, all playing beautiful looking and sounding Killian O'Broinn sets. Technical wizardry, accompanied by good family humour; "I bought all three sets, and can confiscate them," threatened Gay.

The other showstopper had to be young Michael O'Connell, from Limerick. Various nicknames "Blackie" or "Elvis" by the Travelling Piping community, he just seemed to be working off about 18 or 20 fingers! I give up!

Two bodhrán players walk past a bar... Well, it could happen!

CHIEF O'NEILL REMEMBERED

In "Irish Minstrels" O'Neil tells of "...the most perfect specimen of this class was a blind man known by the name of Piper Gaynor. His beat extended through the County Louth, and occasionally through the counties Meath and Monaghan. Gaynor (had) a knowledge of English and Irish, and a thorough feeling of all those mellow old tints which an incipient change in the spirit of Irish society threatened even then to obliterate. His face was smooth, and his pale, placid features while playing on his pipes were absolutely radiant with enthusiasm and genius."

Promote your session, or classes, concerts, workshops etc through this weekly column, by emailing tommyfegan@nsec.info



Paul Bradley, Mickey Dunne, Gay McKeown are pictured at Spanish Point, Co. Clare, for the Johnny Doran Annual Weekend Festival. 07W48N126