

by  
Tommy Fegan

## The Home Ruler - Catherine McAvoy

**"With this exquisite recording, Catherine McAvoy has once again demonstrated that she is a musician with a musical gift and exceptional talent," opines Seamus Connolly in the notes to Catherine's latest release.**

We are in the midst of a great flute renaissance, and it's getting increasingly difficult to stand out in such a talented crowd. Even maestros of other instruments, like fiddler Frankie Gavin and piper Ronan Browne have joined the team. So as Catherine McAvoy's CD rises to the challenge of being one of the most outstanding flute recordings in recent years, it is all the more remarkable because of the high standards that abound.

One of the best exponents of the Sligo-Leitrim style. Catherine exposes the nuances of each tune without sacrificing the foot tapping tempo her playing induces. She transmits this lively approach to the large group of musicians at her weekly residence in the Cobblestones, Dublin every Wednesday and I have been a lucky participant uplifted by her enticing, inclusive seisfun playing. She is assisted by the superb talents of Felix Dolan, Geraldine Cotter, Steve Cooney, Joe Kennedy and Paddy McAvoy in transferring this excitement to CD.

## The last word goes to Connolly

Catherine's playing brings us back to a time when music was played more slowly, more gracefully and less frantically. Her playing has a lift that is exciting, colourful, and electrifying coupled with unexpected variations, lovely tempo and phrasing. It is here that we truly have a master at work.

Available, as they say, in all good record shops, or directly from Cló Iar-Chonnachta, [www.cic.ie](http://www.cic.ie)

*Catherine McEvoy The Home Ruler  
Traditional Irish Flute Music*



**Q: What's the difference between a dead chicken in the road, and a dead banjo player in the road?**

**A: There's a remote chance the chicken was on its way to a gig.**

## Rose O'Connor RIP

The sad news reached me just as I finished this piece that Rose O'Connor, Dundalk, had passed away after a recent illness. Rose made an enormous contribution to Irish Traditional Music in this region. She was one of the best fiddle

teachers and was responsible for popularising fiddle playing over many decades. Her son Gerry and grandson Dónal are in the premier league of fiddle players today. The traditional Irish music community of the area extended its heartfelt sympathies to the family at this sad time.

## The story of Johnny Doran and other Traveler musicians

The Doran family has asked Oliver O'Connell from Clare and myself to research and publish the story of Johnny Doran and his brother Felix, two travelling Uilleann Pipers, along with other members of the Irish Travelers' Irish traditional music fraternity. The focus will be on the indelible mark Johnny made on Irish traditional music today and how his influences are apparent on recent phenomena from the Bothy Band to Riverdance. Johnny's grandson, John Purcell, tells me that Johnny played on the boats between Warrenpoint and Omeath so if any reader remembers this or has any information on this, photos etc, please let me know

## O'Flynn, Irvine and Lunny - July 10, Donegal?

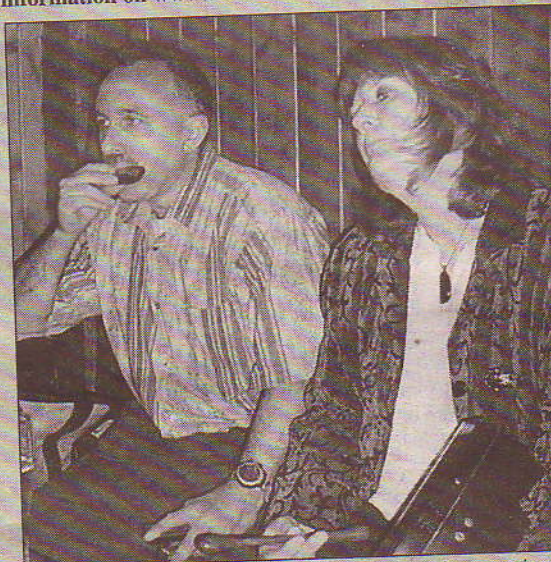
I'm hearing rumours of this, the Planxty line-up in Donegal. I'll let you know details as soon as I get them. It would be well worth the travel up for the night...

**Q: Why are bagpipe players always moving?**  
**A: They're trying to get away from the noise.**

## Trad on the Web

An interesting site developed by a group of enthusiasts based in Denver, Colorado is [www.slowplayers.org](http://www.slowplayers.org). The site aims to support regulars amass a common set of tunes they can all play. It offers a transcription of the tune in standard sheet music format, in ABC's and a recording of the tune played slowly on various instruments. For guitar players who struggle to figure out what key and mode a tune is in they include a few basic charts which help in this area. They also have plenty of merchandise like t-shirts, caps etc, proclaiming how proud they are to be playing Irish Traditional Music. If you overlook this gushy enthusiasm, most people will find help with tunes they want to learn. Check it out.

Email: [tommyfegan@nsec.info](mailto:tommyfegan@nsec.info) if you would like to contribute in any way to the Pure Drop. More local information on [www.ceolcamloch.co.uk](http://www.ceolcamloch.co.uk)



Bernard O'Hanlon and Kate Murphy in session at O'Hanlon's in Mullach Ban. 08W24N133