



The Pure Drop

by Tommy Fegan

A WEEKLY
ROUND
UP
OF
TRADITIONAL
IRISH
MUSIC



Fergal O'Brien, right, on bodhrán, the Mullach Ban Scór group Anchorman. 08W19N148

All Ireland champions...again!

music these days, this represents a great opportunity to benefit academically from their endeavours. Exams are held three times per year in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry, so it couldn't be more convenient. Parents and pupils can get detailed information from Sharon Mark by telephoning 028 40630440, or emailing Sharon at sharonmark@hotmail.com, or by contacting Jimmy Burns on 028 41773986.

'Piper's Choice' - understand the art of uilleann piping

An insight into the art of uilleann piping by three great masters of Irish music - Liam O'Flynn, Roman Browne and Tommy Keane.

Na Píobairí Uilleann recently launched Piper's Choice, a unique DVD recording of three of the greatest living exponents of the uilleann pipes.

The three master pipers perform their favourite pieces and explain in depth their individual approach to each selection and to the instrument in general.

In addition to affording students of the pipes a unique and up-front insight into the extraordinary craft of piping, the DVD offers musicians of any instrument an insight of top craftsmen revealing some of their inner secrets. That's why this is an essential buy for musicians of any grade. Indeed, the club's web site www.pipers.ie offers a plethora of resources, tutorials etc, that should be of interest to players of any instruments.

The DVD format enables the listener to eventually skip the interviews and dwell on the music for pure entertainment (but only after repeated listening to the musicians talking about their craft and techniques).

Pipers Choice is available from www.pipers.ie or by telephoning 00 353 18730093

Q: Why don't fiddlers play hide and seek?

A: Because no one will look for them.

Email: tommyfegan@nsec.info if you would like to contribute in any way to the Pure Drop. More local information on www.ceolcamloch.co.uk

An Mullach Ban, with their Scór Sinear Grúpa Ceoil Uirlíse / Senior Scór Instrumental Group from the Cúchulainn Club, were crowned All Ireland champions for the second time in three years at this year's all-Ireland Senior Scór competition in Killarney. Runners-up in 2007, they beat off stiff competition from Waterford, Leitrim and Limerick.

The instrumental group, who first came together in 2006, to win their first All-Ireland title, returned home to a jubilant reception in the Cúchulainn GFC club in an Mullach Bán on Sunday night past.

The night opened with the group performing their winning set for the assembled audience followed by a rendition recitation composed especially in praise of the group by well-known singer/story teller, Mick Quinn. During the course of the night the audience was entertained by many of the other Scór entrants from the club including the Scór Sinear ballad group as well as other singers and performers.

Musicians and followers of traditional music throughout Newry and Mourne, will feel a sense of pride that a home team saw off competition from the so called 'Home Counties' of Irish traditional music, Clare, Kerry and the likes, and I hope our 'City Fathers' have the good sense to honour these great ambassadors of the district in the appropriate manner...and soon.

Q: Did you hear about the uilleann piper who locked his keys in the car?

A: He had to break a window to get the bodhrán player out!

Trad music recognised by UCAS

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, the examinations accreditation body, now recognises the London College of Music and Media grading six to eight in the points system for pupils applying for university places, this is now incorporated into the UCAS system. With so many young people studying traditional