

" To whom it may concern  
do not mention National

— Wd like to hire them for  
a program, unique.  
not found in this  
country.

FROM DUBLIN, IRELAND  
TOURING THE U.S. FROM APRIL 1 - JUNE 30, 1978

## JOE AND ANTOINETTE

### MC KENNA

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC PLAYED ON UILLEAN PIPES AND HARP -  
SONGS IN GAELIC AND ENGLISH

BOTH JOE AND ANTOINETTE COME FROM FAMILIES DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE REVIVAL OF IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC. JOE HAS TWO OLDER BROTHERS PLAYING THE UILLEAN PIPES AND HIS SISTER AND YOUNGEST BROTHER PLAY FIDDLE. JOE STARTED STUDYING THE PIPES AT AGE 10 WITH LEO ROWESOME AT THE PIPER'S CLUB DUBLIN. SINCE THEN HE HAS WON NUMEROUS COMPETITIONS INCLUDING "ALL IRELAND" TWICE AND "ALL BRITAIN" IN 1975. HE IS ALSO INVOLVED (ALONG WITH HIS BROTHERS) IN THE MAKING OF FULL SETS OF UILLEAN PIPES, THE ART OF WHICH HAD NEARLY DIED. THESE ARE MADE IN THE FAMILY WORKSHOP AT THOMAS ST. DUBLIN.

ANTOINETTE WAS REARED IN A FAMILY THAT BOASTED A FIDDLING FATHER AND A FIDDLING MOTHER. SHE LEARNED THE HARP IN SION HILL DUBLIN. HER INTEREST IN IRISH SONGS COMES FROM HER MANY VISITS TO THE IRISH SPEAKING PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, LISTENING TO THE OLDER PEOPLE SINGING IN THE TRADITIONAL WAY.

JOE AND ANTOINETTE HAVE BEEN PERFORMING TOGETHER FOR FOUR YEARS AND HAVE TOURED THE BRITISH ISLES (IN LONDON THEY PERFORMED AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL), BRITTANY, AND GERMANY. IN 1977 THEY MADE THEIR FIRST U.S. TOUR AND WERE ONE OF THE FEATURED PERFORMERS AT THE NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL IN WOLF TRAP, VA. CHRIS GLADDEN IN A REVIEW OF THAT FESTIVAL FOR THE ROANOKE TIMES AND WORLD NEWS WROTE:

" BEFORE THE SATURDAY DANCE, JOE MCKENNA AND HIS WIFE ANTOINETTE WERE PLAYING SOME HAUNTING MUSIC FROM THEIR NATIVE IRELAND ON THE UILLEAN PIPES AND HARP.

THE AUDIENCE WAS ENCHANTED. AFTER DESCRIBED THEIR MUSIC AS "JUST INCREDI"

THE ANNOUNCER  
"



#### DISCOGRAPHY:

DURING THEIR 1977 AMERICAN TOUR JOE AND ANTOINETTE RECORDED THE FOLLOWING ALBUMS, ALL OF WHICH ARE DUE OUT IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS:

SHANACHIE (FEATURED ALBUM FOR THIS LABEL)  
GREEN LINNET (BACKING UP MICK MOLONY ON HIS NEW ALBUM)  
THE 39th NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL (JOE AND ANTOINETTE ARE AMONG THE PERFORMERS IN AN ALBUM OF HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1977 WOLF TRAP FESTIVAL TO BE RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE TRADITIONAL ARTS, INC.)



FOR BOOKINGS AND MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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ALEXANDRIA, VA. 22314

Phone: (703) 683-3551

January 21, 1978

To Whom It May Concern:

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington is a non-profit, educational organization with over 1,000 members, dedicated to preserving and promoting folk arts and traditional music from all over the world.

We would like very much to present Joe and Antoinette McKenna of Dublin, Ireland, at a program here in Washington. Their music is unique and cannot be found in this country.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Schatz, Secretary