

BIOGRAPHY

BILLY OSKAY & MÍCHEÁL ÓDOMHNAILL

Latest album: NIGHTNOISE, WH-1031 and WT-1031 (cassette)

MÍCHEÁL ÓDOMHNAILL, guitarist and singer, was born in Dublin in 1951. His early musical experiences included studying classical piano and traditional Gaelic music, of which his parents were noted musicians. While at college in Dublin in 1970, he and his sisters, Triona and Mairead, formed "SKARA BRAE", one of the first groups to interpret the old Gaelic songs in contemporary fashion. Later, Mícheál formed "MONROE", a duo with singer-guitarist Mick Hanly, specializing in the traditional songs of the British Isles and Ireland. In 1974 Mícheál worked as a folk song collector for the National Archives in Ireland and presented programs of traditional music on National Radio. The following year he helped to found the "BOTHY BAND" and for the next four years they recorded and toured extensively throughout Europe. When the band dispersed, Mícheál joined with fiddle player and fellow Bothy Band member, Kevin Burke and moved to Portland, Oregon. They have been working the traditional music circuit in the United States and Canada since.

BILLY OSKAY, violinist, was born in Kingston, New York in 1947. At seven, he began classical training and nine years later earned a scholarship to Michigan State University as part of the congress of strings. In 1963 Oskay studied with the prominent violinist, Frand Mele, in Woodstock, New York. 1970 found Billy at the international academy of music in Palma De Mallorca, Spain where he studied with violin virtuoso, Eugen Prokop and was awarded a professional diploma in violin and chamber music. The following year he earned a M.A. in music from Ball State University in Indiana. From 1971 to 1973, Oskay headed the music department at Mt. Angel College in Oregon. Since that time, he has performed with Oregon's popular "EVERYTHING'S JACK", a jazz swing band, and worked as a freelance violinist, producer and teacher. Both the violin and viola that he performs on today were made by his father.

BILLY OSKAY and MÍCHEÁL ÓDOMHNAILL began their musical partnership in the winter of 1982, taking advantage of the recording studio Billy had installed in his Portland home. After initial "jamming", Billy and Mícheál found areas of mutual interest where their ideas could find expression. The recording of Nightnoise represents their collaboration to date. Their future plans include the recording of a second LP and the formation of a touring band.

PROMOTION: Windham Hill Records
PO Box 4122
Seattle, WA 98104
206/223-0517
Jeff Heiman