

PATRICK O'FLAHERTY

Bringing the wild, bewitching beauty of his native Connemara to his music, **Patrick O'Flaherty** is one of the select few truly fine practioners of the Irish mandolin. This irrepressible Galwayman has the uncanny ability to single-handedly lift an audience out of its seats and into the aisles dancing and them suddenly, almost magically revit the crowd with the moody, haunting strains of his mandolin.

His reputation in Irish music is secure: he comes from an ancient musical and literary tradition. He was a member of the world-famous group *The Celtic Folk* for a decade, playing for audiences including former Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neal, Pope John Paul II, President Herzog of Israel and President Reagan of the United States.

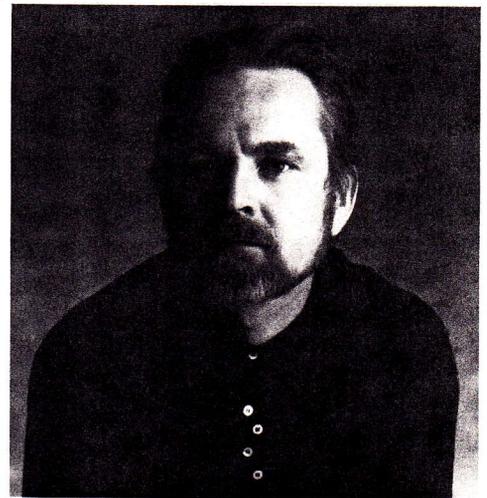
He presently works with Irish-American balladeer Betsy McGovern, and they are part of a larger group know as *The Poor Clares*. This group has awed audiences throughout the South.

They have been dubbed "the surprise hit of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival" by the popular New Orleans radio station B-97.

Over the past twenty years, **Patrick** has recorded over twenty albums, and folk music critics from Jerusalem to St. Marteen have been unanimous that his music is best enjoyed live. Whether playing for a small pub crowd or to the throngs of half-a-million people at the 1981 Solidarity Day in Washington, D.C, he always performs with a deep respect for the ancient oral and musical tradition learned in the Gaelic speaking land of his boyhood.

Folks that have never walked a dirt road, nor hauled in a lobster pot, find they almost "remember" the feel of brogans and the taste of salt air as Patrick sings of a Connemara grudgingly joining the twentieth century.

A gentle perfectionist, **Patrick** sings a plethora of song in Gaelic and English, and he is a master of the tenor banjo, harmonica, mandolin, button accordion and mandola. His twinkling roguery charms reluctant audiences into roaring song, even audiences with little knowledge of Irish music or tradition. And, particularly, American audiences. The respect is mutual.



In addition to his knowledge and musical representation of Irish history and culture, **Patrick** is equally enamoured of the American tradition. Indeed, every visitor who drops in to see the introductory film at the Antietam National Battlefield Park will hear his music backing up the narrator's description of the bloodiest day of the American Civil War.

Patrick also organized the *Dick Dowling Association*, commemoration a County Galway native who turned back and entire Union fleet at the battle of Sabine Pass with a force of fifty Texans. When not on tour, **Patrick** can be found immersed in various volunteer organizations. He dedicates his time to playing for children's hospitals, schools, AIDS patients and senior citizen's homes.