

Steafan Hannigan Bio

A new addition to Canada, having moved here with his family a couple of years ago, is a Belfast born and raised musician who plays over 40 musical instruments including Irish pipes, Northumbrian pipes, Scottish small-pipes and French pipes!

He is the Current Mid Atlantic Uilleann Pipe, Bodhrán and Whistle Champion ...and is a many times All Britain Champion on a number of Instruments.

He is a respected teacher of Irish traditional music, having written the Low Whistle Book and DVD as well as the Bodhran Book and DVD.

He works as a live and recording engineer, and as a session musician. He helps to run local Folk sessions in the area

He works locally in Gore's landing as a sound Technician and Composer for T.V. and Video games and on a Folk epic from India called the *Legend of Ponnivala*.

He has worked with many top artists including Bjork, Depeche Mode, Gary Barlow, Uriah Heep, The Chieftains, The Afro-Celts, Loreenna McKennett, Jeff Martin, Oliver Schroer, The Toronto Tabla Ensemble, James Keelaghan, Il Divo, Julian Lloyd Webber, Pete Lockett, and yes, Michael Flatley.

Steafan has a collection of 800 musical instruments from around the globe which are loaned out and used as an educational focus for schools, students and individuals. It will run in conjunction with a Celtic Music shop based in Baltimore Ontario.

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Saskia Tomkins Bio

Saskia is an all Britain Fiddle Champion and now a North American Fiddle champion. Saskia is also Principle Viola with the Northumberland Orchestra and Choir. A noted teacher, she runs Tuesday night Fiddle workshops for beginners and advanced players from her home in Baltimore

She was born in the UK and began playing the violin at 7 years old. Because of her mixed heritage, Eastern Woodlands Aboriginal ancestors, Black American, British, Irish and Romany, she enjoys exploring and connecting to each of these through the music.

She discovered folk music at 11 years and since then has travelled the world learning different violin genres, playing with people such as Uriah Heep, Crispin Mills (Kula Shaker), the English Shakespeare Company, Sonja Kristina (Curved Air), Sin E, Toronto Tabla Ensemble, Laurie Anderson and various U.K. Dance troupes. Her recording career

covers over 30 albums and numerous Radio broadcasts including work for the BBC. At some point during all this, Saskia learnt and now performs on Violin, viola, 'cello, piano and Nickelharpa

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Together, they have played with the Chieftains and toured all over the World from Turkey to Cuba, France, Italy, Spain, Czech Republic all the way to Port Hope!

They enjoy playing mostly Irish music, with a modicum of other styles, including French and English thrown in. They play folk clubs, festivals, bars and parties - indeed they met whilst performing at one of Michael Flatley's (Lord of the Dance and Riverdance) parties! They are currently recording an album together, which will be released early summer.

They run entertaining music workshops for adults and kids of all ages. Steafan also does the odd bit of storytelling, like his Grandfather before him.