

## Oisín Mac Diarmada

Fiddle

A graduate in Music Education from Trinity College Dublin/RIAM, Oisín Mac Diarmada began playing fiddle at a young age in Co. Clare, subsequently moving to Co. Sligo, where he developed a deep interest in the playing style of the North Connacht region.

Founder of the group Téada in 2001, with whom he has recorded a number of albums on the Gael Linn label, Oisín is also a much sought after solo performer. From the Masters of Tradition festival in West Cork to a guest solo appearance with the Southern Georgia Symphony Orchestra, to a tour of Romania accompanying Irish President Mary McAleese on a State visit, it is no wonder The Irish Echo's Earle Hitchner called Oisín "one of the most gifted and creative traditional fiddlers playing today." In recent years, Oisín has toured frequently with noted singer and accordion player Séamus Begley, with whom he has recorded two albums.

In 2012, Oisín was appointed Director of SCT, the Traditional Irish Music Examination System administered by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. His other teaching activities have included tutoring at University of Limerick, the Swannanoa Gathering in North Carolina, the Catskills Irish Arts Week in New York, the O'Flaherty Retreat in Texas, Willie Clancy Summer School in Co. Clare, and the South Sligo Summer School.

### **Irish Echo, New York**

"An All-Ireland senior champion in 1999, Téada founding member Oisín Mac Diarmada is one of the most gifted and creative traditional fiddlers playing today. Exuding great confidence in his bowing, he executed short skeins of notes without losing definition or continuity, and he masterfully employed dynamics to keep the melodic line malleable enough for brief flurries of improvisation. Virtually every risk Mac Diarmada took on the fiddle paid off aesthetically." **Earle Hitchner**

### **Dirty Linen Magazine, United States, on his solo recording, "Ar An bhFidil".**

"...a bounteous seventeen delightful tunes performed with a clarity and modesty that at first listen suggest a much older musician. Mac Diarmada does what the best performers do. He shows his material off to such a good advantage that his instrument becomes a clear window through which each piece is viewed. The musician does not vanish, but becomes part of the music. Extensive liner notes detail the provenance of just Mac Diarmada's musical selections, but also of their arrangements.", **Genevieve Williams (Seattle, WA)**

### **The Herald, Edinburgh**

"..in Oisín Mac Diarmada, Téada have a fiddler of quite starting old-head-on-young-shoulders ability. You could hear centuries of tradition and doubtless long hours of dedication in his sweet and graceful melodiousness." **Rob Adams**