

Arty McGlynn – Bio

Arty McGlynn is a guitarist born circa 1945 in Botera which lies near Omagh in County Tyrone, Ireland. His parents both played traditional Irish music his father's instrument was the accordion while his mother's was the fiddle. His maternal grandfather was Felix Kearney, a well-known local poet and songwriter. By the age of six the youngster had mastered the performance on a number of reels on the accordion. Aged eleven, his mother bought Arty his first guitar – an electric model - and initially inspired by rock n' roll pioneers [Gene Vincent and the Bluecats, Bill Haley and Little Richard], he went on to explore the work of jazz guitarist greats Wes Montgomery and Barney Kessel. Arty studied music theory with local sax player James O'Niell. Given the proliferation of show bands in Ireland during the sixties, McGlynn began performing as a professional musician midway through his teen years, his first band being the Melody Boys. By the close of the decade, he had performed in the U.K. and U.S.A. in numerous bands as well as adding the pedal steel guitar to the instruments he had mastered.

During the seventies, tired of performing 'to order' in dance bands, McGlynn once more turned to traditional Irish music for inspiration. Arty's debut solo album **"McGlynn's Fancy"** surfaced in 1979 and is considered a classic, wherein the acoustic guitar is flatpicked in an authentic traditional style. As a result McGlynn became a much sought after sideman, and went on to play and record with acknowledged traditional/contemporary Irish folk musicians Christy Moore, Paul Brady, Donal Lunny and Liam O'Flynn. He also worked with the traditional groups Planxty, Patrick Street, Four Men and a Dog, the Chieftains, De Danann and spent seven years in Van Morrison's road band. Nollaig Casey and Arty McGlynn met for the first time in Dublin during 1979. In the ensuing years their paths crossed repeatedly at recording sessions, in television and radio studios, and on stage with Andy Irvine, Planxty, Makem & Clancy and Maura O'Connell. They were married in 1984. In 1989 Arty produced **"Eagle In The Rain"** Tom Pacheco's first album for the, then, fledgling imprint Round Tower Records. For the same label, Arty and his fiddle playing wife Nollaig Casey, recorded the album **"Lead The Knave"** a mix of traditional material and one original McGlynn composition..

The following year the dup were awarded the Belfast Telegraph's Entertainment Media and Arts Award for excellence in the field of Folk Music. Arty is equally in demand as a live performer, recording artist and album producer. Four Men & A Dog's album **"Barking Mad,"** produced by Arty, was voted Folk Album of the year by the U.K. Folk Roots Magazine. He produced Christy Hennessy's album, **"The Rehearsal,"** and worked with Frances Black on her debut and sophomore **"Talk To Me"** and **"The Sky Road."** Arty has composed music for several television documentaries and together with Nollaig arranged and played music for the soundtrack of the Irish made movies **"Moondance"** and **"Hear My Song"** [1992]. The latter was based on the life of singer Joseph Locke, and the duo also made an appearance in the movie. With music composed by Shaun Davey, Arty played on the sound track to the film **"Waking Ned Devine"** [19xx]. Nollaig and Arty's sophomore album **"Causeway"** was released by Tara in 1995. Two years later, while touring in the States, McGlynn broke his wrist but quickly recovered.

On the 2008 release **"Heartstring Sessions,"** a mix of contemporary and traditional material, Arty and his wife were joined on guitar, mandolin and bass by Chris Newman and on harp by Maire Ni Chathasaigh.

Discography :

Solo - **"McGlynn's Fancy"** [1979] :

with Nollaig Casey - **"Lead The Knave"** [1989] ; **"Causeway"** [1995] :

with Liam O'Flynn - **"Out To An Other Side"** [1993] ; **"The Given Note"** [1996] ; **"The Piper's Call"** [1999] :

with Frankie Gavin & Aidan Coffey - **"Irlande"** [1994] :

with Nollaig Casey, Chris Newman & Maire Ni Chathasaigh - **"Heartstring Sessions"** [2008]

Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 01/09

[550 words]