Céili Bands

BACKGROUND

- first formed in 1897, London by Gaelic league
- Gained popularity in first 1/2 of 20th century
- Broadcasted during 30's + 40's
- usually have 10 instruments
- All dances had to take place in parish halls with a licence

harmonica
accordian
trad flute
fiddle
piano
drums
tin whistle
uilleann pipes
banjo
mandolin
concertina

MAIN FEATURES

- playing in unison
- piano vamping
- steady simple beat on drums
- ornamentation
- strict steady dance rhythm
- use of trad instruments.

BALLINAKILL CÉILÍ BAND

1927 – 1960's

- got together under guidance of Fr. Larkin
- Broadcasted on Raidió Eirinn
- 1930 – recorded 'pipe on the hob' + 'The old bush Reel'
- November 1931 – made 6 double sided records
- Sales in 10's of 1000's
- international fame

KILFENORA CÉILÍ BAND

(Clare)

- 1910 → present
- won 'all-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil' 3 times in a row 1954 – 1956
- 1960's played in England to large crowds
- latest album "Now in the hour" recorded in 2015
- more contemparary sound with – viola – vocals – cello (Don Striffe)

Harping Tradition

BACKGROUND

- Has existed in Ireland for over 1000 years
- Earliest surviving harp of Ireland 'The Brian Boru Harp' – on view at TCD
- national emblem of Ireland.

MIDDLE AGES

- harper was an important person in Irish society
- planxties → tunes they created in honor of their patrons.
- Golden Age for harpers
- viewed as indespensable by lords and patrons

Queen Elizabeth – 16th C

- issued a proclamation to hang Irish harpists and destroy their harps to prevent insurrection (uprising)
-

Oliver Cromwell (1650's)

- ordered all harps and organs to be destroyed.
- In Dublin – seized 500 + burned

TURLOUGH O CAROLAN

> Meath 1670
> blind
> "planxty Irwin"
"FANNY POWER"
> played ANCIENT CELTIC harp
> Travelled Ireland on horseback writing + performing

BELFAST 1792

- 11 harpers between 18-97
- Edward Bunting hired to record songs.

(PRESERVE IRISH HARPING TRADITION)

- Denis Hempson played w/ long fingernails
- Overall did not do very well at reviving the harp.

THE INSTRUMENTT

2 types: Neo Irish

→ 34 strings (nylon)
→ played w/ finger pads
→ taller

Bardic Harp

→ 29-31 strings (wire)
→ played w/ nails
→ shorter, resonant

HARPING TODAY

- Harping revival in 2nd half of 20th century
- led by Máire Ní Cathasaigh with album "The New Strung Harp"
- Laoise Kelly with "Just Harp"
- Now played by all ages

Song Tradition

how it has developed + changed over the years.

1 SEAN NÓS

- unaccompanied irish language singing
- Differs in different regions
  - connaught
  - Ulster
  - Munster
- Donegal Sean Nós
- influenced by Scots gaelic
- minimal ornamentation

LILIS O'LAOIRE

- Connaught
- less strict rhythm
- elaborate melody line

Seosamh Ó Heanaí

- Munster
- ornamentation
- Stricter rhythm
- Vibrato / Nasality

Iarla O'Lionard

2 BALLADS

- British Rule (1800's)
- english language more prominent

eg: "Carrickfergus"

- narrative
- about love, war + emigration

unaccompanied → harmony → guitar

Christy Moore • Wolfe Tones

3 MACARONIC SONGS

- Phrases alter between english and irish.
- Date from 19th Century
  - bilingual population

'Suil A Ruin'

4 LAMENTS

- about loved ones who had:
  - died
  - emigrated
  - been evicted

'AN Mhaigheann Mhara"

5 FAMINE FOLK SONGS

- focus on reality of morality + emigration
- 'peatsal O'Callanain' with NA fatai Bana

↳ about victims in hospital + poor houses

IRISH MUSIC

Collectors

→ originally passed down orally
→ danger of extinction
→ Decrease in Irish music due to:
- famine
- english speaking tradition

EDWARD BUNTING

- born in Armagh in 1773
- at 11 → a substitute organist in Belfast
- at 19 → Belfast Harp Festival - notated all harp airs played + techniques used.
- Denis Hempson aged 97 played with long fingernails
- Set out to collect as much music as possible
- Published 'The Ancient music of Ireland in 3 volumes.
- Totalled to 226 airs

CAPTAIN FRANCIS O'NEILL

- Cheif of police in chicago
- flute player
- recruited trad musicians into the police force
- 1903 → 'O'Neill's Music of Ireland" - 1850 airs, jigs, reels and hornpipes
- Published 4 more volumes
- 1913 → "Irish Minstrels and Musicians" → biography
- 1910 → "Irish Folk Music - a fascinating hobby"

GEORGE PETRIE

- born in Dublin in 1789.
- worked on Ordinance - survey, all over Ireland.
- 1851 → founded the Society for preservation + publication of melodies of Ireland.
- 1888 → published 'Ancient music of Ireland' from 147 airs (after his death)
- Collected : spinning tunes
  lullabies
  plough tunes
  song airs
  dance tunes
  harp compositions
- Died in 1860
  - 3 volumes published
  - Complete petrie collection in 1901 of 1,582 tunes.

WILLIAM FORDE

- Headquaters in Cork
- Collected tunes from around Munster, Sligo, Leitrim, Galway, Roscommon + Mayo.
- Noted 100's of unpublished airs from a fiddler in Ballinamore
- Applied for subscribers so he could publish,
  did not get 250,
  not published in his lifetime.

IRISH Dances

HISTORY

> From 1700's, Irish music developed to accompany dances.
> 3 main types: jig, Reel, hornpipe
> 17th + 18th century: very popular, integral part of society
> Catholic church began campaigns against dancing.
> Kept alive at dance houses and crossroads. dances.
> public Dance Hall Act (1935)
↳ banned dances in unlicenced halls.
> First Céilí → 1897 London, by Gaelic league
> 1980's → Revival: pub sessions gave way to set dancers

polka

TIME: $\frac{2}{4}$ Tempo: bouncy

BEATS: syncopation

→ played at set dances

eg: "Britches full of stitches"

hornpipe

TIME: $\frac{4}{4}$ TEMPO: slower than reel

BEATS: dotted rhythm
1st + 3rd emphasised

FORM: AABB

→ danced in hard shoes
→ ends on 3 clear crochets

eg: 'The Cork Hornpipe'

reel

TIME: $\frac{4}{4}$ TEMPO: lively fast

BEATS: quavers
1st + 3rd emphasised

FORM: AABB

→ brought from Scotland

Eg: 'Reel around the Sun' from Riverdance.

single jig

TIME: $\frac{6}{8}$ TEMPO: lively fast

BEATS: crochet-quaver
crochets emphasised

FORM: AB (binary)

eg: "Bill Hart's Favourite"

slip jig

TIME: $\frac{9}{8}$ TEMPO: graceful flowing

BEATS: 3 sets of triplet quavers
1st beat emphasised

FORM: 2, eight bar parts.

eg: "The butterfly"

→ only danced by femeles in soft shoes

Fusion OF IRISH MUSIC

ROCK

- 'Horslips' → hornpipe + slip jig
- genre: celtic rock
- clearly irish but also successful pop music.

[eg: 'An Dearg Doom'
'Trouble w/ a capitaT']

- instruments:- electric guitar
  - fiddles
  - bodhran
  - concertina
- used irish dance tunes + airs
- in English + Irish
- Last jig in 1980

PUNK

THE POGUE'S

- 'Fairytale of New York'
- tin whistle between verses.

CLASSICAL

Sean O' Riada - 'Mise Éire'

→ from a film in 1960

→ combines irish trad tunes + Sean nós with orchestral accompaniment

Shaun Davey 'The Brendon Voyage'

→ For uilleann pipes with orchestral accompaniment

→ played by Liam O'Flynn

JAZZ

Michael O' Suilleabhain

- piano arrangements of irish dance tunes
- Fusion of trad, classical + jazz

Sharon Shannon

- "Cavan Potholes"

→ jazz style riffs

Riverdance

- "Trading Traps"

→ irish music w/ alto jazz sax.

POP

DE DANANN'S

- recording of 'Hey Jude'
- & transposed into a set of dance tunes

SINEAD O'CONNOR

- "Nothing Compares 2 u"
- irish fiddle + synthesised strings / drums / rock beat.