

Tadhg Ó Meachair & Joanna Hyde

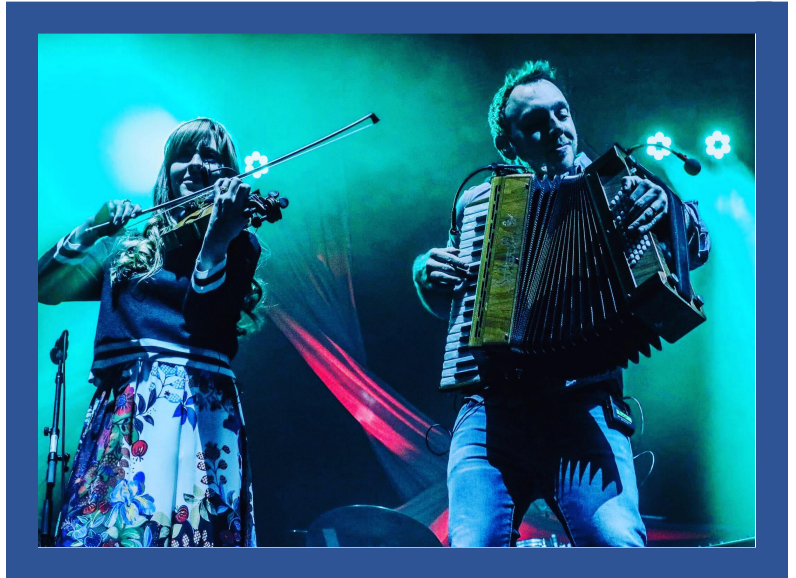
Teacher Resource Guide
Lotus Blossoms 2023



lotus
BLOSSOMS

About Tadhg ÓMeachair & Joanna Hyde

Joanna Hyde and Tadhg [tie•g] Ó Meachair share a passion for Irish traditional music, and for American folk music rooted in Celtic traditions. They feature a mix of Irish and American folk music and song – both traditional and newly- composed – presented in an energetic and engaging manner. Their performances strike a tasteful balance between the stories found in ballads across both sides of the Atlantic and the respective instrumental music traditions of these places.



Tadhg, an All-Ireland piano champion and founder-member of Irish traditional group *Goitse* [go•witcha], grew up in an Irish-speaking family steeped in Irish traditional music. When he was a teenager, he spent a lot of time playing in céilí bands (pronounced Kaylee bands – a type of dance band) and at musical gatherings called “sessions”. Tadhg also won an All-Ireland piano competition called the ‘Fleadh’ [flah] in 2012. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Ethnomusicology & Folklore at Indiana University Bloomington.

Joanna grew up in a musical family, loving bluegrass, classical, jazz, Appalachian, Irish, Cape Breton, and other folk music. She attended various music camps, workshops, and festivals around the US. She performed for many years with her brother, Iain, as *The Hydes*, and has gathered numerous musical awards along the way—including the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation’s Graduate Arts Award—which first brought her to study music in Ireland some 11 years ago. Along the way she studied Irish and Cape Breton step dance, further learning the integral nature of music and dance across traditions.

Instruments

Violin

The violin is probably the best-known and most widely distributed musical instrument in the world. The rich sound of the violin partially comes from a small dowel inside the instrument beneath the bridge, called the “sound post.” It does this by receiving the vibrations, created by the strings, from the bridge and transmitting them to the back of the violin.¹



Piano Accordion

This instrument has made a significant impact on the world of modern and classical music. Featured in the folk music of many countries, the accordion is a hand-held instrument that first became popular in the early 19th century. The instrument consists of bellows fastened between two wooden (or plastic) casings containing rows of metal reeds. Each casing has a set of finger buttons or piano-like keys on the end. As the bellows is moved, air intake and outflow pass over the reeds to create the various pitches of sound²



¹ <https://www.britannica.com/art/violin>

² <https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/accordion/315777>

Ireland

- Prime Minister: Micheál Martin
- Capital: Dublin
- Currency: Euro
- Population: 5,203,000(2023)



Culture

Ireland is best known for its rich and diverse art traditions of

- Literature
- Drama
- Songs
- Folklore

Originally the culture was purely Gaelic, but then it was influenced by the English, Tudor English, Scots, Normans, and Vikings.³

For more information about Ireland, visit:

- [Ireland Geography](#)
- [Ireland Cultural Life](#)
- [Ireland History](#)

³ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ireland/Security#ref23037>

Helpful Links & References

- [Tadhg O'Meachair & Joanna Hyde on Facebook](#)

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