

FOUR SHILLINGS SHORT presents



AROUND THE WORLD IN 30 INSTRUMENTS A MULTI-CULTURAL EDUCATIONAL CONCERT for ALL AGES

Four Shillings Short are the husband-wife duo of Aodh Og O'Tuama, from Cork, Ireland and Christy Martin, from San Diego, California. We have been touring in the United States and Ireland since 1997. We are multi-instrumentalists and vocalists who play a variety of musical styles on over 30 instruments from around the World.

Around the World in 30 Instruments is a multi-cultural educational concert presenting Traditional music from Ireland, Scotland, England, Medieval & Renaissance Europe, the Americas and India on a variety of musical instruments including hammered & mountain dulcimer, mandolin, mandola, bouzouki, Medieval and Renaissance woodwinds, recorders, tinwhistles, banjo, North Indian Sitar, Medieval Psaltery, the Andean Charango, Irish Bodhran, African Doumbek, Spoons and vocals.

Our program lasts 1 to 2 hours and is tailored to fit the audience and specific music educational curriculum where appropriate. We have performed for libraries, schools & museums all around the country and have presented in individual classrooms, full school assemblies, auditoriums and community rooms as well as smaller more intimate settings. During the program we introduce each instrument, talk about its history, introduce musical concepts and follow with a demonstration in the form of a song or an instrumental piece. Our main objective is to create an opportunity to expand people's understanding of music through direct experience of traditional folk and world music.

CONTACT & BOOKING INFO: FOUR SHILLINGS SHORT

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ABOUT THE MUSICIANS:

Aodh Og O'Tuama grew up in a family of poets, musicians and writers. He received his degree in Music from University College Cork, Ireland and received a Fellowship from Stanford University, California, in Early Music Performance Practice. He plays Tinwhistles, Medieval & Renaissance woodwinds, Recorders, Doumbek (from Morocco), bowed Psaltery, Spoons and sings both in English, Gaelic and French.

Christy Martin grew up in a family of musicians and dancers. From the age of 15, she studied North Indian Sitar for 10 years with a student of master Sitarist Ravi Shankar. She has studied Classical music at Santa Barbara City College and with numerous private teachers on a variety of world instruments. She began playing the Hammered Dulcimer in her 20's and studied with Maggie Sansone, Dan Duggan, Tony Elman and Glen Morgan. In addition she plays Mandolin, Mandola, Bouzouki, Banjo, Guitar, Bodhran (Irish frame drum), Charango, bowed Psaltery and sings in English, Irish, Spanish and Sanskrit.

ABOUT THE INSTRUMENTS:



Hammered Dulcimer:

The hammered dulcimer is a musical instrument with the strings stretched over a trapezoidal sounding board. Typically, the hammered dulcimer is set on a stand, at an angle, before the musician, who holds small mallet hammers in each hand to strike the strings .



Appalachian or Mountain Dulcimer:

The Appalachian dulcimer (or mountain dulcimer) is a fretted string instrument of the zither family, typically with three or four strings. Its origins are in the Appalachian region of the United States. The body extends the length of the fingerboard, and its fretting is generally diatonic.



Mandolin family:

A mandolin (Italian: *mandolino*) is a musical instrument in the lute family (plucked, or strummed) usually with four courses of strings, tuned in perfect fifths and plucked with a plectrum. It is the soprano member of a family that includes the mandola, octave mandolin, mandocello or bouzouki and mandobass. It descends from the mandore. There are many styles of mandolin, but three are common, the *Neapolitan (bowl-backed)* mandolin, the *carved-top* mandolin and the *flat-top* mandolin.



Banjo:

The banjo is a four-, five- or (occasionally) six-stringed instrument with a thin membrane stretched over a frame or cavity as a resonator. The membrane is typically a piece of animal skin or plastic, and the frame is typically circular. Simpler forms of the instrument were fashioned by Africans in Colonial America, adapted from several African instruments of similar design.



Sitar:

The sitar is a plucked stringed instrument used mainly in Indian classical music. The instrument descended from long-necked lutes taken to North India from Central Asia and is also believed to be a fusion of the Persian Setar & Indian Veena. The sitar flourished in the 16th and 17th centuries and arrived at its present form in the 18th century Mughal period. It derives its distinctive timbre and resonance from sympathetic strings, bridge design, a long hollow neck and a gourd resonating chamber.



Psaltery:

The psaltery of Ancient Greece was a harp-like instrument that was plucked with the fingers. 2000 years ago, a psaltery consisting of a soundboard with several pre-tuned strings that are usually plucked came into use which is similar to the modern Greek folk instrument called by its diminutive, *kanonaki*. From the 12th through the 15th century psalteries were widely seen in manuscripts, paintings and sculpture throughout Europe. They varied widely in shape and the number of strings (which are often, like lutes, in courses of two or more strings). In the 19th century several related zithers came into use, notably the guitar zither and the autoharp. In the 20th century, the bowed psaltery came into wide use. It is set up in a triangular format so that the end portion of each string can be bowed.



Charango:

The charango is a small Bolivian Andean stringed instrument of the lute family, about 66 cm long, traditionally made with the shell of an armadillo. Primarily played in traditional Andean music from Peru to Mexico. Many contemporary charangos are now made with different types of wood. It typically has 10 strings in five courses of 2 strings each, but other variations exist.



Tinwhistle or Pennywhistle:

The tin whistle, also called the penny whistle, flageolet, Irish whistle or feadóg is a simple, six-holed woodwind instrument. It is a fipple flute, putting it in the same category as the recorder.



Recorder:

The recorder is a woodwind musical instrument of the family known as *fipple flutes* or *internal duct flutes*—whistle-like instruments which include the tin whistle. The recorder is end-blown and the mouth of the instrument is constricted by a wooden plug, known as a *block* or *fipple*. It is distinguished from other members of the family by having holes for seven fingers (the lower one or two often doubled to facilitate the production of semitones) and one for the thumb of the uppermost hand. The bore of the recorder can be tapered slightly, being widest at the mouthpiece end and narrowest towards the foot on Baroque recorders. Renaissance-era instruments generally have straight cylindrical bores. Recorders can be made out of wood, plastic or ivory. The recorder was popular in medieval times through the baroque era, but declined in the 18th century in favour of orchestral woodwind instruments, such as the flute, oboe, and clarinet.



Crumhorn:

The crumhorn is a musical instrument of the woodwind family, most commonly used during the Renaissance period. In modern times, there has been a revival of interest in Early Music, and crumhorns are being played again. The name derives from the German *Krumhorn* (or *Krummhorn* or *Krumporn*) meaning *bent horn*. The crumhorn is a *capped reed* instrument. Its construction is similar to that of the chanter of a bagpipe. A double reed is mounted inside a long windcap. Blowing through a slot in the windcap produces a musical note.



Gemshorn:

The gemshorn is an instrument of the ocarina family, but fingered like a Recorder. It was historically made from the horn of a chamois, goat, or other suitable animal. Modern versions are made from a cow's horn.



Doumbek or Goblet Drum:

The goblet drum (also chalice drum, darbuka, debuka, Kratom, doumbek, dumbec, or tablah) is a single head membranophone with a goblet shaped body used mostly in the Middle East, North Africa, and Eastern Europe. The African djembe is also a goblet membranophone.



Bodhrán:

The bodhrán is an Irish frame drum ranging from 25 to 65 cm (10" to 26") in diameter. A goatskin head is tacked to one side. The other side is open-ended for one hand to be placed against the inside of the drum head to control the pitch and timbre. It is beaten with a tipper or beater made out of wood.



Spoons:

A pair of spoons is held with concave sides facing out and with a finger between their handles to space them apart. When the pair is struck, the spoons sharply hit each other and then spring back to their original position. The spoons are typically struck against the knee and the palm of the hand. The fingers and other body parts may also be used as striking surfaces to produce different sounds and for visual effect.



Washboard:

A washboard is a tool designed for hand washing clothing. With mechanized cleaning of clothing becoming more common by the end of the 20th century, the washboard has become better known for its originally subsidiary use as a percussion instrument.