



Biography

John Carty is one of Ireland's finest traditional musicians having been awarded the Irish Television station, Teilifis Gaeilge's Traditional Musician of the Year in 2003. He joins previous acclaimed winners Matt Molloy (Chieftains flautist), Tommy Peoples (Master Fiddler), Mary Bergin (whistle player, Dordán), Máire Ní Chathasaigh (Harpist) and Paddy Keenan (Uilleann Piper), all of whom are considered to be the leading exponents of their instruments within the Irish tradition.

Carty already has three solo fiddle albums, two banjo albums, two group albums and a sprinkling of recorded tenor guitar and flute music recordings under his belt so it's little wonder he should have joined such elusive ranks.

Born in London, fiddler John Carty has established himself among the elite in Irish traditional music and as a staunch supporter of its preservation. Carty developed his love for fiddle, banjo, and flute, all of which he has mastered, through his multi-instrumentalist father who was a member of the Glenside Ceili Band in London in the 1960's.

At the age of 16 Carty found himself playing in sessions with some of Irish music's finest and he began to entertain the thought of relocating to Ireland. Soon after settling in Boyle, Co Roscommon, Carty released his 1994 debut banjo album, *The Cat that Ate the Candle* to positive reviews.

This led to his first fiddle album, *Last Night's Fun*, released on Shanachie Records in 1996. This album has been described as a milestone in recorded fiddle music. In 1997 he formed *At the Racket*, a fun, loose, free-spirited dance band named after an old Flanagan Brothers 78 rpm. The group recorded two highly acclaimed CDs, "*At the Racket*" (RR001) and "*Mirth Making Heroes*" (RR003) and toured all the major European festivals.

In 2000 he teamed up with guitarist Arty McGlynn and began work on his second fiddle release, "*Yeh, That's All It Is*". His third record for Shanachie, *At It Again*, arrived in 2003.

July 2005 saw the launch of Carty's latest CD featuring banjo and tenor guitar, "*I Will If I Can*". Accompanied by Alec Finn, Brian McGrath and Johnny McDonagh, Carty once again shows his plectrum prowess to full affect.

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John performs regularly with Chieftain's flautist Matt Molloy exploring the North Connaught tradition they both love. A CD of their music will be launched shortly.

He is also touring with re-formed super group, Patrick Street in Ireland and the US. The group includes legendary musicians Andy Irvine, Kevin Burke, Jackie Daly and Ged Foley. The band tour the US, UK and Ireland regularly. He has also appeared as a special guest with the Chieftains and De Danaan.

John's solo and group careers see him in demand and he has performed at all major festivals throughout Europe, North America and Australasia.



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