



Fil Campbell

BIOGRAPHY

Co. Fermanagh born singer/songwriter Fil Campbell has had a lifelong love affair with the music industry since her first public performance at the age of 5, when she sang "The Connemara Cradle Song" a song made popular by Delia Murphy. She studied music at Queens University in Belfast where she also became part of the local promoting scene and from there went on to work as publicist for many of the biggest gigs in Ireland in the late 80s while also presenting the weekly "Folk Club" on BBC Radio Ulster and singing as a session backing vocalist for RTE television, as lead vocalist with different bands and as a solo performer.

"Songbirds—the First Ladies of Irish Song" is a project that Fil and her husband and musical partner Tom McFarland, have been working on since the winter of 2003. Originally intended to be a CD of folk songs that Fil had grown up with, - songs like "If I Were A Blackbird", "The Connemara Cradle Song" and "The Homes of Donegal", the project developed into a 6 part television documentary about the lives and times of the women singers who sang the songs, namely Delia Murphy, Bridie Gallagher, Ruby Murray, Mary O'Hara and Margaret Barry. All 5 sang similar songs in completely different styles and all had an influence on Fil in one way or another. The TV series is being shown on RTE TV in November and December 2005 and there is currently interest to broadcast it in the USA and various European countries throughout 2006 and 2007. The accompanying CD and DVD are widely available.

Fil has been a regular performer on the European, UK and Irish folk circuits since the mid 90s. Mainly accompanied by her partner, percussionist **Tom McFarland**, the duo built up a strong and loyal following for the blend of acoustic pop, jazz, folk and traditional songs, sung by a unique voice and accompanied by Latin, African and Irish percussion. She has recorded **3 contemporary solo albums** to date as well as another project album recorded for the Summer Solstice in 2001. She has shared the stage with Van Morrison, Jackson Browne and many other top Irish and British artists including Mary Black & Kieran Goss.

While not touring, Fil runs **Summersong**—a business school for would-be professional performers. She also gives vocal coaching to young singers and bands. She plays guitar, piano and flute, comes originally from Belleek in Co. Fermanagh and now lives in Rostrevor in Co. Down.

"With her deceptively fragile, almost childlike voice, she could pass as a third McGarrigle sister." **Glasgow Herald (Scotland)**

"Fil Campbell ... has been likened to a lot of female performers, but can be compared to none. She has a unique voice and a knack of making every song her own." **The Word (Ireland)**

"Fil Campbell has a gently commanding way with a song ... she draws you in slowly until it's a case of sweet surrender." **Folk Roots**

"Fil Campbell has assembled a fine collection of songs (On "Dreaming")... and given them effective, understated arrangements which highlight her own intimate, lilting voice." **Dirty Linen (USA)**

Discography: **Beneath The Calm** (2002); **Dreaming** (1996) (re-released 2000); **The Light Beyond The Woods** (1992);
Others: - Jaimidi (feat. Vocalist): **The Turn of the Day** (2001)

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