

For those with no Irish, here's a translation of Brendan's notes to *A Moment of Madness / Le Gealaigh*:

I am the youngest of nine children, and in our house, music and song were to be heard every single day, mixed with the daily work, be it milking cows, feeding calves or working in the fields. We'd be teaching and learning from each other throughout the whole day, and it appeared to us that if the day would come that we'd be asked to play in Muiríoch Hall, we'd be over the moon. It was our local "Carnegie Hall", where all the dancing and merrymaking took place, age and youth mixed together - those people had great fun and they were great fun.

One of the memories furthest back in my mind is hearing **Seán Coughlin** playing the accordion inside in our house, and the whole lot of us listening to him. It seemed to me that he filled the room with the richness of his music, and that he sent the notes throughout the house to spread happiness and beauty, completely transforming the feel of the house. It was just beautiful. He brought the mind on a journey to a completely different place, and even when he had finished and gone home, the house would take some time to return to itself.

I got **O'Sullivan's March** from Maurice Quinn, who in turn learnt it from Seán Coughlin. This tune is based on a famous journey undertaken by O'Sullivan Beara to Co. Leitrim after the Battle of Kinsale, when, from the few hundred people that started out, only eleven reached the final destination.

I composed **Tonn Cliodhna** myself, with the help of my daughter (also named Cliodhna), in connection with a sea journey I made with Danny Sheehy in a 'naomhóg' (or currach), from Donegal Harbour to Rathlin Island, tracing the path of Saint Colmcille. There are three parts to this tune, the first being where the boat is tied to the quay, and no one is in danger. In the second part the water is deep, and there's a touch of fear connected with that, and in the third part you are in the middle of a storm, with your heart in your mouth, as people often are in such situations.

I sing and play with the mindset with which I was raised, that particular way of viewing music and company, and there are few people with such an old head on them than Caoimhin with whom to share this musical journey of mind and heart. He clears away the boundaries that are all too common between the heart and the music. He brings you out through Brandon Creek to a place that is vast and spacious and connected with the ports of the world, with happiness and fear and humility. I hope anyone who hears our music can feel this, whichever port of the world they reside in, listening to us on whatever new or old technology that's available to them. If they get half the enjoyment out of listening to this music that we got from playing it, we'll have done what we set out to do.