

## The Living Tradition

It's all too tempting to say that Máiréad Nesbitt has 'many strings to her bow'. But as she has, why not say it anyway? After all, we're talking here about somebody who has played in a classical orchestra at 16, who's backed performers from Van Morrison to Sharon Shannon, who's been the lead fiddler of Lord of the Dance and its successors, who has taught and written, and who is now launching herself on a solo career.



She's from a musical family in Loughmore, County Tipperary. Her mother Kathleen is a celebrated traditional fiddler and music teacher known throughout Ireland and beyond, her father plays box, and her four brothers and her older sister Frances are all musicians, too. Rather obviously, hers was a household in which there was always music of some sort around (she herself started piano at four), whether it was her mother's pupils trooping in and out or just friends dropping by for a tune. Her home was seen locally as a 'céilí house', a valuable asset in a remote area.

Steve McGrail