Méabh O'Hare Biography

Méabh O'Hare was born in Belfast in 1976. She began playing the fiddle while attending Bunscoil Phobail Béal Féirste in Andersonstown at the age of nine. She also took lessons from the renowned **MacPeake family** of Belfast. Méabh subsequently studied for five years with the legendary fiddle maestro **Seán Maguire**. Throughout this time she appeared with Seán on the BBC programme "Atlantic Bridges" and also on RTE's "The Pure Drop" series. In her late teens she began playing in sessions in Belfast where she learnt a lot of music from influential players such as Andy Dixon and Davey Maguire. At this point she became interested in the northern style of fiddle playing especially that of Donegal and she began attending many fiddle festivals and sessions held in areas such as Glencolmcille, Gaoth Dobhair and Glenties.

Méabh went on to Cork to study for a degree in Music at UCC. This opened her musical horizons to many new styles and genres of Irish music. It also gave her the opportunity to perform with young musicians such as **Fiddle Sticks**, a group comprising seventeen fiddles and a piano with whom Méabh recorded they're only album **"Racket in Rectory"** in 1999. While attending college she also won the Doctor Gleeson award, which is presented to music students in UCC who achieve the highest mark for their ability as a soloist.

She was for a short period a member of Dublin based band **Providence** with whom she recorded an album and toured extensively throughout Ireland.
Méabh received major recognition for her ability as a musician when she was chosen as **TG4's Young Musician of the year in 2000.**
Méabh recently made her debut as TV presenter for the RTE Irish traditional music series **"Banish Misfortune"** which was transmitted at Primetime on RTE1 for a consecutive 12 weeks**.**

 Meabh recently went on to Produce and direct her first documentary for TG4. **"Céird an Cheoil".** *(Crafts of Music). It* was a programme about Belfast flutemaker Sam Murray and the Belfast style of flute playing.