

RONAN BROWNE

“**O**ne of the finest pipers of his generation, an innovator who has developed his own unique style”

- The Irish Times



- *Film and Television Composer*
- *Uilleann Piper and Singer with “CRAN”*
- *Duet with Peter O’Loughlin*
- *Original Piper with Afro Celt Sound System & Riverdance*

Instruments:

Flat and Concert Pitch Uilleann Pipes

Concert Flute, Bb Flute, Whistle, Vocal

Ronan comes from a very strong musical background. His grandmother **Delia Murphy** was renowned for recording and popularising many Irish songs in the 1930's and 1940's such as *"If I Were A Blackbird"*, *"The Spinning Wheel"*, and *Three Lovely Lassies From Bannion'*. Delia, the wife of **Dr. T.J. Kiernan**, Irish Ambassador to the **Vatican, Australia, Germany, America and Canada**, brought Irish musical culture to audiences throughout the world.

Musicians such as **Séamus Ennis, Willie Clancy** and **Denis Murphy** were regular visitors to Ronan's family home over the years. He began playing the pipes at the age of seven and was quickly taken under the various wings of the old masters, his main influences being pipers **Willie Clancy, Tommy Reck** and **Séamus Ennis**, whilst **Johnny Doran, Denis Murphy** and **Tommy Potts** also played a strong role in forming his early style.

Duet with Peter O'Loughlin

To this day Ronan's friendship and musical collaboration with **Peter O'Loughlin** is fêted as one of the most enduring partnerships in Irish music. They recorded a duet album in 1988 with Claddagh Records called **"The South West Wind"** which was received with critical acclaim, and in 2002, released a 2nd CD called **"Touch Me if You Dare"**. They have recently recorded a third album.



Ronan with Peter O'Loughlin

Their strong combination of mid 19th century flat-pitch uilleann pipes and tuned-down fiddle, playing the old dance music of Ireland, makes for a rare and thoroughly enjoyable evening's entertainment.

Recordings

Ronan has been involved in over **75 album recordings** since his first venture into the studio in 1982 and has collaborated with many of the top artists playing Traditional Irish Music, Classical, Pop, Jazz and Country. These include people such as **Anuna, Donal Lunny, Finbar Wright, Alan Stivell, The Indigo Girls, Tommy Hayes, Sean Tyrrell, Bill Whelan, Elvis Costello, Nightnoise, Michael Kamen, Paul Brady, Bill Laswell, Sinéad O'Connor, Peter Gabriel** and **Deep Forest**.

After releasing the easy-listening album *Celtic Moods* in 1997, Ronan released his long awaited solo traditional CD *The Wynd You Know* in 2001, with Claddagh Records. 2005 saw the release of a third solo CD *Salute to the Brave*, mostly of his own modern compositions.

CRAN



Ronan is a member of the group **CRAN** with **Sean Corcoran** and **Desi Wilkinson**. CRAN have released four CDs: [*The Crooked Stair* (1993/2005) *Black Black Black* (1998) *Lover's Ghost* (2000) *Music from the Edge of the World* (2002)].

Their performances are “...a dazzling display of technical virtuosity combined with fun and humour, banter and stories.”

The core of their repertoire is native Irish material - **bubbling dance music** or **haunting slow airs** on

flute and pipes, and vocals ranging from the highly-ornamented **sean-nós** songs of Conamara to the rollicking *port a' bhéil* or **mouth music** of Donegal. Their **Hiberno-English song repertoire** (songs from Ireland in English) covers the entire gamut from the old story-telling "long ballads" to lively comic songs of "pure divilment and rascality". They also include material from the related **Scots-Gaelic tradition** and from the other Atlantic Celts, the **Bretons**.

Over the last 20 years, Ronan has established a fine-tuned duet with fiddle player **Kevin Glackin**; Kevin regularly joins **CRAN** for recordings along with **Triona Ní Dhomhnaill (Bothy Band)**.

Riverdance

Ronan was the original piper for the **Eurovision** interval performance of **Riverdance** in 1994 and his recording has featured in almost every show since. He chose not to join the teeming cast when the show went on the road, preferring instead to concentrate on his personal projects and to leave the touring to pipers with more time on their hands. This left him in a position to concentrate on **CRAN** the **Afro Celt Sound System**.

Afro Celt Sound System

In the mid 1990s Ronan was asked if he would like to join a project which was starting up revolving around **Peter Gabriel's 2nd "World Music Recording Week"**. Musicians converged from all over the planet to ramble from project to project being recorded in up 7 recording setups in **Real World Studios**. Out of this intense meeting of musicians was born the Afro Celt Sound System which went on to become Real World's most successful venture. It was a meeting of **African** and **Irish** musicians in the convivial company of some of the top **London programmers**.

The Afro Celts toured the world and Ronan remained with the band for the first two albums, writing and recording in various locations between Ireland and England. Tracks were licensed for countless documentaries, ads and films, the strangest of which was **Farrah Fawcett** sculpting nude in a **Playboy** video to the sound of Ronan's opening track on the 1st Afro Celt CD!

Performances

Not only is Ronan an excellent musician but he is also an engaging performer and has a great rapport with his audience, this combination making him a very popular artist. As a result, he plays many prestigious concerts in Ireland and abroad as a solo musician and has also been a guest member to a wide variety of groups. He has toured extensively in Europe and in the USA, as well as playing in Russia, India, Australia, Israel, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Japan. He gives master classes throughout the world.

Although best known as a traditional musician, Ronan is also keenly interested in exploring other musical genres particularly in **film** and **television**. Ronan has written and performed music for **fashion shows** in London and Paris by designers **Lainey Keogh** and **John Rocha**.

Teaching

Ronan has been teaching the pipes, flute and whistle worldwide for the last 25 years and has recently developed a music appreciation/listening class. In 2005 he was awarded a grant under the DEIS scheme of the Irish Arts Council. This grant enabled him to make his class completely portable and has proved a huge addition to his teaching capabilities.

Film

Along with the late **Michael Kamen**, Ronan composed the soundtrack for the documentary film *'The Dolphin's Gift'*, directed by **Kim Kindersley**. More recently, the two of them collaborated on the score to *'Circle of Friends'*, the film dramatisation of **Maeve Binchy's** novel.



Ronan has also contributed music to the film soundtracks of **'Robin of Loxely'**, **'Rob Roy'**, **'Fierce Creatures'**, **'The Secret of Roan Inish'**, **'Streets of Gold'** and **'Gangs of New York'**.

On **Angelica Huston's** **'Mrs. Browne'**, Ronan was Traditional Irish Music Director.

He composed and recorded scores for the videos and slide shows at the **Wexford 1798 Vinegar Hill** Interpretative Centre in Enniscorthy,

the **Waterford Treasures** Centre and the **King John** interpretative Centre in Limerick City.

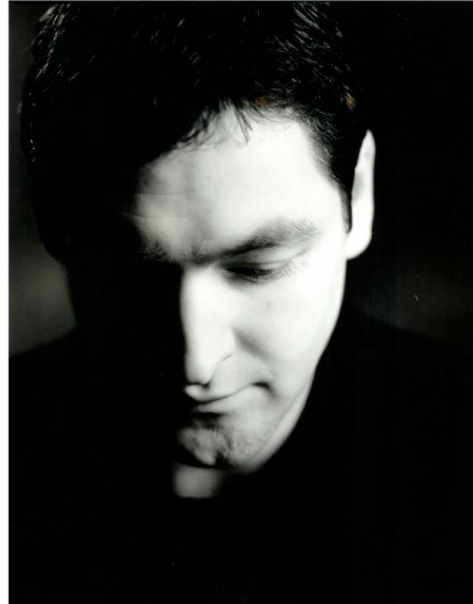
TG4, the Irish TV station, recently commissioned Ronan to write the music for the daily news program '**Nuacht**' a six part drama series '**Geibheann**' and a drama '**An Gaeilgeoir Nocht**'.

Television

Ronan appears regularly on Irish music and magazine programs on national television and radio. He has also played for numerous television advertisements.

He appeared on **ABC Network's** 65 million audience '**Good Morning America**' playing the Uilleann Pipes with **Donal Lunny, Nollaig Casey** and **Arty McGlynn**. He played on the theme music to the six-part series '**Bringing it all Back Home**' - an independent television program dealing with the influence of Irish music on American Folk and Contemporary music.

Ronan featured in **Hummingbird's** '**Rivers of Sound**', which explores many aspects of traditional Irish music.



Theatre

Ronan worked with **Tommy Hayes**, on the writing and performance of music for the **Abbey Theatre** productions of '**The Playboy of the Western World**' and '**Macbeth**'. He has recently joined forces again with Tommy and dancer Cindy Cummings to give some seriously off-beat performances where anything can happen!

The Olympia Theatre performance of '**The Tailor and Ansty**' with Anna Manahan and Frank Kelly saw Ronan playing music and acting a small role. Ronan's version of the Blasket Island air *Port na bPucaí* was chosen by Limerick's **Daghda** dance group for their part in the huge Famine commemoration held in Millstreet in 1997.

Ronan Browne Discography

Solo

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|--|--------------|------|
| 1. <i>Celtic Moods</i> – “Haunting Melodies of Ireland” | (CRIMCD72) | 1997 |
| 2. <i>The Wynd You Know</i> – Traditional Pipes solo CD | (CC64CD) | 2001 |
| 3. <i>Salute to the Brave</i> - Ronan Browne & the Patriot Corps | (BCI40945-2) | 2005 |

CRAN

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|---|------------|-----------|
| 1. <i>The Crooked Stair</i> | (BRRCD001) | 1995/2006 |
| 2. <i>Black, Black, Black</i> – 2 nd CRAN CD with Shel Talmy | (CC63CD) | 1998 |
| 3. <i>Lover's Ghost</i> | (BRRCD003) | 2000 |
| 4. <i>Music from the Edge of the World</i> | (BRRCD004) | 2003 |

Ronan Browne & Peter O'Loughlin

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|--|-----------|--------|
| 1. <i>The South West Wind</i> | (CC47CD) | 1988 |
| 2. <i>Touch me if you Dare</i> | (CCF35CD) | 2002 |
| 3. <i>Third CD with Peter O'Loughlin</i> | (CCF**CD) | 2007/8 |

Afro Celt Sound System

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|---|----------|------|
| 1. <i>Afrocelt Sound System Vol I – (Sound Magic)</i> | (CDRW61) | 1996 |
| 2. <i>Afro Celt Sound System Vol 2 (Release)</i> | (CDRW76) | 1999 |

Ronan Browne Full Discography

Below is the list of records and CDs on which Ronan has worked. It is by no means exhaustive and is continually being added to.

1983

1. *Dysart Tola* - Music from Dublin and Clare.

1987

2. *Round the House* - Music for Set Dancing
3. *Mind the Dresser* - Music for Set Dancing

1988

4. *The South West Wind* – With Peter O'Loughlin. (CC47CD)

1989

5. *Five Guys Named Mo* - Canadian pop group.

1990

6. *At is Again* - A contemporary Irish and Scottish album, by Manus Lunny and Andy M Stewart.



1991

7. *Bringing it all Back Home* - Accompanying the television series. (CD BBC CD 844)
8. *The Final Fantasy IV Celtic Moon* - Music for Japanese video game. (N30D-006)

1992

9. *Next Generation* - The Irish Folk Festival duet with Kevin Glackin. (TÜT CD 72.7492)
10. *The Indigo Girls* - American pop duo

1993

11. *Angel Candles* - with Maire Breatnach. (SCD 593)
12. *Browne / Glackin / Tyrrell* – once-off for European Tour (Not commercially released)

1994

13. *Heritage des Celtes - Dan ar Bras / Donal Lunny*.(COL477763 2)
14. *Taobh na Greine/Under the Sun - Seosaimhinni Bheaglaioich / Donal Lunny*. (CEFCO 170)
15. *Tir na nOg* - Anne Wylie. (FMS 2060)
16. *Branohm - The Voyage of Bran – Maire Breathnach*. (SCD 394)
17. *Winds of Freedom* - John Beag Ó Flatharta (CICD 106)
18. *Riverdance* - Theme music for Eurovision '94



19. *Drones and Chanters Vol. 2* - Solo piping compilation.
20. *Brian Boru*. With Breton Harpist Alan Stivell

1995

21. *Secret of Roan Inish* - soundtrack to the film.
22. *River of Sound* - Accompanying the television series. (Hummingbird)
23. *Riverdance* - The Show. (KCD 370)

1996

24. *Circle of Friends* - soundtrack to the film.
25. *Afrocelt Sound System Vol I* - modern music from Senegal, London and Ireland. (CDRW61)
26. *When I was Young* - Pádraigín ní Uallacháin & Len Graham. (FONN CD001)
27. *Everybreath* - James McNally (74321 443 722)

1997

28. *ROKA* with Mimori Yusa (Japanese pop star). (ESCB 1799)
29. *A Room In The North* With Tommy Hayes (OPP CD 001)
30. *Celtic Moods* - Melodies of Ireland on Pipes (CRIMCD72)
31. *ZAN - TOMOKO* - Japanese singer & Band (SRCL 3992)
32. *Emer Kenny* - Irish contemporary artist (314 536 228-2)
33. *Seacht* - with Iarla Ó Lionaird (Real World)

1998

34. *Black, Black, Black* – 2nd CRAN CD produced by Shel Talmy (CC63CD)
35. *Art of Magic* - CD Rom game with members of Afro Celts
36. *1st Celtic Tenors CD*
37. *The Seer* - German pop group
38. *Claddagh's Choice* – Compilation (CC40-65CD)

1999

39. *Afro Celt Sound System Vol 2 (Release)*- CDRW76
40. *Transatlantic Sessions* – with US Country artists
41. *A Real Irish Christmas* – Compilation (832262)
42. *The Crossing* - Tim O'Brien Nashville artist CD ALU-1014

2000

43. *Melody of Legend I* – Japanese game music hits performed solo
44. *Melody of Legend II* – Japanese game music hits performed solo
45. *2nd Celtic Tenors CD*
46. *Siol/Seed* – various artists (Agherbaun Records OPP CD2)
47. *Come dance with Me in Ireland* – Compilation (Atlantic 83273)
48. *Pure Bodhrán* – compilation track with Tommy Hayes (BBM 001)
49. *Alison Hood CD* – Cellist
50. *Lover's Ghost* - 3rd CRAN album (BRRCD003)

2001

51. *Journey* – Best of Donal Lunny: April 3rd track (HBCD0024)
52. *Rua* – Contemporary Celtic Vocal Duo
53. *The Irish Tenors* – *Ellis Island* Guest



- 54. *The Wynd You Know* – solo CD (CC64CD)
- 55. *Yoko Ueno CD* - Japanese Singer / arranger

2002

- 56. *Touch me if you Dare* - 2nd Duet album with Peter O'Loughlin
- 57. *Celtic Tenors – So Strong*: Pipes on *The Green Fields Of France* and *Mull of Kintyre*

2003

- 58. *Gaelic Ireland* – compilation with CRAN: *Na Ceannabhain* (EUCD1821)
- 59. *Music from the Edge of the World* 4th CRAN album (BRRCD004)
- 60. *Songs, Jigs & Reels* – Browne, Glackin, Tyrrell (Not commercially released)

2004

- 61. *The Thing Itself* – Peter O'Loughlin & Maeve Donnelly (CCF36CD)

2005

- 62. *Rough Guide to Irish Music, 2nd* – Comp: CRAN Taimse 'n Arrears (RGNET1148CD)
- 63. *Salute to the Brave* - Ronan Browne & the Patriot Corps (BCI40945-2)
- 64. *Beginners Guide to Ireland* – Comp. CRAN: *Na Ceannabhain Bhána* (NSBOX012)
- 65. *The Humours of Holland* – Piping Compilation
- 66. *Balance* – BEUC Creative Commons Comp: Ronan track: *Solas*
- 67. *Celtic Tiger* - Soundtrack to Flatley show (B000B8GT9M)

2006

- 68. *The Crooked Stair* – Re-mastered 1st CRAN album (BRRCD001)
- 69. *The Hop Down* – Breda Keville Solo CD Engineered by Ronan (BKCD 205)
- 70. *Wooden Flute Obsession 3* – Flute Compilation (ITMS0601)
- 71. *Geantraí* – CD & DVD: TV performance with Peter O'Loughlin (CEFCD 189)

2007

- 72. *Má Bhionn Tú Liom* – Róisín Elsafty. Guest playing flutes & whistles (VERTCD080)
- 73. *Oisín McAuley - Far From the Hills of Donegal* Pipes on Ask My Father & Port na bPucaí (Compass 4446)
- 74. *Sean Ryan* – Solo CD Engineered by Ronan
- 75. *Experience Ireland* - Nascente compilation CRAN and Solo tracks