

Myrdhin: First Harp Prize, Killarney, Ireland  
First Harp Prize at Dolgellau, Wales  
First Harp Prize at the *Podium Jeune Musique des JMF et de France Musique à Paris*  
Two Gold Discs  
Nominated for a Grammy Award in Los Angeles  
*Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres*, 2002

Learning, discoveries, exchanges, conviviality...courses and masterclasses with MYRDHIN

This season, the Celtic tradition perpetuates itself: again, there are many Celtic harp courses, focusing on the specific techniques belonging to Irish, Breton and Scottish repertoire.

Rémi Chauvet (Myrdhin) conducts masterclasses at the Cosenza and Novarra conservatoires in Italy, in Cayenne en Guyane, in Nice, in Vandoeuvre, to name only the chief ones.

The first lesson always begins with learning a Breton dance: the foundation of all the work to come, and which brings the group together. Myrdhin has been a practitioner of Breton dance since 1971. His initial dance class provides the student harpist, and all masterclass participants, with the means to think about the role of the instrumentalist in comparison with dancers. A mutual comparison can also be made between the body's movement and the fingers when playing.

After the dance lesson comes the ballad or the complaint. This lesson is in order to get to know Celtic music's modal character. All harpers need to be able to play in the three main modes:

- the natural mode on G (gentraige)
- the mode on D (goltraige)
- the mode on A (suantraige)

They also need to be able to make people laugh, cry and sleep...

The musician applies himself to the bass note or tonic chord and its fifth; together with a drone, it is the basis of early music from Ireland or Scotland. Like the Indian raga, the pibroch unfurls like a magic carpet. A Breton melody, taken from the anthology 'Barzaz Breiz' lends itself more to harmonisation.

Accustomed to moving in diverse circles in the Celtic world, and travelling far and wide on tour (throughout Europe and the Americas, Java and Japan), Myrdhin is, before all, a son of Brittany, a sailor in spirit!

His work (nearly two hundred compositions, forty albums, film and stage music) is rooted in a modern practice of the Celtic harp. An established figure (he founded the International Celtic Harp Festival in Dinan in 1984, and is its permanent artistic director), his diverse repertoire bears witness to how he revives the tradition, and shares it all over the world.

With long experience of travel, encounters and performances, he offers:

- a way of learning and performance research, and how to appropriate a traditional song and make it your own
- advice on how to choose your repertoire, find your own style, adapt and compose music

Myrdhin's teaching is primarily oral, as per the Irish method: teaching by ear, using a simple idea and numerous examples. This encourages the student to call on their personal resources.