

AG30: Agallamh le Christine Primrose: Seinn

Interview with Christine Primrose: Seinn

Presenter: Seumas Dòmhnallach (James MacDonald)



SEUMAS:

Còmhla rinn an-dràsta tha Cairistiona Primrose agus cha leig mise a leas mòran a ràdh mu deidhinn, oir tha a h-uile duine cho eòlach oirre airson a seinn agus a ceòl. A Chairistiona, a' dol air ais dhan an toiseach ma-thà, dè a' chiad chuimhne a th' agad fhèin air ceòl?

CHRISTINE:

Tha cuimhn' agam fear a' tighinn chun an taigh' againn. Bha e anns an dùthaich, bha e anns an sgìre againn ... Bha e a' dèanamh artaigil dha ... dhan a' BhBC, tha mi a' smaoinichadh. Fear ... Godfrey Winn an t-ainm a bh' air. Agus bha e a' dèanamh pìos mu dheidhinn na h-eileanan 's mu dheidhinn a' Chlò Mhòr 's Clò Hearach 's breabadairean 's rudan mar sin, 's chan eil fhios agamsa dè mar a thàinig e chun an taigh againne, ach chaidh a stiùireadh a-mach thugainne co-dhiù agus cuideigin a' cantainn, "O, seinnidh an tè sin, an nighean bheag sin, amhran dhuibh," agus tha mi a' smaoinichadh gu robh mi ceithir bliadhna agus tha cuimhne agam an duine a bha seo - 's e srainnsear a bh' ann. 'Fhios agad, cha robh sinne a' faicinn mòran shrainnsearan no mar sin, agus tha cuimhn' 'am a bhith a' seinn dha, agus 's e a sheinn mi 'Falt Trom, Trom Dualach'. Tha cuimhn' 'am air a sin.

Ach, a bharrachd air an sin, bhiodh ... Bhiodh uncail m' athair a' tighinn dhachaidh a h-uile bliadhna à Canada, agus ... Chan e uncail m' athair - bràthair m' athair, uncail dhomh fhìn! Agus bhiodh an-còmhnaidh seòrsa de chruinneachadh ann an taigh mo sheanmhair, 'eil fhios agad? 'S bhiodh tape recorder aige, 's bhiodh daoine a' seinn, 'fhios agad, as an teaghlach, no ag innse sgeulachd 's rudan mar sin 's tha cuimhn' 'am a bhith a' seinn ann a shin cuideachd.

JAMES:

With us now is Christine Primrose and I don't need to say much about her because she's extremely well known for her singing and music. Christine, going back to the very beginning, then, what is your first memory of music?

CHRISTINE:

I remember a man coming to our house. He was in the area, he was in our district ... He was working on an article for ... for the BBC, I think. He was ... His name was Godfrey Winn. And he was doing a piece about the island and about tweed, and Harris Tweed and weavers and things like that, and I don't know how he ended up coming to our house, but he was directed out to us anyway and somebody said, "Oh, she'll sing, that little girl, she'll sing a song for you," and I think I was four years old and I remember this man - he was a stranger. You know, we didn't see many strangers or visitors, and I remember singing for him, and I sang 'Falt Trom, Trom Dualach'. I remember that.

But apart from that ... My father's uncle used to come home every year from Canada and ... He wasn't my father's uncle - my father's brother, my uncle! And there was always a kind of gathering in my grandmother's house, you know? And he'd have a tape recorder, and people would sing, you know, from the family, or tell stories and things like that and I remember singing there too.

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CHRISTINE:

Bha e cho nàdarrach dha daoine a bhith a' seinn co-dhiù, eil fhios agad? Agus chan e ... cha robh càil eadar-dhealaichte ann dhòmhsa a bhith a' seinn. Bha mi a' seinn bho bha mi glè, glè bheag, agus sin a' chuimhne a th' agamsa, daoine, 'fhios agad, a' tighinn ... a' cruinneachadh ann an taighean dhaoine eile, 's can, "Siuthad, seinn amhran," 's, "Gabh amhran," 's rudan mar sin. Cha robh càil, tha mi a' smaoinichadh, eadar-dhealaichte na àite sam bith eile, bho àite sam bith eile, chanainn.

SEUMAS:

An canadh tu gur e gibht a chaidh fhàgail agad, an rud a thàinig gad ionnsaigh gu nàdarra, air no an robh agad ri obair air a leasachadh?

CHRISTINE:

O, tha mi a' smaoinichadh gu robh e agam, gu bheil e agam gu nàdarra, leis an fhìrinn. Chan urrainn dhom smaoinichadh a-nis a bhith às aonais, mar gum bitheadh, agus chan e rud a bha me ... a chur mi romham a bhithinn a' dèanamh idir, idir, ach dìreach mar a thàinig e gun a seo fhèin, 'fhios agad?

Nuair a smaoinicheas mi air ais air mo bheatha, tha e glè iongantach mar a stiùir e mi gu rudan, an t-seinn agam, 's tha mi a' smaoinichadh ... Tha mi a' creids' gu mòr ann an rudan. Ma tha e an dàn dhut, 'eil fhios agad? 'S bha e an dàn dhòmhsa an rud a tha mi a' dèanamh. Tha mi mionnaichte às a sin.

SEUMAS:

Dè na h-òrain as fheàrr leat a bhith a' seinn, agus carson?

CHRISTINE:

It was so natural for people to sing anyway, you know? And it wasn't ... there was nothing unusual for me about singing. I had been singing since I was very, very little, and that's what I remember, people you know, coming ... gathering in other people's houses, and, "Go on, sing a song," and "Give us a song," and things like that. And I don't think it was any different than anywhere else, from anywhere else, I'd say.

JAMES:

Would you say you had been given a gift, something that came naturally to you, or did you have to work on developing it?

CHRISTINE:

Oh, I think it's just something that's in me, something natural, to be honest. I can't imagine being without it now, as it were, and it's not something I ... not something I set out to do at all, but just the way things came to be, you know?

When I think back on my life, it's amazing how it guided me towards things, my singing, and I think ... I believe very strongly in things like that. If something is destined for you, you know? And I was destined to do what I'm doing. I'm absolutely certain of that.

JAMES:

What songs do you prefer to sing, and why?

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CHRISTINE:

'S caomh leams' na h-amhrain tiamhaidh, àlainn, le fonn brèagha orra, ag innse sgeulachd, agus feumaidh fonn brèagha, dhomhsa, a bhith air an amhran. Mura h-eil, chan eil mi ag iarraidh a sheinn, ged a bhiodh a' bhàrdachd cho math ri math. 'S e sin a tha ga mo tharraing. Agus sin ... Chan eil aon seach aon.

Mar a thuirt mi, tha tòrr amhrain - agus tha e ag atharrachadh bho latha gu latha. Tha e dìreach a rèir 's dè mar a tha mi fhìn a' faireachdainn. Bidh amhrain a' tighinn a-steach orm, 's bidh mi, "O, 'se amhran brèagha a tha sin!" Bidh e dìreach ... Chan eil fhios 'am ... Bidh mi dìreach ag iarraidh a sheinn an uair sin fhèin, 'eil fhios agad? Agus 's dòcha an ath sheachdain nach bi guth agam air.

SEUMAS:

Bheil thu ga fhaighinn doirbh a bhith ag ionnsachadh òrain, chan e a-mhàin na facail ach an ceòl cuideachd? A bheil e ... A bheil sin a' tighinn gad ionnsaigh gu soirbh?

CHRISTINE:

Uill, chan eil. Tha mi a' smaoinichadh ... 'Eil fhios agad dè a tha dhòmhsa duilich a dhèanamh ceart? 'S e puirt-à-beul. 'S na puirt, tha iad dhòmhsa ... Tha mi a' faireachdainn ... Tha iad uabhasach duilich a bhith gan seinn. Tha tòrr dhaoine a' smaoinichadh, dìreach bhon a tha iad mar ... An seòrsa de dh' amhrain a th' annta, mar gum bitheadh, amhrain beaga, 'fhios agad, agus suigeartach, tha iad a' smaoinichadh gu bheil iad cho furasta an ionnsachadh, ach chan eil! Bidh mise a' toirt greis mhòr mus ionnsaich mi puirt.

Ach amhrain eile, chan eil e a' toirt uabhasach fada, bhon chan eil mi ... Tha mi buailteach dìreach a bhith ag ionnsachadh amhrain air a bheil mi fhìn, 'fhios agad, dèidheil, agus le sin, tha mi a' smaoinichadh gu bheil e ga dhèanamh nas fhasa dhomh fhìn, eil fhios agad?

CHRISTINE:

I like songs that are poignant, beautiful, with a lovely melody, that tell a story, and for me, the song must have a beautiful melody. If not, I don't want to sing it, even if the lyrics are wonderful. That's what appeals to me. And that's ... There isn't a particular one. it.

As I said, there are many songs - and they change from day to day. It just depends on how I'm feeling. I'll think of a song and I'll be like, "Oh, that's a lovely song!" It will be just ... I don't know ... I'll just want to sing it there and then. Do you know? And perhaps the next week, I'll have forgotten about

JAMES:

Do you find it difficult to learn songs, not just the words but the music too? Does it ... Does that come easily to you?

CHRISTINE:

Well, no. I think ... Do you know what I find difficult to do properly? Mouth music. The tunes, to me are ... I feel ... They are very hard to sing. Many people think that just because they are ... The type of songs they are, as it were, light-hearted songs, you know, and playful, they think that they're so easy to learn, but they aren't! It takes me a long time to learn them.

But other songs, they don't take as long, because I don't ... I tend to just learn songs which I, you know, like, and so, I think that makes it easier for me, you know?

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SEUMAS:

A bheil thu a' smaoinichadh gu bheil an dòigh seinn agad, an stoidhle agad, air atharrachadh thar nam bliadhnaichean?

CHRISTINE:

Chan eil gu mòr. Tha gu ìre, le, dìreach, leis a' chleachdadh mar gum bitheadh, ach chan eil e air atharrachadh cho mòr ri sin idir, chanainn. Tha an aon stoidhle, an aon sheòrsa ... Mar as aosta a tha thu a' fàs, mar as motha a tha thu ga dhèanamh, tha barrachd tuigse agad ann an dòigh air ... mu dheidhinn do ghuth fhèin, 's dè a nì thu leis no dè nach b' urrainn ... nach urrainn dhut a dhèanamh leis 's rudan mar sin.

SEUMAS:

Tha mi a' creidsinn gur iomadh cothrom a fhuair thu, 's iomadh àite is rud a chunna' tu le do sheinn.

CHRISTINE:

'S iomadh rud a chunna' mi 'S iomadh rud a rinn mi!

SEUMAS:

'S e gu dearbha! Dè a dh'iarradh tu a dhèanamh fhathast? Bheil càil idir ann a dh'iarradh tu a dhèanamh fhathast?

CHRISTINE:

Uill, àite sam bith. 'S caomh leamsa a bhith a' siubhal, agus, leis an t-seinn agam, leis an fhìrinn. Chan eil. Cha do smaoinich mi mu dheidhinn sin. Tha mi air a bhith cho fortanach gun d' fhuair mi na cothroman a fhuair mi agus a tha mi a' faighinn air a bhith a' seinn air feadh an t-saoghail, tha mi a' creids', agus chan eil mi a' cantainn rium fhìn, "O, chòrdadh e rium a dhol - chan eil fhios agam càit - a dh'Afraga," no rudeigin mar sin.

JAMES:

Do you think that your way of singing, your style, has changed over the years?

CHRISTINE:

Not by much. It will have to some degree purely through practice, as it were, but I wouldn't say it had changed very much at all. The same style, the same type ... The older you become and the more you practise, the better you understand the way to ... your own voice, and what you can do and what you couldn't do ... what you can't do with it and so on.

JAMES:

I suppose you've had many opportunities and have seen many places because of your singing.

CHRISTINE:

Many a thing I saw, Many a thing I did!

JAMES:

Yes, indeed! What would you still like to do? Is there anything that you'd still like to do?

CHRISTINE:

Well, anywhere. I like to travel, especially to sing, to be honest. No, there isn't. I hadn't thought about that. I've been very lucky to have been given the opportunities I've been given and I've had the opportunity to sing all over the world, I suppose, but I don't say to myself, "Oh, I'd love to go - I don't know where - to Africa," or something like that.

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SEUMAS:

Ach ma thig an cothrom, gabhaidh tu e?

CHRISTINE:

Ma thig an cothrom, ma tha daoine ga iarraidh, thèid mi ann.

SEUMAS:

A Chairistiona, tapadh leibh an-dràsta.

CHRISTINE:

Tapadh leat fhèin.

JAMES:

But if the opportunity arises, you'll take it?

CHRISTINE:

If the opportunity arises, if people want me, I'll go there.

JAMES:

Christine, thank you for now.

CHRISTINE:

Thank you.