



Tommy Sands

Ixtlan Artists Group, Inc.

Virtuoso performers - a commitment to education and diversity

Tommy Sands is one of the most powerful songwriters in Ireland, if not the rest of the world.

Sing Out! Magazine

Tommy Sands, County Down's singer, songwriter and social activist, has achieved something akin to legendary status in his own lifetime.

From the pioneering days with the highly influential Sands Family, bringing Irish Music from New York's Carnegie Hall to Moscow's Olympic Stadium, he has developed into one of the most powerful songwriters and enchanting solo performers in Ireland today. He enjoys celebrity status in his homeland and elsewhere, tempered by artistic integrity and the sorrow of personal tragedy in his war-torn homeland. Walking the road between Protestant and Catholic, he dreams of improving that reality. As part of the acclaimed Sands Family, one of the most important traditional groups in the early years of the Ireland's folk revival, Tommy has worked to add beauty to the world and to point out where it still needs improvement.

His songwriting has drawn the admiration of Nobel Poet Laureate Seamus Heaney and father of folk music Pete Seeger. His songs, like *There were Roses* and *Daughters and Sons*, which have been recorded by Joan Baez, Kathy Mattea, Dolores Keane, Sean Keane, Frank Patterson, Dick Gaughan, The Dubliners and many others have been translated into many languages and are currently included in the English language syllabus in German secondary schools and in classrooms throughout Europe. John Hume, then Minister of Parliament in Ireland, described Tommy's composition *The Music of Healing* as a "new anthem for our times."

Although constantly performing on stages all around the world, he prides in taking his music down from the lights and into the darker corners of society. One of his current projects, teaching underprivileged prisoners in Reno, Nevada to write their own song with which to defend themselves in court is currently creating a widespread stir in the world of community art in the United States. Back home in Northern Ireland he has just completed a CD written with Protestant and Catholic schoolchildren about their own areas, in towns and villages around Northern Ireland. During the Good Friday Agreement Talks, his impromptu performance with a group of children and Lambeg drummers was described by Northern Ireland Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon as "a defining moment in the Peace Process".

Cultural Program

- *History of Northern Ireland through song*

Holiday Program

- *The shortening of the Winter*

Lectures & Historical Programs

- *Northern Ireland history through the songs of Ireland*

Music Education

Library & Museum Programs

Elementary, Middle & High School

Family Programs

*Sands writes his own script, of course, and delivers it with the split second timing of a master storyteller. With *The Heart's a Wonder*, he has spun a web of wisdom, tenderness and joy that should enthrall even the most jaded listener.*

Dirty Linen Magazine



For our latest roster information, downloadable press kits & music files, go to

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