

## Fil Campbell

Fil Campbell grew up in Belleek in Co. Fermanagh in the North of Ireland. She was brought up on the folk songs that were popular in Fermanagh and Donegal and spent her childhood immersed in music. With both ceilidh bands and singers in the family, music was all around and performance was part of everyday life, both at home and at school. Belleek is the home of the world famous Belleek Pottery, where Fil's father worked all his life, and where she in turn spent several Summer holidays.

Fil returned to her roots for her most recent CD, **Songbirds**, which is the basis for her current touring show, *the Irish Songbirds*. A collection of charming Irish folk songs that formed the musical backdrop to Ireland of the 30s, 40s and 50s, **Songbirds** accompanies a TV show and DVD of the same name, which profiles the women singers of that period. Fil both performs and presents this documentary series which is already being seen as a valuable contribution to Irish traditional music archives. She is accompanied in the live show by 2 stellar musicians, Brendan Emmett and Tom McFarland.

Dublin's Evening Herald commented that her voice was eminently suited to these old gems and she has a knack of making every song sound brand new. Part of the Irish music industry all her life, Fil has recorded 3 earlier CDs of original and contemporary Irish songs, has appeared on countless radio and television programmes at home and abroad, has toured extensively, and has presented her own radio and TV shows in Ireland.

"(Songbirds) ...a totally lovely collection of songs, affectionately performed by Fil in her characteristically warm, sensitive yet commanding vocal style. The songs all suit her down to the ground, and she luxuriates mildly in the expression of these old-fashioned sentiments."

- David Kidman, Living Tradition (Jan 01, 2009)