

## **Liam Clancy and Odetta**

Liam Clancy and Odetta first met in Greenwich Village in New York City in the late 1950's. He, a young Irish lad running away from the oppression of Catholic Ireland and a life in the Insurance business, she a strident young black woman escaping the segregation and injustices of the US.

There in the melting pot of The Village they shared the songs of their respective heritages in the back room of the White Horse Tavern surrounded by such luminaries as Theo Bekel, Richard Farina, Gene Raskin Jimmy Baldwin, not to mention Paddy and Tom Clancy and Tommy Makem. In among the crowd was another escapee, a young Robert Zimmerman, fresh from Hibbing, Minnesota.

An evening with Liam Clancy and Odetta brings together these two magnificent performers who are still performing their solo shows to audiences around the world nearly 50 years later.

With the help of some classic audio and film footage, and slide from the archives Liam the consummate storyteller brings the audience back to the backroom of the White Horse Tavern, and sings some of the classic numbers from his repertoire.

With serene elegance Odetta takes up the story for the second half with a breathtaking performance which is filled with both laughter and tears.

While musically Liam and Odetta have come from very different traditions they are inexorably linked by a passionate hatred of oppression, and a connection to those formative years in The Big Apple at the heart of the folk revival in the late 50's and early 60's.

In 1959, Liam Clancy and his brothers Tom and Paddy together with Tommy Makem were invited to appear on the Ed Sullivan show. With the other bands scheduled for that night dropping out, The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem got an unprecedented 20 minute slot. Clad in four Aran pullovers sent over from Ireland by Mrs Clancy, the group was an instant success. Over the next 20 years the group and later Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy played to packed houses throughout the States Britain, Ireland and Australia. A consummate storyteller, steeped in Irish literature and folk history Liam has been performing a solo show of poetry storytelling and song for over a decade, which he delivers with an undeniable charm and a precious talent, which is a joy to behold.

In 1964 Odetta was anointed "Queen of American Folk Music" by Martin Luther King. In 1999, some 35 years later the New York Times called her "Mother Goddess of Folk/Blues". In short she is one of the most influential artists of the 20th Century with no less than 26 solo recordings in her catalogue.

Fifty years on from the heady days in the White Horse Tavern these two legendary troubadours are back together, trading stories and songs from their extensive repertoires in an evening of magical promise.

Paul Grant: Guitar

Kevin Evans: Mandoline, Guitar and Banjo