

Mary O'Hara



What the Critics Said

Exquisite purity and delicacy that almost defies description.... Only a poet could avoid gaucherie in describing, song by song, Mary O'Hara's recital... (She) made her American debut in the Phillips Gallery yesterday. I have little doubt that she will soon be heard in many halls throughout the land: and I have every confidence that if we are lucky enough to hear her decades from now she will sound as wonderfully fresh as she did on first hearing.

- **Washington Evening Star** (11.2. '57)

...An Irish Coleen, Mary O'Hara, with her harp and gentle voice, held the audience enthralled.

The Scotsman, Tue Aug. 21 1956.

*(Writing about Mary O'Hara's appearance at that year's **Edinburgh Festival**)*

She raised to a new high level the art of folk-singing...

- **The Washington Post**

Every opera singer, every lieder singer, every pop star could have learned something vital from Mary O'Hara last night.

- **Seattle Times**

... a droll storyteller, charming without ever fawning over her audience... it's on the musical level that she's so winning... shows a consistently fascinating and surprising phrasing... makes familiar lyrics yield new levels of meaning

- **The Globe & Mail** (Toronto)

Shows her mastery and understanding of traditional songs with their haunting melodies and almost magical power.

- **Daily Telegraph** (UK)

Mary O'Hara is simply without peer.

- **Folk Review** (UK)

Superb... masterful artistry with the harp.... a remarkable performer.

- **The Gazette** (Montreal)

A magical evening... radiates warmth and sincerity.

- **Stage & Television Today** (UK)

O'Hara's vocal magic keeps crowd entranced... a voice that can turn any song into a thing of beauty.

- **The Spectator** (Hamilton, Canada)

A performer of purist joy... consummate skill.

- **The West Australian**

Delicate as dew on a shamrock... an extraordinary lady who does the small things of her showbiz style in an extraordinary way... Her performance is pure poetry... holds her listeners firmly clasped in her disciplined grip... a voice as fragile as a snow-flake and as light and agile as a butterfly.

- **The Australian**

... exhilarating... held a full house spell-bound for two hours, with her pure sweet voice and skilful manipulation of the Celtic harp... a performance which many who attended regarded as the most enjoyable concert they had ever attended.

- **Courier Mail** (Brisbane, Australia)

There is magic and balm for the spirit in her serene art. It would be good for the noisy distracted and confused world to pause and listen to such songs as Mary O'Hara sings.

- **The New Zealand Times**

It is, as it always was, a joy to hear the impeccable intonation of voice and harp and the total accomplishment of both... She blazed forth in plainsong 'Rorate Coeli' stilling our breaths and hearts with the deeply moving dialogue of God and His people... A unique artist - Mary O'Hara's magic undimmed. As beautiful as her singing was her speaking voice.

- **The Irish Times**

An aura of genius attends her, something indefinable which goes straight to the heart.

- **Evening Press**, Dublin

Mary O'Hara is mesmerizing.

- **The New York Times**