

Princess Grace Irish Library

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# Travels with my Harp



A Talk with Video Archives by

## Mary O'Hara

Harpist and Soprano

Tuesday 17 December 2013  
at 19:30

In 1950, when Sion Hill School in Dublin produced a pageant about the poet Thomas Moore, it was decided that three students would accompany themselves on the harp... Sligo-born Mary O'Hara, then 15 years old, unexpectedly found herself an audience.

Soon performing to appreciative Radio Éireann listeners, her artistry and unique style of singing and harp-playing, as well as the haunting lyrics, quickly made her a household name in Ireland and England. This was the mid 1950's and harp-playing had almost died out in Ireland. Mary had to buy her harp in Scotland. She blazed a trail that continues to this day.

Tragedy struck in 1957 when she was widowed just 15 months after her wedding to American poet Richard Selig.

In 1962, she joined a contemplative order of Benedictine nuns, only leaving the convent 12½ years later when her health broke down.

In 1976, Mary resumed her singing career, recorded 12 more LPs, had her own prime-time TV series on the BBC and on ITV, and wrote three bestselling books. She performed in the major concert halls of the English-speaking world – Carnegie Hall, London's Royal Albert Hall, The Sydney Opera House...

In 1994, Mary retired from performing and moved to Tanzania for six years with her second husband, Dr Pádraig O'Toole. They live on Inis Mór in the Aran Islands.

[www.maryohara-travelswithmyharp.co.uk](http://www.maryohara-travelswithmyharp.co.uk)

### Books & CDs on sale after the lecture

#### Mary O'Hara

*Travels with my Harp*\*

Updated Autobiography (hbk) .....30 EUR  
*Celebration of Love* (hbk) ..... 15 EUR  
*Harp Music, 5 vols incl. CD/DVD* .....20 EUR  
*Double CDs* ..... 12 EUR  
*Single CDs*..... 10 EUR  
*DVD 12 Songs* ..... 10 EUR

\*Also available on [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

#### Pádraig O'Toole

*Aran to Africa, a memoir* ..... 10 EUR

**For ordering purposes, would you be so kind to reserve your books no later than 4 November 2013. Thank you. Sorry – no credit cards. Cash only.**

Reservations are essential due to the limited number of seats. Entry 10 Euro per person payable at the door. The doors will be closed at 19:30 sharp.



RSVP

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