

# Rita Keane (1923–2009) & Sarah Keane (1918–2010)

## Traditional Musicians & Singers Ceoltóirí & Amhránaithe Traidisiúnta



Rita and Sarah were two of eight siblings born to farmers Matt and May Keane (née Costello) at Carragh, Caherlistrane. From a traditional music family, their mother May was a well-known song collector and their thatched cottage in Carragh was celebrated for its musical gatherings. The sisters played in the Keane's Céilí Band for many years, releasing their first album, *Once I Loved*, in 1968 and their second, *At the Setting of the Sun*, in 1996.

Highly regarded for their distinct vocal style and unique ability to sing sean-nós songs in unison, Rita and Sarah are credited as important bearers of tradition and in 2006 received the TG4 Lifetime Achievement Award for their contribution to traditional Irish music.

Beirt deirfiúracha ba ea Rita agus Sarah as ochtar clainne a rugadh do Matt agus May Keane (née Costello), feirmeoirí a raibh cónaí orthu ar an gCarrach i gCathair Loistreáin. Bailitheoiriomráite amhránbaea a máthair May, ar de theaghlach ceolmhar í, agus bhí cáil an cheoil ar a dteach ceann tuí ar an gCarrach. Sheinn na deirfiúracha le Keane's Céilí Band ar feadh na mblianta, agus d'eisigh siad a gcéad albam, *Once I Loved*, i 1968 and an dara halbam dá gcuid, *At the Setting of the Sun*, i 1996.

Tá ardmheas ar Rita agus ar Sarah mar gheall ar a stíl amhránaíochta agus a bheith in ann amhráin ar an sean-nós a rá in éineacht, rud is neamhghnách. Meastar ina sealbhóirí traidisiúin iad agus bronnadh Gradam Ceoil Saoil TG4 orthu in 2006 as a gcion ar son an cheoil thraidisiúnta.



Rita and Sarah Keane sing with their niece Dolores Keane in Boston  
Photo Courtesy The Keane Family



Keane's Ceilidhe Band c1963  
Rita on accordion and Sarah playing fiddle  
Photo Courtesy The Keane Family



Rita and Sarah Keane outside the family homestead in Caherlistrane  
Photo Courtesy The Keane Family



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