

Galicia's Carlos Nunez: 'The Jimi Hendrix of the bagpipes'

LHEY call him "the Jimi Hendrix of the bagpipes," but Carlos Nunez



CARLOS NUNEZ

is far more than that, or even "the seventh Chieftain," an honorary member of the legendary traditional Irish band.

He is a modern master of the gaita, the bagpipe of Galicia, a region in the north-west corner of Spain, and one of the world's greatest folk instrumentalists.

Nunez is a classically trained musician who also plays flute, recorder, whistles and a number of traditional instruments.

And he is both a traditionalist and an innovator, playing a key role in preserving the gaita, an instrument that is a symbol of Galician culture yet was once fading to extinction.

Over the years Nunez has collaborated with The Chieftains, Ry Cooder, Compay Segundo, Mike Scott of The Waterboys and Japanese composer Ryuichi Sakamoto as well as flamenco guitarists and Sufi singers from Tangier.

His 1996 debut recording, *A Irmandade Das Estrelas* (The Brotherhood of Stars), an improbable platinum seller in Spain, featured more than 50 guests.

"Collaborations are my modus operandi," says Nunez who is now on his North American tour.

"It's a philosophy that comes from traditional music - especially Celtic music. We don't have that sense of the author, alone with his creation. Instead, in traditional music the idea is that music is a collective creation."

Carlos brings his stunning band to the Centennial Auditorium in North Vancouver on Friday, September 19. For tickets and more information, see: www.centennialtheatre.com.

SEPTEMBER 2014

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