

## In 74 words

Seumas Gagné has been playing the music of the Highland and Irish Gaels on the Celtic harp for more than thirty years. A fluent speaker of Scottish Gaelic, he competed in the Royal Scottish National Mòd in 1997 and won the Elspeth Hyllestad Trophy for Solo Clàrsach Performance. To date, he is the only American to win this award. Seumas is a founding member of Slighe nan Gaidheal, Washington's Gaelic language and cultural society.

## In 99 words

Seumas Gagné has been playing the music of the Highland and Irish Gaels on the Celtic harp for over thirty years. A fluent speaker of Scottish Gaelic, he competed in the Royal Scottish National Mòd in 1997 where he won the Elspeth Hyllestad Trophy for solo clàrsach (Celtic harp). Seumas helped found Slighe nan Gaidheal, Washington's Gaelic language and cultural society in 1997 and serves on its Board. In 2001, he returned to the Mòd in Scotland with four friends and won the first-ever waulking song competition. His first solo CD, *Baile Àrd*, was released in February 2012.

## In 180 words

Seumas Gagné has been playing the music of the Highland and Irish Gaels on the Celtic harp for more than thirty years. His love of the music led him deeper into the world of the Gael until learning the Gaelic language became the natural next step. He began studying with Richard Hill and helped found Slighe nan Gaidheal (say: SLEE-uh nun GAY-ull), Washington's Gaelic language and cultural society.

Seumas was one of the founding members of the band Wicked Celts and recorded one CD with them, *Prophecy and Blessing*.

In 1997 Seumas and five friends from Slighe nan Gaidheal journeyed to the Royal Scottish National Mòd in Inverness, where he won the Elspeth Hyllestad Trophy for solo clàrsach performance. He is the only American to have won this award. In 2001, he returned to the Mòd in Scotland with four friends and won the first-ever waulking song competition.

Seumas' first solo CD, *Baile Àrd*, was released in February 2012. It includes a mix of traditional and original songs in Scottish Gaelic, as well as traditional dance music.

## In 270 words

"Gaelic song explores the human experience in an intimate way that anyone can understand and appreciate with a little help from a knowledgeable guide." – Seumas Gagné

Seumas Gagné has been playing the music of the Scottish and Irish Gaels on the harp for more than thirty years. After finishing his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Music at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, his attention returned to his first love, the traditional music of Scotland and Ireland. This music led him deeper into the world of the Gael until learning the Gaelic language became the natural next step. He began studying with Richard Hill in Seattle and along with his classmates helped found Slighe nan Gaidheal (say: SLEE-uh nun GAY-ull), Washington's Gaelic language and cultural society.

Seumas was one of the founding members of the band Wicked Celts and recorded one CD with them, *Prophecy and Blessing* in 1997.

That same year, Seumas and friends from Slighe nan Gaidheal journeyed to the Royal National Mòd (a Gaelic music competition) in Inverness, Scotland where he won the Elspeth Hyllestad Trophy for solo clàrsach performance.

In 2001, he returned to the Mòd in Scotland with a team of five friends and together they won the first-ever waulking song competition, sponsored by the Harris Tweed Authority.

Seumas' first solo CD, *Baile Àrd*, was released in February 2012. It includes a mix of traditional and original songs in Scottish Gaelic, as well as traditional dance music. Lyrics, translations, and instructional videos for the choruses of the songs on the CD are available at his web site, [www.seumasgagne.com](http://www.seumasgagne.com).