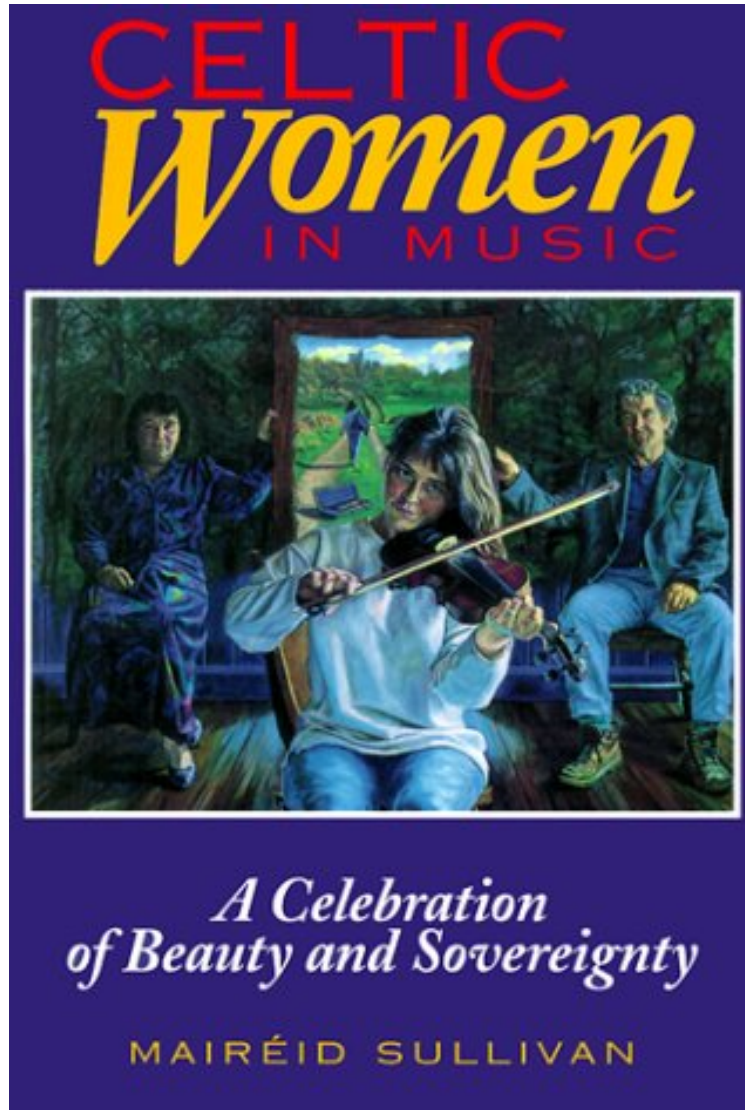


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Celtic Women in Music: A Celebration of Beauty and Sovereignty

Martin Melhuish, Maireid Sullivan

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Martin Melhuish, Maireid Sullivan : **Celtic Women in Music: A Celebration of Beauty and Sovereignty** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Celtic Women in Music: A Celebration of Beauty and Sovereignty:

Book by Melhuish, Martin, Sullivan, Maireid

If you want to find out about something, who better to ask than someone who does it for a living? And Celtic singer Maireid Sullivan was the perfect choice to be the author of *Celtic Women in Music*, a collection of interviews with many of the major female Irish artists. The Los Angeles-based Sullivan is a highly regarded vocalist with a particular interest in exploring and sustaining the philosophical roots of Celtic culture. As such, she has interacted with her subjects in a fashion that has an impressive degree of forthrightness, both on a personal and professional level. The 30 artists profiled range from such veterans as Dolores Keane and Grainne Yeats to such high-visibility current performers as Loreena McKennitt, Eileen Ivers and Sheila Chandra. Some of the most insightful entries are those in which Sullivan's interest are most in sync with interviewees: a fascinating conversation with singer Noirin Ni Riain touching on everything from gender issues in Celtic music and the Catholic Church to comparative thoughts on the pain and pleasure of performance; a historically informative interview with singer-harpist Maire Ni Chathasaigh; and an entirely different perspective on Celtic music from American-born singer Connie Dover. The book is an easy and fascinating read, with Sullivan's gentle but persistent questioning allowing her subjects to illuminate themselves in a fashion that inevitably provokes a desire to hear their music. -- Don Heckman, Los Angeles Times, Nov 5, 1999