

## The artists

**Cara Dillon** *vocals*

**Sam Lakeman** *piano, guitar*

“one of those rare talents you only come across a handful of times in your whole life.” *KLOF Magazine*

**Cara Dillon** is known worldwide for being both an original artist and also one of the finest exponents of traditional Irish song.

She started early and was awarded the All Ireland singing trophy when she was only 14. She's subsequently won at the *BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards* three times and been nominated on a further six occasions. Together with her husband and musical partner, Sam Lakeman, she's successfully steered an eclectic musical path, defying typical pigeonholes, and is celebrated for marrying the traditional with the contemporary.

Cara's teenage years were spent performing with bands including Irish music legends, *De Dannan* and *Óige*. At 19 she was signed to Warners by Geoff Travis, later of *Rough Trade Records*, as part of the band *Equation* where she replaced Kate Rusby for a while, and it was here that she met Sam, one of the three Lakeman brothers who founded the group.

She spent four years with Warners but it was only after she and Sam set up by themselves and joined *Rough Trade* in 2000 that CDs started to flow – three in the next six years. The birth of twins quietened things down for a while until, in 2009, Cara and Sam founded their own record label (*Charcoal Records*). Their first album for it, *Hill of Thieves*, went on to win 'Best Album' at the 2010 *BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards*. Since then there have been six further discs, the most recent, *Coming Home*, appearing earlier this year.

Cara admits to being no purist, making music that reaches beyond the constraints and limitations of tradition: “To me, you can go anywhere with every song. The melody

and message is at the forefront of everything I do. I don't really care where the song came from, how old it is, and who did it first. It's whether it strikes a note in my heart, does it haunt me, do I need to sing it?”

Raised in the small Co. Derry village of Dungiven in Northern Ireland, she feels strongly that “I am part of a continuing story, a story that's still unfolding, that reaches back through songs I've grown up with, and uncles that emigrated to America, and stuff that happened in my own family, and reaches forward to stuff that's still happening now.”

As well as songs from her traditional repertoire, Cara will also be singing material from *Coming Home* which embodies her sense of heritage - the present day being just a part of one long continuum.

“It is quite obvious why Cara Dillon has won so many accolades: her voice... is so wonderfully pure and, with her angelic looks, she delivers each lyric with cut-glass precision.” *Kings Place*

*caradillon.co.uk*

Visit [www.little-missenden.org](http://www.little-missenden.org)

## **Festival Patron: David Matthews**

### **Grateful acknowledgements**

We thank all those who have helped with the Festival or supported us financially and in other ways. Special thanks to the funding bodies, sponsors and supporters listed below, without whose generous help there would be no Festival.



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**Little Missenden Parochial Church Council**

**Great Missenden, Little Missenden, and Hyde Heath Schools PTAs**

**The Michael Cox Fund**

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**The Festival Volunteers**

Piano: **Fazioli 228** from **Jaques Samuel**

Tuner: **Jim Denton**

Flowers: **Rosemary Ladd**

### **Next year's Festival**

The 2025 Little Missenden Festival will run from Friday 3rd to Sunday 12th October.

### **Festival website [little-missenden.org](http://little-missenden.org)**

- See the full **2024 Festival Programme**
- **Book Tickets** (or phone 0333 666 3366)
- Be added to our **Mailing List** for next year's brochure
- Find out about the **Friends** or **Sponsorship**

### **Booking Information**

- Email: [tickets@little-missenden.org](mailto:tickets@little-missenden.org)
- Phone: 01494 958148 between 11am and 8pm

### **General Information**

- Email: [contact@little-missenden.org](mailto:contact@little-missenden.org)

### **Little Missenden Festival Executive Committee**

**Chair:** Dick Ware

**Committee:** Angela Bishop, Polly Buston, Martin Cunningham, John Glasson, Beth Neill, Liz Wager, Dick Wells, Rachel Wilcox

# **Programme Notes**

## **CARA DILLON**



**8pm, Thursday October 10th, 2024**  
**Little Missenden Church**

**64th Little Missenden Festival**