

CLOSELY REASONED DISCOURSE, IRTAD STYLE

I've been a member of the Irish traditional mailing list IRTAD since 1995, and in the intervening years I've seen a lot of great stuff go back and forth. As with any assemblage of human beings, the List (capital L) has its high points and its low points, and occasionally folks are not as well-behaved as they should be. I wrote the following in 1997 after a particularly venomous IRTAD exchange about something or other (no, I wasn't involved, but a lot of people were. The "names" have been changed for legal purposes.)

AB: IMHO Sam Flushmink is the greatest claviola player in traditional music today.

XY: You're full of owl poop. Sam Flushmink couldn't play his way out of a Twinkie wrapper. He jazzes everything up, sticks in weird notes, engages in rampant tune abuse. IMHO Sam Flushmink should be decapitated, slowly, by badly-trained Islamic militants.

AB: Hey, XY - get a life! You wouldn't know good claviola playing from duck farts. And you're obviously unready for Sam Flushmink's expanding the tradition, crouched as you are in your narrow little purist cave feeding on spiders and the crusts of old Michael Coleman records.

CD: I agree with AB, and as a result I'm totally fed up with idiots like XY who have the nerve to disagree with us. He and his kind should be kicked off the list.

EF: Hey CD - butt out and leave my pal XY alone. What are you, some kind of expert? Listening to Sam Flushmink makes me want to vomit profusely. Did you hear the way he played the third part on "The Puberty Reel" on his latest (pathetic) CD? I was so mad I went over to the local Senior Center and batted the bejayzus out of a couple of the residents ... I'd be in big trouble if they hadn't dropped the charges after I pleaded temporary insanity.

QR: People, people: could we PLEASE get back to discussing tunes 'n' stuff? :)

XY: BTW IMHO Sam Flushmink is a transvestite. Either that or his mother dresses him funny.

EF: Attaboy, XY - ROTFL LOL OTVOPMP!!

CLOSELY REASONED DISCOURSE, IRTRAD STYLE

AB: Hey XY and your pathetic acronym-sucking clone EF: KMA! Flushmink rules!!

EF: I'll "pathetic clone" you, you creep, if I can find out what sewage treatment plant you call home.

ST: All you lot who put down Sam Flushmink are JEALOUS, JEALOUS, JEALOUS! He's appeared on the Letterman show, you haven't. He got a big write-up in the Irish Times, you didn't. Chicks throw room keys and underwear at him at concerts, they snicker unpleasantly at you (that is, if they pay any attention to you at all). Admit it, XY and EF - Isn't THAT what this is all about??

MN: "Jealousy" in the Thomistic or the Hegelian sense? There IS a difference, you know...

IJ: I'm a newbie - help! Does Sam Flushmink play in West Clare, East Galway, middle Sligo, upper Waterford, or somewhat-off-center Roscommon style? Thanks.

QR: If we can't stop this arguing, I'm going to leave this list and go somewhere peaceful like alt.abortion or soc.culture.irish. My sensitivities just can't deal with this any more. Each > is like an arrow pointed at my very own heart.

AB: So LEAVE the list, you sorry little whiner. Just like you to bail out when Sam Flushmink, world's greatest claviola player, needs your help against the FORCES OF EVIL AND IGNORANCE AND BAD TASTE that infest this list!

GH: Does anybody know if Sam Flushmink uses DADGAD tuning? Will he be at Swannanoa or Elkins next year? What's his favorite mode?

PQ: ST is right - you're all jealous! Sam Flushmink is like ... like ... a brilliant happy dancing light, playing his claviola just for me, bringing tears of unfulfilled sexuality to my eyes, filling me with longing, yearning ...

MN: Is that "sexuality" in the Freudian or Jungian context?

CLOSELY REASONED DISCOURSE, IRTRAD STYLE

EF: PQ, could you contact me off-list sometime real soon?

[... three quiet days pass...]

DE: Hi list - just got back from vacation, still haven't checked all my mail. I'd be interested to know what anybody thinks of Sam Flushmink's new CD.

