



**MAGIC MUSIC:** Karin Leitner is touring the country playing music from her latest album

## Celtic beauty inspires Karin's magic flute

This Austrian musician set up home here after falling in love with the sounds and sights of Ireland, says **Alison O'Riordan**

**I**T'S been the inspiration for her latest masterpiece and it seems the midlands town of Birr could be claiming Austrian classical flautist Karin Leitner as one of their own soon enough. Currently travelling Ireland playing the

flute with her fifth self-composed album *Earthmagic*, this flaxen-haired beauty possesses all the international influences but the Celtic theme and spirit is strong. She has not only been inspired by the beautiful Birr Castle Gardens

but also the artistic people there. Most of all: Siobhan Bulfin, local sculptor of superlative bronze horse sculptures; Rosalind Fanning, who runs a charming art studio and Ray Flanagan, an immensely talented local poet, whose poem *Karin* she uses in her CD booklet.

Irish musician and uilleann piper Eamonn Galldubh who plays with Moya Brennan has also added his special quality to the album along with two outstanding harpists, Bulgarian Krassimira Ziegler and Italian Duccio Lombardi.

Three different orchestras, soprano Barbara Karolyi (who sang in Lloyd Webber's *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*), a Hawaiian didgeridoo player from Bhaktitribe and keyboard player David Punshon, who plays in the well-known band Babe Ruth, also add to the album.

Karin has set up home in a secluded cottage on the grounds of Lord and Lady Rosse's historic estate in Co Offaly and it was while staying there she wrote her haunting pieces which express her deep emotional and spiritual bond with Ireland in the magical surroundings of the castle.

"I came to Ireland 20 years ago and fell completely in love with it so I just kept coming back every year. Living on and off in Ireland and renting different cottages on the Birr Castle estate, I felt compelled to stay here. When I was living in the cottage, I suddenly started hearing music inside, thus the new CD was born," she said.

Karin is hoping luck will remain on her side and Universal Music Ireland will take up the album and give it its backing.

Her CD is presently available for purchase online at [www.karinleitner.com/cds](http://www.karinleitner.com/cds).