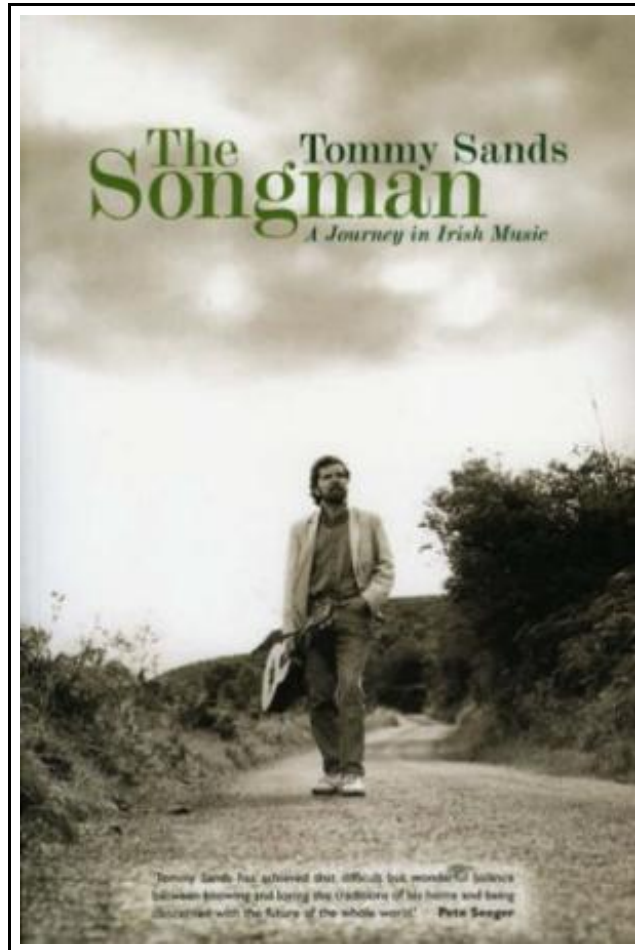


The Songman: A Journey in Irish Music



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Reviews

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The Lilliput Press Ltd. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Songman: A Journey in Irish Music, Tommy Sands, 'With a Fenian fiddle in one ear and an Orange drum in the other', singer Tommy Sands was reared in the foothills of the Mourne mountains, where he still lives. As a child, he was immersed in folk music - his father played the fiddle, his mother the accordion. The family's kitchen was a place where Protestant and Catholic farmers alike would gather for songs and storytelling at the end of a day's harvesting. Soon after learning the fiddle himself, Sands began writing his own songs. During the 1960s and 1970s he was the chief songwriter with The Sands Family, who played wherever they were welcome, from local wakes and weddings to New York's Carnegie Hall. His songs have been recorded by Joan Baez, Dolores Keane, Dick Gaughan and The Dubliners. The Songman is the story of Sands' remarkable journey. He tells of his family's traditional way of life, recalling his mother tying summer sheaves while his father worked the scythe. Here are the heady days of the civil-rights movement ('John Hume stood up and called for order; then Eamon McCann stood up and called for disorder'), when The Sands Family played for refugees in 1969 Belfast; The Bothy Band brawling in Brittany; encounters with Alan Stivell, Mary O'Hara and Pete Seeger; 'the boyish devilment and humour' of Ian Paisley on his radio show County Ceilf; and a 'defining moment' during the Good Friday Agreement talks, when he organized a moving impromptu performance with children and Lambeg drummers. Full of 'love, longing, home and belonging' The Songman is replete with warmth and wit.

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