



BRITISH AWARD FOR STORYTELLING EXCELLENCE

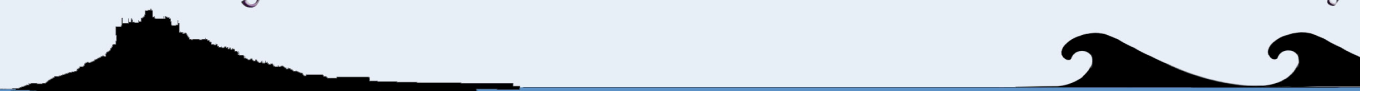
RETURN TO LYONESSE

“STORYTELLING EVENT OF THE YEAR”

MIKE O’CONNOR
BARBARA GRIGGS

Return to Lyonesse

the Storm is Coming



Kings and queens, saints, sinners and shape-shifters: their fate hangs in the balance...

Return to Lyonesse is a stunning performance piece from Mike O'Connor, accompanied by harpist Barbara Griggs.

Return to Lyonesse is a mixture of powerful oral storytelling and achingly beautiful music and song.

Return to Lyonesse is a very exciting tale that reaches out and touches the heart. The name is well known, but the full story has never been told.

Return to Lyonesse is the tale of the lost Celtic lands: Lyonesse, Ys and Cantre'r Gwaelod.

Return to Lyonesse is based on research into Cornish and Breton medieval texts. Mike has recreated the medieval tale and added Celtic music in a formula that has attracted sell-out audiences both locally and at literary and storytelling festivals.

Return to Lyonesse requires minimal staging and can be performed in the smallest venue. However, the words and music have sufficient gravity to command a theatre. The performance lasts about 70 minutes and is well suited to storytelling, literary or folk festivals or clubs. It can be preceded by additional music and storytelling material from Mike and Barbara to give a full evening of magic.

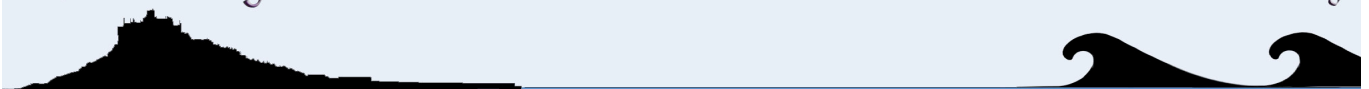
Return to Lyonesse is available now. It is performed in English and is suitable for older children and adults.

Such has been the overwhelming response to this show that *Return to Lyonesse* is the winner of one of this year's British Awards for Storytelling Excellence – 'a storytelling BAFTA'.



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Voices in the storm...

Return to Lyonesse is a 'big story' that will touch every one. The tale is rooted in history, but the issues are serious and relevant, and the performance is lively, atmospheric and entertaining. It will engage your audience completely. They will sit on the edge of their seats. They will weep; they will laugh.

There are few in the land with the storytelling and musical skills, and also the knowledge of history, legend and folk tale, to create and perform such a demanding work. Mike O'Connor and Barbara Griggs have created a gem, a masterpiece of language and melody. It can only enhance their already considerable stature.



Mike O'Connor is a nationally respected storyteller with deep knowledge of Cornish legends and folk tales and mesmerising skill with language. His previous major works include *Imravoe*, *Tristan and Iseult*, *Loki*, *Tales of the Holy Rood*, and *Of Gods and Men*, the 2009 Festival at the Edge solo commission. A Bard of Gorsedh Kernow he has been honoured for research and performance of early Cornish music and is well known for his song writing.

Barbara Griggs accompanies Mike on harp and has written much of the music in the show. Together their music is described as having 'breathtaking beauty' and as 'balm for the soul.' Her music is exquisitely dovetailed into the performance, and the subtle integration of words and music has won high praise. She also wears a dress specially created for the show, reflecting themes and motifs of the tale.



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What they said about Return to Lyonesse:

The storytelling event of the year... A tour de force from one of Britain's premier tellers, Mike O'Connor and Barbara Griggs who plays harp. **Carl Merry**

Wow! Hauntingly beautiful, lyrical and mystical Return to Lyonesse is a must. Mike O'Connor and Barbara Griggs make a fantastic interwoven pairing. The harp, voice and song are as intricate as a Celtic knot and just as compelling. **Liz Berg**

A captivating evening ... powerful storytelling and hauntingly beautiful music by Mike O'Connor and Barbara Griggs in their enthralling show, Return to Lyonesse - the tale of lost Celtic lands. Hope you'll go to see them if they're appearing anywhere near you! **Mary Dickinson**

For those who love myth and story this is not to be missed. Beautifully crafted and delivered by Mike O'Connor and Barbara Griggs, spellbinding and captivating - Return to Lyonesse. **Debbie Merritt**

Atmospheric & haunting - the tale lives in the memory. **Sheila Cooper**

Return To Lyonesse is a superbly evoked and ground breaking new weaving of ancient Cornish, Breton and Welsh folk tales researched and devised by storyteller Mike O'Connor who also sings and plays violin. Linking and embellishing the narrative sections, Barbara Griggs plays fluid, achingly beautiful harp." **Liz Crow, Folk Life Magazine**

I was transfixed and transported to mythical lands where magic, desire, loss, love & redemption were played out in the beauty of story, music and song ... an amazing experience. If you get the chance to go & see Return to Lyonesse then grab the opportunity – it is one you will never regret. The skills of the storyteller & harpist were truly marvellous ... Unmissable. **Susan Cooper**

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