

We asked Harry...

How did you start playing and singing music?

Music has always been a big part of Irish life. I remember listening to and singing along with my father from an early age. I bought my first guitar when I was 20 years old, learned some chords and began singing at Sunday folk mass with other musicians and singers. I learned by watching and asking where to place my fingers to make chords.

What was your favorite book when you were growing up?

I always liked biography books and adventure books. Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer took my mind to the continent across the ocean, and my imagination went wild picturing places I thought I would never see in my life. Now I live in one of those places.

What was it like when you first came to the United States?

I had seen movies and television shows while growing up in Ireland but nothing prepared me for just how big America is and how diverse the land is. But what makes it so special are the people who live here. The American people are welcoming, kind, understanding, generous, caring, motivated, intelligent, skilled and good-humored. It was an honor and a joy to become an American citizen in April, 2010.

