

Disc I

I. BLAZIN' FIDDLES

MISS JOHNSTONE

Miss Johnstone (traditional)

Rammie MacLellan (Brenda Stubbert,
SOCAN)

Fred's Reel (traditional)

Frank Gilruth (Peter Milne,

arranged by: Blazin' Fiddles)

Marc Clement: Guitar

Allan Henderson: Fiddle

Catriona MacDonald: Fiddle

Iain MacFarlane: Fiddle

Bruce MacGregor: Fiddle

Aidan O'Rourke: Fiddle

Andy Thorburn: Piano

www.blazin-fiddles.co.uk

From the album: MAGNIFICENT
SEVEN

Courtesy of: Blazin' Fiddles

Produced by: Blazin' Fiddles

Recorded at: Castlesound Studio

Each member of Blazin' Fiddles draws the distinct flavor of music from their part of the highlands and islands of Scotland. These musicians are some of the finest fiddlers ever to play a reel, backed by skilled accompaniment on piano and guitar. They have been performing as a group for seven years (hence, the name of their latest CD) and continue to recruit converts to fiddle music everywhere they play.

The "Miss Johnstone" cut wraps three traditional tunes around a composition from Cape Breton's Brenda Stubbert.

2. LE VENT DU NORD

C'est une Jeune Mariée (traditional)

Nicolas Boulerice: Hurdy Gurdy,
vocals

Benoit Bourque: Accordion, vocals

Olivier Demers: Fiddle, feet

For travel to Cape Breton, visit:

www.cbisland.com

For more information about the Celtic Colours International Festival, visit the festival website:

www.celtic-colours.com

or email:

info@celtic-colours.com

The Celtic Colours International Festival is sponsored by:

Celtic Colours Festival Society

Festival management and artistic direction:

Max MacDonald & Joella Foulds



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Special thanks to:

*Frad Lavery and Mike Shepherd
of Lakewind Sound Studios,
Point Aconi, Cape Breton*

Steer The Gill (traditional)
Mist on the Loch (traditional)
Bonnie Kate (traditional)
Howie MacDonald: Fiddles
Mac Morin: Piano
Dave MacIsaac: Guitar
From the album: HOWIE, DAVE &
MAC LIVE! WEST MABOU HALL
Courtesy of: Howie MacDonald
Produced by: Howie MacDonald
Recorded by: Mike Wadden live at
West Mabou Hall, West Mabou,
Cape Breton

Fiddler and piano player Howie MacDonald has been a performer as long as he can remember. With musical roots that go deep into rural Inverness County, Cape Breton, this path was almost inevitable. Whether at a family gathering or an international concert hall, Howie's main focus was always to entertain. Even while spending many years touring and recording with the Rankin Family,

Howie still managed to release nine albums of his own. Over the past couple of years, Howie has expanded his talents and gained popularity as a comedian, appearing in the *Cape Breton Summertime Revue*, *Nancy White's Joke Box*, *Howie's Celtic Brew*, *Island Mania*, and other such productions.

HOWIE, DAVE & MAC LIVE! WEST MABOU HALL is just what the title suggests, a live recording at a square dance in West Mabou, Inverness County, Cape Breton. You get a true sense of the effect the music has on the audience and the dancers as Howie, Mac Morin, and Dave MacIsaac work through "Last Set of The Night" to close off the evening.

Simon Beaudry: Guitar, vocals
www.levendunord.com
From the album: LES AMANTS DU
SAINT-LAURENT
Courtesy of: Borealis Records
www.borealisrecords.com
Recorded by: André Marchand at
Studio du Chemin 4

Le Vent du Nord was one of the most exciting stage groups to grace the Celtic Colours festival in 2004, and the Festival is fortunate to have them back for another year. This four-piece bundle of traditional musical energy can be accurately described as eight musical instruments, four voices in harmony, two generations of musicians, and one master of dance. This combination allows the group to make a distinctive musical impact that has drawn praise far and wide. Although Le Vent du Nord has only been together for a few years, they have

already made an impression amongst musicians. Their first CD garnered them the 2004 JUNO award for Roots and Traditional Album of the Year/Group, as well as a host of other nominations. LES AMANTS DU SAINT-LAURENT is their recently released (and highly anticipated) second CD.

Alice Boulerice, Nicolas' grandmother, has and still sings an extensive repertoire of all kinds of songs. "C'Est une Jeune Mariée" is a double meaning song, of which many versions are known.

3. KIMBERLEY FRASER
The Rocky Shore (Paul Cranford)
Kimberley Fraser: Fiddle
Gordie Sampson: Mandolin
Allie Bennett: Bass
Stewart MacNeil: Wooden flute
From the album: CELTIC &
TRADITIONAL LULLABIES FROM
OUR CAPE BRETON

Courtesy of: Kimberley Fraser
Produced by: Eileen T. Brennan
Recorded by: Mike Shepherd and
Fred Lavery at Lakewind Sound
Studios, Point Aconi, Cape Breton

Sydney Mines native Kimberley Fraser has already impacted the world of Celtic music. Wonderfully adept as a fiddler, pianist, and stepdancer, she has toured Europe with Cherish the Ladies and British Columbia with Glenn Graham. In August 2005, she performed at Tønder Festival in Denmark with Patrick Gillis and Troy MacGillivray. During the 2000 Celtic Colours festival, Kimberley was presented with the annual Tic Butler Memorial Award for significant contribution to Cape Breton culture. Kimberley now enjoys teaching private fiddle, stepdancing, and piano lessons at home, as well as at various work-

shops, including the prestigious Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts in St. Ann's, Cape Breton, and the Ceilidh Trail School of Music in Inverness, Cape Breton.

"The Rocky Shore" is a beautiful lullaby composed by Cape Breton musician Paul Cranford as a tribute to his home on Victoria County's North Shore area. Cape Breton piano player Mac Morin recorded the wave sounds heard at the beginning of this track.

4. FIN MOORE

SOENAIÐH'S TUNE SET

Soenaidh's Tune (F. Morrison, MCPS & PRS)

Cuir I Glun Air A'Bhodach Strathspey
(traditional)

Cuir I Glun Air A'Bhodach Reel
(traditional)

Pigtown Reel (traditional)

O'Rourke's Reel (traditional)

"The Breton and Galician Set" is a wonderful example of the band's versatility and their ability to take music from other Celtic areas and make it their own.

14. WELDON BOUDREAU

Le P'tit Willie (Weldon Boudreau, SOCAN)

Weldon Boudreau: Vocals, guitar

Gary Gallant: Accordion

Jean-Marc Boudreau: Backing vocals

Georges Hebert: Guitar

Jean-Paul (J.P.) Cormier: Banjo, fiddle

Tom Roach: Percussion

www.weldonboudreau.com

From the album: L'ACADIEN DE L'ACADIE

Courtesy of: Weldon Boudreau

Produced by: Weldon Boudreau
and George Hebert

Recorded by: George Hebert at
Studio Arts, Halifax, Nova Scotia

He could easily be one of Cape Breton's best-kept Acadian secrets.

Isle Madame singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Weldon Boudreau has been a professional musician for years but in a more general capacity as one of the boys in the band. With the recent release of L'ACADIEN DE L'ACADIE, he steps into the limelight with twelve of his own compositions, backed by some of the best musicians around.

"Le P'tit Willie" is a bouncy number that tells the story of a local Petit de Grat legend.

15. HOWIE MACDONALD

LAST SET OF THE NIGHT

Sally Gardens (traditional)

The Black Berry Blossom (traditional)

Lord Seaforth (traditional)

Floggin' Reel (traditional)

Penicook Hornpipe (traditional)

You & I (traditional)

Sutherland's Reel (Howie MacDonald, SOCAN)

Donegal (traditional)

Buddy is accompanied by long-time friend Dave MacIsaac on guitar. Dave has backed up Buddy (and countless other musicians) many times over the years.

13. OLD BLIND DOGS

THE BRETON AND GALICIAN SET

A traditional tune from Brittany, followed by a traditional Carballesa from Galicia (arranged by Old Blind Dogs, Green Linnet Music, ASCAP)

Jim Malcolm: Guitar

Jonny Hardie: Fiddle

Rory Campbell: Gaita (Galician pipes)

Fraser Stone: Percussion

Buzzby McMillan: Bass

www.oldblinddogs.co.uk

From the album: *THE GAB O MEY*

Courtesy of: Green Linnet Records

www.greenlinnet.com

Produced by: Old Blind Dogs

Recorded by: Niall Mathewson at The Mill Studio, Crathes, Banchory, Aberdeenshire

While the name might conjure up an image of worn-out geezers, Old Blind Dogs is a quintet of vital young lads with a wonderful, simply infectious, Celtic musicality. Over the twenty years or so of their existence, they have evolved and grown into one of Scotland's favorite folk bands. There is a unique sound in this selection of traditional Scottish music (lots of jigs and reels), coupled with a rock-funk fusion feel that often pulses through many of their pieces. The band continues to tour extensively and was rewarded for their efforts with the Band of the Year award at the 2004 Scots Trad Music Awards in Queen's Hall, Edinburgh. Old Blind Dogs comes to Celtic Colours following a month-long tour of the US.

(Except where stated, all tunes are traditional/arranged F. Moore & S. Bradley/Published Grian Music.)

Fin Moore: Border pipes

Simon Bradley: Fiddle

From the album: *THE PIPER AND*

THE MAKER

Courtesy of: Greentrax Recordings Limited

www.greentrax.com

Produced by: Hamish Moore

Recorded by: Peter Haig live at the Pitlochry Town Hall

Like father, like son! This often-quoted adage is never truer than when directed towards Fin Moore. The son of noted piper, fiddler, composer, and pipe-maker Hamish Moore, Fin plays the Highland pipes, Border pipes, and Scottish smallpipes and is now a partner with his father, continuing the business of pipe-making. Fin has also gained a great reputation as a teacher of pipes, having completed

four summer seasons teaching at the Gaelic College in Cape Breton, various parts of Scotland, and other schools around the world.

The "Soenaith's Tune Set" was taken from a CD recorded as a tribute to the work and music of Hamish Moore, as all the pipers on the recording play pipes that he has made. A similar CD will be recorded live at two concerts during Celtic Colours and will be released in 2006.

5. ALLIE BENNETT

GLENTIES SET

Gerry Comane's (traditional)

Jes Kroman's (Jerry Holland,

Fiddlestick Music, SOCAN)

The Flooded Road to Glenties (Jimmy

McHugh)

Freddie's (John Morris Rankin, Ole

Sound Music, SOCAN)

Allie Bennett: Fiddle, guitar, bass

Mac Morin: Piano

Brian Talbot: Drums

www.alliebennett.ca

From the album: IT'S ABOUT TIME

Courtesy of: Allie Bennett

Produced by: Allie Bennett

Recorded by: Mike Shepherd at

Lakewind Sound Studios,

Point Aconi, Cape Breton

Allie is one of the most recognized and hardest working musicians on Canada's east coast. He has performed studio work on over 100 recordings and toured extensively over the past 30 years with the likes of Rita MacNeil, The Rankin Family, the Barra MacNeils, John Allan Cameron, Mary Jane Lamond, Natalie MacMaster, and the late Stan Rogers. He has been the music director of many major productions and television broadcasts and is also in demand as a teacher of fiddle, guitar, and bass. After so many recording sessions with other musicians, Allie finally

recorded his own CD. When Allie told people about this project, the general response among his fellow musicians was, "... it's about time!"

This group of reels comes from various sources, including two of the most gifted modern-day Cape Breton composers Jerry Holland and John Morris Rankin.

6. CATHIE RYAN

Be Like the Sea

Lyrics by: Cathie Ryan

Music by: Cathie Ryan & John

Doyle, Wake the Neighbors

Music, ASCAP

Cathie Ryan: Vocals

John Doyle: Guitars

John McCusker: Cittern, fiddle,

whistles

Allan Kelly: Accordion

James Mackintosh: Percussion

Karine Polwart & Kris Drever:

Backing vocals

www.atlanticartists.com/buddy/judiqueflyer.html

From the album: THE JUDIQUÉ

FLYER

Courtesy of: Stephen MacDonald

Productions

www.atlanticartists.com

Produced by: Gordie Sampson

Recorded by: Paul Mills at

Lakewind Sound Studios,

Point Aconi, Cape Breton

Buddy MacMaster is the undisputed master of Cape Breton fiddling. His reputation as a player has grown exponentially since the 1940s when he established himself as a fiddler while working for the Canadian National Railway (CNR). Over the years, Buddy's following has increased with his performances across North America and Europe. Even though he is now past 80, he keeps a schedule that most people half his age would find daunting:

he performs at festivals and teaches at workshops in Scotland or California one week and plays for community dances in Cape Breton the next.

Over the years, Buddy has received national and international acclaim and honours, including the Order of Canada. He recorded his first album in 1989 after he retired from the CNR and has gone on to record four more. THE JUDIQUÉ FLYER CD is a collection of "Buddy music" (as the locals would say) with tunes that he has played often at concerts and dances over the years. This particular CD is unique in that a different person accompanies Buddy on every cut.

This track opens with a John Campbell strathspey (with all its distinctive musical turns) followed by a pair of traditional reels.

X8... A MANDOLIN COLLECTION is primarily a collection of J.P.'s favorite bluegrass pieces. About "New Brick Road", he says, "Its simplicity is its beauty."

11. RONALIGHTFOOT

Mo Nighean Chruinn Donn air

Bharraibh nan Tonn

(My Neat Brown Haired Girl)

(traditional)

Rona Lightfoot: Vocals

Allan Henderson: Piano, fiddle

Maighread Stewart: Backing vocals

Annag MacInnes: Backing vocals

From the album: EADARAINN

Courtesy of: Macmeanmna

www.gaelicmusic.com

Produced by: Iain MacDonald

Recorded by: Alan Harfield at

Unity Studio in Auldearn

Rona Lightfoot was such a crowd favorite at last year's Celtic Colours festival that she was invited back this year. Hailing from South Uist,

she has been described as a ceilidh personified and a terrific raconteur with a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh. Musically, her major influences were her mother (a remarkable singer and tradition bearer) and her father (a renowned piper). With this background, it is no surprise that she is also a great piper and a hugely talented singer with a wonderful treasury of traditional Gaelic songs.

"Mo Nighean Chruinn Donn air Bharraibh nan Tonn" is a night-visiting or courting song.

12. BUDDY MACMASTER

PAULETTE BISSONNETTE SET

Paulette Bissonnette Strathspey

(John Campbell)

A Taste of Gaelic Reel (traditional)

John MacDougall Reel (traditional)

Buddy MacMaster: Fiddle

Dave MacIsaac: Guitar

www.cathieryan.com

From the album: THE FARTHEST WAVE

Courtesy of: Shanachie Entertainment Corp.

www.shanachie.com

Produced by: John McCusker

Recorded and mixed by: Andy

Seward at Pure Records Studios, Yorkshire

With one of the purest and most distinctive voices within the genre of Celtic music, Irish-American singer Cathie Ryan creates an introspective impression on listeners that stays with them long after the song is finished. Cathie, best known for her seven years as the lead vocalist for Cherish the Ladies, was born in Detroit and has established herself as one of Celtic music's most popular and enduring singer/songwriters. In 2003, she was included in the famous Irish music collection, A WOMAN'S

HEART – DECADE ON, which included other notable artists such as Dolly Parton and Emmylou Harris. She has performed on national and public television both in the United States and Europe. Her music takes her across the world (she will have finished a tour of Austria and Italy before coming to Cape Breton for her appearance at Celtic Colours), and her stage performances continue to build a following of fans.

"Be Like the Sea" is a gently-paced and soothing ballad offering words of encouragement on how to recover from hard times and difficult situations: just "be like the sea."

7. JENNIFER ROLAND

THUNDERHEAD

Lewis' Squak Jig (Jennifer Roland, SOCAN)

The Gaelic College of Cape Breton Jig (Jennifer Roland, SOCAN)

Thunderhead Jig (Grey Larsen,
Sleepy Creek Music, BMI)

Garrett's Jig (Jennifer Roland,
SOCAN)

Arranged by: Jennifer Roland, Ryan

J. MacNeil & Allie Bennett

Jennifer Roland: Fiddle

Ryan MacNeil: Piano

Allie Bennett: Acoustic guitar, bass

www.jenniferroland.com

From the album: FOR EACH NEW DAY

Courtesy of: Jennifer Roland

Produced by: Allie Bennett

Recorded by: Mike Shepherd at

Lakewind Sound Studios,
Point Aconi, Cape Breton

It should be no real surprise that Cape Breton fiddler and dancer Jennifer Roland has risen to such wide recognition. Music surrounded Jennifer from the moment she was born. Her father played fiddle, and her family always enjoyed kitchen parties and ceilidhs. By the age of three, Jennifer was playing the

piano by ear, at six she was taking dance lessons, and at age nine she began studying the fiddle with Kyle MacNeil of the world-renowned Barra MacNeils. She has played all around Canada's Atlantic Provinces, across North America, and in Europe, wowing audiences with her enthusiastically performed jigs, reels, strathspeys, as well as the delicate touch of her slow airs.

Jennifer is set to release her third CD, which will kick off an extensive schedule of touring throughout the United States and Canada, in addition to a highly anticipated tour in Australia in March 2006.

This lively group of jigs showcases Jennifer's abilities as a composer, featuring three of her own tunes.

superstars such as Clannad, The Corrs, Capercaillie, Michelle Shocked, The Indigo Girls, Taj Mahal, and many more.

"Traces of Silver" is a gentle but haunting ballad. Andrew's soulful vocals highlight the pictures painted so skillfully in words.

10. J.P. CORMIER

New Brick Road (Norman Blake, BMI)

J.P. Cormier plays all instruments

www.jp-cormier.com

From the album: X8... A MANDOLIN
COLLECTION

Courtesy of: J.P. Cormier

Produced by: J.P. Cormier

Recorded by: J.P. Cormier at

Cormier Sound Studios,
Cap Lemoine, Nova Scotia

J.P. Cormier is a musical force to be reckoned with. This award-winning singer/songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and accompanist has

recorded eight albums, earning him a Juno nomination and multiple ECMA nominations and wins including the 2005 East Coast Music Awards for Instrumental Album of the Year and Bluegrass Album of the Year for X8... A MANDOLIN COLLECTION. Adept with any style, he has played solo fiddle gigs at Cape Breton dances, performed with symphony orchestras, and spent ten years touring, recording, and appearing on television in the U.S. and Europe with music's biggest names, including Marty Stuart, Waylon Jennings, and Earl Scruggs. A gifted songwriter and composer, J.P. was among the winners in the 2005 International Songwriting Competition (a prestigious competition that received 11,000 submissions from more than 70 countries), placing third in the instrumental category for his original guitar piece "Rollo Boys Reel".

Dougie MacDonald was born into a family with generations of fiddlers. He picked up the bow at an early age and was a recognized musician by age eleven. He continues to pursue his musical studies and performances, looking to greats such as Dan Hughie MacEachern, Winston “Scotty” Fitzgerald, and Jerry Holland for musical guidance and inspiration. Dougie has composed more than 150 tunes, recorded three albums, and performed throughout Canada, the United States, Scotland, and Ireland. He is also in great demand as a teacher. Dougie is one of three first cousins (of the musical MacDonalds of Queensville) to appear on this CD, along with Howie and Jeff.

This track is a lively and unusual combination for a Cape Breton fiddler, linking a jig with a pair of reels.

9. ANDREW WHITE

Traces of Silver (Andrew White)

Andrew White: Vocals, acoustic guitar

Keith Ballentine: Keyboards

www.andrewwhitemusic.com

From the album: GUITARRA CELTICA

Courtesy of: Linn Records

www.linnrecords.com

Produced by: Roger Marbeck

Recorded at: Greenstone Studios,

Kare Kare Beach, New Zealand

Originally from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in northeast England, Andrew White moved to New Zealand when he was a teenager but now lives in Cape Breton. Wherever he calls home, he is quickly recognized as a top guitarist and singer/songwriter. His unique sound is difficult to describe:

technically brilliant with amazing dexterity and inventiveness.

Andrew White has toured internationally as a soloist and supported

8. FRANK MAHER & THE MAHERS BAHERS

I GOT A BONNET TRIMMED WITH BLUE

I Got a Bonnet Trimmed with Blue

(traditional)

Maggie in the Woods (traditional)

Frank Maher: Accordion

Christina Smith: Fiddle

Jean Hewson: Guitar

Rick West: Bodhran

www.mahersbahers.com

From the album: MAHERVELOUS!

Courtesy of: Borealis Records

www.borealisrecords.com

Produced by: Bill Garrett &

Jean Hewson

Recorded by: Lee Tizzard at The

Sound Solution, St. John's,

Newfoundland

For the past 20+ years, Frank Maher has maintained that he is in his “extremely late 40s.” This statement alone gives a strong hint that the twinkle in his eyes comes from

humor rather than contact lenses. Along with his sense of humor, Frank is a very talented accordion player in the Newfoundland tradition. Always known as a great soloist, his career took off in the early 1980s when he became part of the Quidi Vidi Minstrels. From there, he moved on to become part of the legendary band Figgy Duff, traveling across North America and Europe with them at the height of their career. Frank has been recorded on more than 35 albums and has received widespread recognition for his work, including the 2002 Tradition Bearer Award from the Celtic Roots Festival in Goderich, Ontario, and the 2003 St. John's Folk Arts Council Lifetime Achievement Award.

Frank learned these tunes years ago from recordings of The McNulty Family.

9. JEFF MACDONALD

Tàladh na Beinne Guirme (The Blue Mountain's Lullaby)

Lyrics by: Goiridh Dòmhnallach
(Jeff MacDonald)

Music by: Jeff MacDonald & Brian Ó hEadhra

Jeff MacDonald: Vocals

Howie MacDonald: Fiddle

Gordie Sampson: Guitar

Ryan J. MacNeil: Bagpipes

From the album: CELTIC &
TRADITIONAL LULLABIES FROM
OUR CAPE BRETON

Courtesy of: Jeff MacDonald

Produced by: Eileen T. Brennan

Recorded by: Mike Shepherd and
Fred Lavery at Lakewind Sound
Studios, Point Aconi, Cape Breton

Jeff MacDonald hails from Kingsville, Inverness County, Cape Breton. A Gaelic singer, composer, storyteller, and educator, he has learned from some of Cape Breton's

best Gaelic tradition-bearers. His extended family, the MacDonalds of Queensville (Siol Dhùghaill), is widely known for musicality (three of the family, all first cousins, are included on this compilation). Jeff has performed in Scotland, Ireland, and across Canada and is one of this year's Celtic Colours Artists in Residence.

"Tàladh na Beinne Guirme" ("The Blue Mountain's Lullaby") was composed by Jeff and Brian Ó hEadhra (from Ireland) as a result of their meeting during the 2004 Celtic Colours festival. The CD from which this track was recorded, is a unique project: a collection of forty-plus musicians who recorded twenty-three cuts in a variety of languages and styles, all with a lullaby theme.

From the album: THE WAKING HOUR
Courtesy of: Jericho Beach Music
www.festival.bc.ca/jerichobeach
Produced by: David Francey
Recorded by: Phillip Scoggins at
Morine Studio, Nashville
Tennessee

David Francey is a storyteller who writes about what he knows best: the people he meets and what he sees around him. He is gifted with the ability to paint pictures with lyrics, and his music sticks in your mind. He has won two Juno Awards for his CDs and was nominated for another this year for his most recent CD. Additionally, artists as diverse as James Keelaghan and Raylene Rankin have recorded his songs. On stage, he has the ability to reach and hold an audience, due mainly to his sincerity and dry sense of humor. This visit to Celtic Colours is

David Francey's second trip to the Festival. Originally from Scotland, he now makes his home in Ontario.

Ashtabula is a small Ohio coal port on the south shore of Lake Erie. The song tells of David's impressions of a town that is "...faded red to grey."

8. DOUGIE MACDONALD

AMELIE'S JIG

Amelie's Jig (Dougie MacDonald,
SOCAN)

Allister Fraser's Reel (Dougie
MacDonald, SOCAN)

Kathleen VIII Reel (Dougie
MacDonald, SOCAN)

Dougie MacDonald: Fiddles

Gordie Sampson: Guitar

Previously unreleased cut

Courtesy of: Dougie MacDonald

Produced by: Gordie Sampson

Recorded by: Mike Shepherd at
Lakewind Sound Studios,
Point Aconi, Cape Breton

Sheamus MacNeil: Fiddle
Wendy MacIsaac: Piano
Patrick Gillis: Guitar
www.macneilwoodwinds.com

From the album: PIPER
Courtesy of: Ryan J. MacNeil
Produced by: Ryan J. MacNeil
Recorded by: Mike Shepherd live
at Lakewind Sound Studios,
Point Aconi, Cape Breton

Ryan J. MacNeil is known as a powerful, yet graceful, player. He is accomplished on Highland bagpipes, Border pipes, and whistles. Ryan brings a unique personal flavor to the music he plays. Originally from Big Pond and now residing in Port Hood, Cape Breton, his electrifying upbeat playing is strongly rooted in Cape Breton's dance-oriented tradition and greatly adds to the music of one of Cape Breton's hottest Celtic bands, Beòlach. He has toured extensively with Beòlach and is much in demand as a solo

artist. In the past several years, Ryan has become increasingly renowned as a talented composer. His tunes have been performed and recorded by many musicians, both locally and abroad. Ryan also manufactures his own line of whistles, which are quickly becoming the choice instrument of musicians worldwide.

This cut (from Ryan's first solo recording) showcases one of his own compositions, followed by two other well-known and lively pipe tunes.

7. DAVID FRANCEY

Ashtabula (David Francey, Laker Music, SOCAN)

David Francey: Lead vocals
Kieran Kane: Bouzouki, percussion,
backing vocals

Kevin Welch: Guitar
Fats Kaplin: Accordion

www.davidfrancey.com

10. CARL MACKENZIE
TRIP TO NENAGH
Trip to Nenagh Reel (traditional)
Castle Bay Scrap Reel (Tracey Dares-MacNeil)
Lucy Campbell Reel (traditional)
Carl MacKenzie: Fiddle
Pat Chafe: Piano
Lyndon MacKenzie: Guitar
Nigel Waye: Bass
From the album: IT'S A CORKER!
Courtesy of: Carl MacKenzie
Produced by: Mike Wadden and
Carl MacKenzie
Recorded by: Mike Wadden at
Spectrum Recordings, Sydney
Forks, Nova Scotia

Carl MacKenzie is a regular performer at dances, concerts, and workshops across Cape Breton; he has also performed throughout Canada, Ireland, Scotland, and the United States. A traditional fiddler from a large musical family from

Washabuck, Victoria County, Cape Breton, Carl has influenced many younger musicians from Cape Breton and elsewhere through his playing and teaching, including his nieces and nephews in the Barra MacNeils and Slainte Mhath. He has composed more than fifty tunes, and his vast repertoire is expressive of the musical magic and soul that sets him apart from so many other musicians.

"Trip To Nenagh" is a snappy little piece that features a pair of traditional tunes book-ending a local composition.

11. karen + helene

Skon Sired (Thomas Thaarup & J. A. P. Schulz, 1790)

Helene Blum: Vocals
Karen Mose: Vocals
Harald Haugaard: Fiddle
Morten Alfred Høirup: Guitar

www.karenoghelene.dk

From the album: SOLEN
Courtesy of: Danish Folk Music
Production

Produced by: Harald Haugaard
Recorded by: Torben Sminge

Karen Mose and Helene Blum were both born on the island of Funen in Denmark and met in 2000 at the Carl Nielsen Academy of Music Odense, where they were the first students to specialize in vocals in the Folk Music course. They began collaborating early on, focusing on traditional Danish and Nordic songs. After a couple of years as a duo, they decided to extend the collaboration to the best musicians they knew and release a record of Danish songs. In April 2004, they released their first album, SOLEN (The Sun), which was nominated in five categories at this year's Danish Music Awards. This visit to Cape Breton is their first trip to Celtic Colours performing as a duo,

although Helene performed with Haugaard & Høirup at last year's Festival.

"Skøn Sired" (a song dating circa 1790) has become a signature piece for the duo.

12. THE COTTARS

THE GUITAR JIGS

The Mabou Jig (Donald Angus
Beaton)

Hare Slough Jig (Willy Sawrenko)

The Advil Jig (Randy Foster)

Jimmy MacKenzie: Guitar

Ciaran MacGillivray: Keyboards

Fiona MacGillivray: Tin whistle

Roseanne MacKenzie: Fiddle

www.thecottars.com

From the album: ON FIRE!

Courtesy of: Sea-Cape Music Ltd.

www.miramusic.net/seacape

Produced by: John McDermott

(Executive Producer), Allister

MacGillivray & Brigham Phillips

(Producers)

Gerry O'Connor: Banjo

Eilidh Shaw: Fiddle

www.lizdoherty.ie

From the album: QUARE IMAGINATION

Courtesy of: Busy Lizzy Records

Produced by: Gerry O'Connor

Recorded by: Billy Robinson at

The Pines Hostel, Culdaff,

Inishowen, Co. Donegal

Donegal fiddler Liz Doherty has been described as "... a bundle of amazing musical energy!" Anyone who knows her (and she is well-known in Cape Breton, having lived and studied here for a number of years) would consider this quote a most appropriate description. A noted researcher and writer on Irish, Scottish, and Cape Breton fiddle styles, Liz is also considered a wonderful teacher, whether in the classroom or at a festival workshop. In 2001, she decided to resign from her full-time academic position as lecturer in traditional music in the

Music Department of University College, Cork, Ireland, to pursue her playing career. After teaching at UCC-Cork, Liz worked for a time at the Music Department, University of Ulster. She is now Traditional Arts Specialist with the Arts Council in Dublin. She has performed at Celtic Colours before, both as a soloist and as part of the all-female Irish group The Bumblebees.

This group of reels has a tune from the Scottish tradition sandwiched between a pair of Irish compositions.

6. RYAN J. MACNEIL WISHY'S

The Big Wish (Ryan J. MacNeil,
SOCAN)

Ramnee Ceilidh (Gordon Duncan,
Grian Music)

Little Donald In the Pigpen
(traditional)

Ryan J. MacNeil: Pipes, whistles

ing audiences and gathering fans wherever she goes.

The opening cut from AIR DANCING shows the interesting diversity displayed by the band.

4. TRACEY DARES-MACNEIL

The Hymn of St. Columba
(traditional)

Tracey Dares-MacNeil: Piano

Gordie Sampson: Guitar

From the album: CELTIC &

TRADITIONAL LULLABIES FROM
OUR CAPE BRETON

Courtesy of: Tracey Dares-MacNeil

Produced by: Eileen T. Brennan

Recorded by: Mike Shepherd and
Fred Lavery at Lakewind Sound
Studios, Point Aconi, Cape Breton

Over the past decade, Tracey Dares-MacNeil has become one of the most sought-after pianists. An accomplished accompanist for

fiddles, pipes, and vocalists and a wonderful soloist (not to mention, a great stepdancer), Tracey has toured with Natalie MacMaster, performed stage productions with *Howie's Celtic Brew*, and backed up countless musicians in recording sessions. She has spent much time helping musicians improve their sound.

“The Hymn of St. Columba” is a beautiful traditional tune that receives full treatment from Tracey’s delicate touch.

5. LIZ DOHERTY

FRED’S FAVOURITE

Fred's Favourite (Peter Mohan,
IMRO)

Frank Gilruth Reel (Peter Milne,
copyright control)

Touching Cloth (James Kelly, Phaeton
Records)

Liz Doherty: Fiddle

Manus Lunny: Bouzouki, bodhran

Recorded by: Mike Shepherd at
Lakewind Sound Studios,
Point Aconi, Cape Breton

In the span of merely five years, The Cottars have become recognized as one of the major Cape Breton musical success stories, performing and gathering fans across North America, Europe, Asia, and beyond. The four young Celts (brother/sister pairs Ciaran and Fiona MacGillivray and Jimmy and Roseanne MacKenzie) have been playing traditional music since early childhood. Ranging in age from 15 to 17, each is a multi-instrumentalist, singer, and stepdancer. The Cottars’ second album, ON FIRE!, released in 2004, earned the band a 2005 East Coast Music Award in the Roots/Traditional Group Recording category, a fitting follow-up to their 2003 ECMA win for Best New Group

and their two Music Industry of Nova Scotia (MIANS) awards in Folk/Roots and Best Group categories. The Cottars have performed for Wayne Gretzky, Senator Edward Kennedy, and at symphony halls and festivals from Newport to Tokyo.

This group of tunes puts Jimmy MacKenzie in the lead role as The Cottars do a medley of Canadian jigs from Mabou (Cape Breton), Ottawa (Ontario), and Saskatoon (Saskatchewan).

13. DAVE GUNNING

Broom O’The Cowdenknowes

(traditional, arranged by Dave
Gunning)

Dave Gunning: Vocal, guitars

Jamie Gatti: Bass

Daniel Maillet: Dobro

Ray Legere: Fiddle, mandolin

Cindy Church: Harmony vocals

Cathy Porter: Percussion

www.davegunning.com

From the album: TWO-BIT WORLD

Courtesy of: Dave Gunning

Produced by: Jamie Robinson

Recorded by: Dave Gunning and

Jamie Robinson at Riverfront

Studios in New Glasgow,

Nova Scotia

Dave Gunning is a singer/songwriter on the verge of international recognition. He received the 2003 MIANS award for Musician of the Year. After picking up the 2005 East Coast Music Award for Folk Recording of the Year for his fourth album, TWO-BIT WORLD, Gunning solidified his place in the East Coast music community and quickly became one of Canada's best up-and-coming singer/songwriters.

A tireless troubadour and a favorite on the festival circuit, he has toured extensively, hitting such notable events as the Kerrville Folk Festival

in Texas, The Stan Rogers Folk Festival in Nova Scotia, and the Tønder Folk Festival in Denmark.

A charismatic performer, he is known for infusing his performances with his own brand of humorous tales and touching commentary on the everyday human experience, bringing vibrance and life to his songs.

“Broom O’ The Cowdenknowes” is a traditional Scottish ballad made popular through the years by Cape Breton Celtic singer and guitarist John Allan Cameron.

14. JOE DERRANE and THE BOSTON EDGE

THE CURRAGH RACES

The Curragh Races (traditional)

The Skylark (traditional)

The Reconciliation Reels (traditional)

Joe Derrane: Accordion

Séamus Connolly: Fiddle

John McGann: Guitar

Jane, it truly is about sharing the Gaelic culture.

Margaree resident Malcolm Gillis was noted for his wit, particularly when it came to events around him. “Bal na h-Aibhne Deas” tells about a party in Southwest Margaree that was not going very well until someone brought a fiddler.

3. THE KATHRYN TICKELL BAND

April Frolic (Ron Purvis, arranged by

Tickell, Tickell, Clapp & Sutton)

Kathryn Tickell: Northumbrian pipes, fiddle

Peter Tickell: Fiddle, viola

Joss Clapp: Guitar, acoustic bass guitar

Julian Sutton: Melodeon

www.kathryntickell.com

From the album: AIR DANCING

Courtesy of: Park Records

www.parkrecords.com

Produced by: Kathryn Tickell

Recorded by: Stuart Hamilton at Castlesound Studios, Pencaitland

Kathryn Tickell started on the Northumbrian smallpipes at the age of nine, and by the age of thirteen, had won all the traditional open smallpipes competitions. She also made quite a name for herself as a fiddle player. Her roots are in the North Tyne Valley of Northumberland, England, where many of her relatives have long been involved in traditional music. Over the past 20 years, she has produced a dozen recordings and appeared on countless TV productions. Kathryn has contributed to Sting albums and joined him live at Carnegie Hall in March 1997 for the Rainforest Foundation benefit concert. She is also a part-time lecturer for the new Folk and Traditional Music degree course at Newcastle University. Her music has allowed her to perform all over the world, delight

2. MARY JANE LAMOND

BAL NA H-AIBHNE DEAS

Bal na h-Aibhne Deas (Ball at Southwest Margaree)

(Malcolm Gillis, arranged by Mary Jane Lamond & Beòlach)

Sailor Don's Jig (Dougie MacDonald, SOCAN)

Uisdean Friseal Strathspey (traditional)

The Farmer's Daughter Reel (traditional)

Mary Jane Lamond: Vocals

Mac Morin: Piano

Wendy MacIsaac: Fiddle

Mairi Rankin: Fiddles

Patrick Gillis: Guitar

Ryan J. MacNeil: Bagpipes

Beòlach: Backing vocals

www.maryjanelamond.com

From the album: STÒRAS

Courtesy of: Turtlemusik

Produced by: Phillip Strong

Recorded by: Mike Shepherd at the Wreck Cove Hall

Mary Jane Lamond is a sharer of songs, stories, and spirit. This practice has garnered Mary Jane numerous Juno and East Coast Music Award nominations, a MuchMusic Global Groove Award, critical acclaim, and a worldwide audience. She has appeared on stages across North America and beyond with many of the top performers in the Celtic world and recorded with artists such as The Chieftains and Ashley MacIsaac.

Mary Jane has made a point of collecting songs from many of Cape Breton's Gaelic tradition-bearers and passing them along to a waiting public. In addition to conveying these songs in a traditional manner, Mary Jane often adds her own interpretation and arrangements, opening the songs to a wider audience of less traditionally-experienced listeners. For Mary

From the album: THE BOSTON EDGE
Courtesy of: Mapleshade Records
www.mapleshaderecords.com

Produced by: Paul MacDonald

Recorded by: Pierre Sprey at
Mapleshade Studio, Baltimore,
Maryland

Some people call it the greatest comeback in the history of Irish traditional music: after a 35+ year hiatus, Joe Derrane is once again playing the button accordion in public. His return started in 1994 at the Irish Fold Festival at Wolftrax in Vienna, Virginia. Since then, Joe has ridden the wave of Irish traditional music's resurgence and has become one of the most sought after players. Joe's most recent musical project is called THE BOSTON EDGE where his talent is combined with ten-time All-Ireland solo fiddle champion Séamus Connolly and former National Mandolin Champion John McGann.

This high-energy set of reels opens THE BOSTON EDGE. All are traditional and will be familiar to followers of Celtic music. Combined, they give a great "lift" to the overall medley of tunes.

15. GLENN GRAHAM

GETTIN' PIPEY

Miss MacKenzie of Gairloch Strathspey (traditional)

For the Gretzky of Cape Breton Social Dancing Strathspey (Glenn Graham)

Colonel MacGregor (traditional)

Wally Ellison's Reel (Danny Graham)

Miss Charlotte Alston Stewart's Reel (traditional)

Glenn Graham: Fiddles

Joel Chiasson: Piano

Patrick Gillis: Guitar

www.glenngraham.ca

From the album: DRIVE

Courtesy of: Glenn Graham

Produced by: Glenn Graham

Recorded by: Glenn Graham at
Bowbeat Studios, Judique,
Cape Breton

Fiddler Glenn Graham comes from a musical lineage of fiddlers, Gaelic singers, dancers, poets, and pianists, traced back to pre-emigration Scotland. His families, the Grahams of Judique and the renowned Beatons of Mabou, could put on a concert of their own (and have, on more than one occasion). Glenn is a proponent of the Mabou Coal Mines style of fiddle playing: hard-driving, highly ornamented and accented, and designed for dancing. Over the past ten years, he has performed and taught fiddle across North America as well as overseas. His Master of Arts degree thesis focused on the evolution of Cape Breton fiddle music and has garnered publishing interest.

“Gettin’ Pipey” is a medley from Glenn’s latest traditional recording and melds three traditional pipe tunes with a pair of locally composed fiddle tunes played in a pipe style (one written by Glenn and one composed by his father). This track exemplifies the type of tunes that would be heard at house parties, sessions, and square dances across Cape Breton.

Disc 2

I. BROCK MCGUIRE BAND

THE MOUNTAIN ROAD

The Mountain Road (Michael Gorman)

The Ash Plant (traditional)

Humours of Westport (traditional)

Paul Brock: Button-key accordion,
melodeon

Manus McGuire: Fiddle

Enda Scahill: Banjo, guitar

Fergal Scahill: Fiddle, guitar

Dennis Morrison and Denis Carey:

Piano, keyboards

www.brockmcguire.com

From the album: BROCK MCGUIRE
BAND

Courtesy of: Ferndale Promotions Ltd.

Produced by: Ferndale Promotions Ltd.

Recorded by: Matt Purcell at

Harmony Row Studios, Ennis,
Co. Clare, Ireland

Residing in County Clare, Paul Brock and Manus McGuire have been at the forefront of Irish music for many years. They performed together in Moving Cloud (a band they formed in 1989). Manus was also a founding member of Buttons & Bows, and both bands (ranked among Ireland’s finest) have helped to introduce international audiences to the virtuosity of their playing. Add all of that experience together and you will know why the Brock McGuire Band was voted Instrumental Group of the Year for 2004 by LiveIreland.com and IRISH AMERICAN NEWS.

This group of reels (some of which go back to the late 1800s) highlights the playing of various members of the band, as the instruments seem to take turns working their way through the medley.