

Nuala Kennedy: The New Shoes

Nuala's latest album 'The New Shoes' brings together the virtuosic talents of Claire Mann (flutes/fiddle/vocals) Julian Sutton (melodeon) and Marc Clement (guitar/vocals) – a truly formidable musical combination.

They have produced an album full of depth, subtlety and invention. Each an individual star in their own right, they are a fantastic band to watch perform live, and bring a wealth of talent, experience and pure joy to each concert.

New From Compass Records:

For her Spring 2007 Compass Records release entitled *The New Shoes*, Kennedy has assembled a new band by the same name, and together they have captured a wonderful collection of traditional music with an excitingly fresh feel. Brought together when producer Bob Kenyan asked Kennedy to put together a band of musicians for a Gaelic television show, their rich and luscious sounds bear testimony to the creative imagination and depth of experience harnessed in this ensemble.

The New Shoes begins with a rousing jig that sets a level of musicianship that is sustained throughout the record. Where Kennedy's apt flute playing is made obvious in the first track, the listener gets a taste of her startlingly focused and beautiful vocal timbre in "Cait I nGarraín a Bhile". Other highlights include the swinging "Highlands and Islands" and the closing title track, complex and upbeat melodies filled with a wonderful combination of tension and resolution.

Described as '***An album full of beauties***' by reviewer Norman Chalmers.

Below is an excerpt from 'The New Shoes' inside sleeve, written by Canadian music producer and composer Oliver Schroer:

What is it about new shoes when they are right? They are absolutely comfortable, they fill you with a sense of adventure, new roads to be traveled and they bring a smile to your face. Nuala Kennedy's New Shoes CD is much like that. It is solidly in the tradition. No tricks or sleight of hand here. Just exquisite playing, great tunes that will not leave you alone, classy and imaginative arrangements and singing that will melt your heart. It is not often you hear an album that feels so beautifully at ease with itself, and at the same time so fresh and exciting. And it can be daunting to add something worth saying to a tradition as rich as Celtic music, but Kennedy and crew have pulled it off in style. New Shoes is an album that rings unerringly true and passionate - from the heart, the head and the feet.

Short bios of *New Shoes* members:

NUALA KENNEDY

Best known for her work with trio Fine Friday, Irish singer and flautist Nuala Kennedy has been playing traditional music since the age of seven, has recorded five albums and has toured extensively in Europe, Australia and Canada.

Now living in the Scottish Highlands, she is currently enjoying composing contemporary traditional music, and was commissioned to write a *New Voices* piece for Celtic Connections 2007 for which she received rave reviews from press and public alike.

Amongst others her nine-piece all-star international line-up included Daniel Lapp, Oliver Schroer, Eilidh Mackenzie, Mario Caribe and Will Oldham. This show was described by Dave Prater in the Herald as: *'one seamless segue of breathtaking music and tight vocal harmonies'* - *one of the most exciting Sunday afternoons I have ever had'*

CLAIRE MANN

Claire comes from Newcastle upon Tyne in the north east of England and has established herself as one of the leading exponents of traditional Irish Flute, Fiddle and Song. She has been performing since an early age and has won numerous All-Ireland Championships on flute, whistle and fiddle. Claire has also performed for the renowned British Flute Society who described her as, *"...astonishing."*

A regular on the Edinburgh session scene, she has also toured extensively worldwide with bands Tabache, Craobh Rua and Christy O'Leary and released her debut solo album in September 2001 to great critical acclaim. She now plays regularly with Aaron Jones (hear their album 'Secret Orders') and with English fiddler Tom McConville.

MARC CLEMENT

Marc adds a distinctive and inventive side to guitar accompaniment that few can match. He is one of Scotland's most respected guitarists, as well as being a talented singer and pianist. He plays in the well-known fiddle band 'Blazing Fiddles' and has previously collaborated with Wolfstone and toured with Gaelic singer Anne Martin. Marc currently also sings and plays in 'The Lush Rollers' and has made numerous Radio and TV appearances both in Scotland and abroad.

JULIAN SUTTON

Julian Sutton has been playing the melodeon in traditional dance bands since the age of nine. A native of the North East, he has worked with folk musicians including Alistair Anderson and Anglo-European roots music duo Ancient Beatbox. He performs with the Kathryn Tickell Band and also plays in the English/Finnish 'Auvo Quartet'. Julian's interest in the traditional dance rhythms and melodies of Central France stems from a year spent in the Auvergne listening to and playing with musicians from the region. He has collected a wealth of beautiful tunes from that tradition. His solo recording 'Accordion Crimes' is a stunning instrumental album, illustrating his dynamic and original approach to music. It was recently described by the Musician's Union as *'a work of charm and lasting appeal. One to relish.'*