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**June 2006**  
**For immediate release**  
**From Andrew Logan, LoganArts Management**

## **THE WHISTLEBINKIES**

Scotland's Traditional Music Ensemble



**Peter Anderson**  
*Scottish side drum / bodhran*

**Iain Crawford**  
*double bass*

**Anna Dagg**  
*fiddle / viola*

**Stuart Eydmann,**  
*fiddle / concertina / vocals*

**Mark Hayward**  
*fiddle*

**Rhona MacKay**  
*clarsach / vocals*

**Eddie McGuire**  
*flute*

**Rab Wallace**  
*lowland pipes / Scottish smallpipes*

## **THE WHISTLEBINKIES** "ALBANNACH"

CDTRAX 288 Price Bar Code – 5 018081 028825.

In the face of pan-celtic homogenisation, the Whistlebinkies have steered a proud and true course. Based around a core of traditional Scottish instruments: pipes, flute, fiddle and clarsach ... As soon as you hear their first notes they sound instantly Scottish ... they use no instrumental gimmicks - no electronics, no guitars driving the rhythm section - and rely on both the quality of the music and their own superb musicianship to produce the desired results.

**Paul Burgess, Living Tradition, May 2006**

Formed during the great surge of interest in traditional and Celtic music and song in the late 1960's, **The Whistlebinkies** quickly evolved into a major force in this field. The Band led the revival in the use of bellows-blown bagpipes in Scotland and were the first to combine the three national instruments: fiddle, bagpipes and clarsach (small Scottish harp) in regular performance. Only authentic traditional instruments are used and where possible, the group prefers to play in an acoustic setting. The repertoire is drawn from all periods of Scottish music and from all regions of the country. Members contribute new compositions within the tradition and the group is always ready to explore connections with other cultures.

**The Whistlebinkies** have toured extensively, taking Scottish music to France, Germany, Italy, Finland, Iceland, Taiwan, Estonia and all the Celtic countries. In 1991 they were the first Scottish music group to tour The Peoples Republic of China and they recently returned from Hong Kong. Recent festival appearances include The Edinburgh International Festival, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Glasgow Mayfest, Festival Interceltique at Lorient, Brittany, and more. The Band have also contributed much music to feature and documentary film, television, radio and stage drama productions.

The Whistlebinkies' approach to playing Scottish traditional music without recourse to gimmicks or the wiles of fashion has served them well and their clear melodic presentation continues on this latest album. The now eight-piece group's loyalty to the traditional instrumental line-up doesn't stop them importing from other cultures, however, as the Catalan *air Muntanyes de Canigo* illustrates. ... Eddie McGuire's multifaceted The Albannach and Rab Wallace's haunting marching Coronach are fine examples of using the tools of the tradition to create vivid, original music.

**Rob Adams, The Herald, April 2006**

George MacKay of the Scotsman wrote of The Whistlebinkies: "Punctillious attention to detail is typical of the group. They led the revival of interest in Scottish traditional music precisely by their willingness to dig deep into neglected territory, and play their findings with great attention to authenticity, as well as palpable affection."

"**ALBANNACH**" was recorded in 2005 and early 2006 and a lot of love and care went into its preparation, both by the Band and engineer Robin Rankin, resulting in an album which the Band consider to be their best effort to date. The members of the Band are Annaliese Dagg (fiddle and viola), Rhona MacKay (clarsach and vocals), Eddie McGuire (flutes), Rab Wallace (pipes), Peter Anderson (bodhran, Scottish side drum & percussion), Stuart Eydmann (concertina & fiddle), Mark Hayward (fiddle) & Iain Crawford (double bass). This album is a joy!

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**Ian Green, Greentrax**

Feedback from reviewers and presenters always most welcome.

For further information on the CD please contact Ian D. Green.

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