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May 2007

THE WHISTLEBINKIES



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

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

Binkies keep traditional flame alive ... traditional music might have become a dying form, if it weren't for bands like The Whistlebinkies. ... sending a happy audience home dancing..."

Martin Lenon, Edinburgh Evening News, Jan 2007

Assured ... masterful ... infectious [*The Albannach*]

Taplas, 2006

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 Albannach*] 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

... spontaneous musicality, totally absorbing ... jaw-dropping and spine tingling ... rare beauty ... an unforgettable concert

PRK, The Orcadian, June 2006

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. [*The Albannach*]

Paul Burgess, Living Tradition, May 2006

The Whistlebinkies will change live music forever

Dante Blando (USA)

THIS once ground-breaking Scottish band now operate in a much more crowded musical environment than when they launched four decades ago, but they have retained both their dedication to traditional Scottish music and their core instrumentation, which incorporates the pipes, fiddle and clarsach. This mix of traditional and more contemporary material is well-chosen and artfully arranged, with Eddie McGuire's *Albannach* as the powerful centrepiece of the album. ... their approach remains highly musical. [*The Albannach*]

Kenny Matheson, The Scotsman, May 2006

Magnificent! ... Amazing! Compositions were creative and innovative. ... Awesome! The tears are still in my eyes This has been a truly inspiring concert.

Hong Kong, Jan 2006

A fascinating mixture... arrangements and new compositions based on Scottish traditional material provide an interesting example of joint creation, with all the members of the group contributing and discussing ideas.

Ailie Munro: The Folk Revival in Scotland

Their repertoire is about as wide-ranging as it is possible to be.

Kenny Mathieson: The Scotsman

Well, they're just lovely. They don't sing sentimentally... they sing straight, and with some kind of dignity. It is that quality of people doing their work well that I admire.

John Cage: Tempo 1991

Punctilious 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 played their findings with great attention to authenticity, as well as palpable affection.

George Mackay: The Scotsman

There's real spirit and energy about the whole set which, allied to inventive orchestration, makes it highly commendable.

Nick Beale: Folk Roots

They are an outstanding group.

Michael Tumelty: The Herald

Their output has remained consistently good over the years, and they have never once been blown off their committed course by the gimmiky gusts that have swept through folk music since the Seventies.

Alastair Clark: The Scotsman

Whistlebinkies como a unica 'folk band' da Escocia

Publico (Portugal)

What a joy to hear each of these instruments played so beautifully It was like the sun coming out ... a group that wanted to play traditional tunes but also wanted to be contributors to a living tradition; this evening's performance of outstanding music making by The Whistlebinkies was proof that they are both.

L.Macleod, The Orcadian

The Whistlebinkies have every right to believe [*The Albannach*] this to be their best-ever recording

Keith Ames, The Musician

Schottische Musik, competent und authentisch aufgenommen auf Hochstem musikalischen Niveau!

Folkmagazin 2006 (Germany)

A fine product [*The Albannach*] from a fine assembly of musicians

Scot, 2006 (USA)

The whole album [*The Albannach*] has class written all over it and it is a listening pleasure ... another beauty from this highly professional group.

Scottish Memories, 2006

Long may they bink their whistles.

Rob Adams: The Herald

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Date : May 2007
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