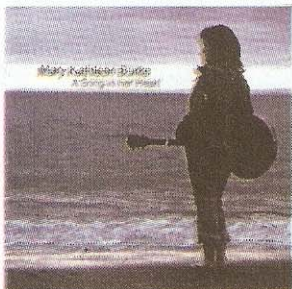


Celtic Music Reviews

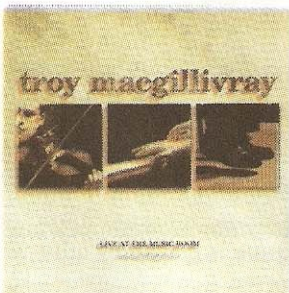
Reviews by John Ferguson of McGinty



Mary Kathleen Burke
A Song in her Heart
www.greentrax.com

Mary Kathleen Burke is a native of Northern Ireland who moved to Scotland as a teenager and has been in music most of her adult life. Now in her forties, she has released her first solo recording for Greentrax.

She sings in a clear, pure voice with just a hint of an accent from her youthful home and it's somewhat evident that her singing background is in country music. *A Song in her Heart* has been well received after only a short release period and several of the songs are getting considerable airplay. That is probably because it is such a pleasant recording. The song list is well chosen and she sings each song with heartfelt passion. Along list of collaborative musicians help make it such a fine CD. *A Song in her Heart* is a beautiful introductory album by Mary Kathleen Burke.



Troy MacGillivray
Live at the Music Room
www.troymacgillivray.com

I've known Troy MacGillivray for quite a few years now and we've done a number of gigs together. This talented musician from Lanark, Antigonish Co., has steadily progressed in knowledge and skill as a performer of traditional Celtic music. That knowledge and skill is demonstrated admirably on his live CD recorded at Halifax's great venue, The Music Room.

Troy does solo work on fiddle and piano and is joined by

Allan Dewar on piano, Dave MacIsaac and Brad Davidge on guitar and Sabra MacGillivray on bodhran and stepdance.

The tune sets are made up of the usual jigs, reels, some polkas, an air and four long strathspey and reel groups, two of which are over ten minutes with the other two around eight minutes. All the players are up to the task of a live recording and the audience is primed for an evening of good music. This resulting CD gives the listener an excellent concert that can be enjoyed time and again.

Troy MacGillivray has already won awards for his musicianship although still a young man. He is very busy in many areas of the world treating his audiences to great music performed by an innovative and always improving musician. *Live at the Music Room* is a good example of his talent.



Margaret Stewart
Togaibh mi mo Sheolta
www.greentrax.com

Once again Celtic Colours has provided me familiarity with a performer. I have listened to Margaret Stewart perform with piper and singer Allan MacDonald on several occasions during that nine days in autumn in Cape Breton.

Margaret, from the Isle of Lewis, has given us a beautiful album of Gaelic music. The CD presents a collection of songs in the tradition and they cover a range of topics like love, exile, battles, murder and drink. All are sung with reverence for the language and tradition.

The Gaelic text, with English translation and background on the songs, is included in the CD booklet. It also features some fine photography, making the whole package pleasing to the eye as well as the ear. Producer Iain MacDonald and a host of talented musicians bring out the best of Margaret Stewart's exceptional voice. *Togaibh mi mo Sheolta* is one of the nicest albums I've heard in a while in any language.