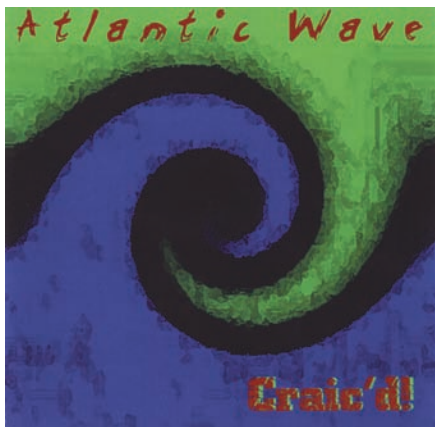


Music Reviews



Atlantic Wave

Craic'd

www.atlanticwave.us

Since Milwaukee, Wisconsin, hosts the world's largest Irish music festival, I suppose it is no surprise to find a Celtic music band spring out of the area. Atlantic Wave is a four-piece unit that takes its music from the Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton traditions. The band includes Kaitlin Hahn on fiddle, piano, and feet; Ed Paloucek on fiddle and octave mandolin; John Karr on bouzouki, bodhran, vocals and percussion; and Barry Houlehen on lead vocals and guitar.

The band has put together an interesting collection of tunes on this, their first CD. While using music from the aforementioned traditions they have put together some unusual combinations. One cut pairs up the strathspey "Tullochgorum", complete with the Scott Skinner variations, with the ubiquitous New Brunswick reel, "The Mouth of Tobique". Another cut uses part of Antonin Dvorak's New World Symphony with a Donegal slip jig. This shows an innovative side to the band.

The mostly Scottish songs include "Jock Stewart", "Tae the Beggins' I Will Go", "Sleepy Toon", "The Queen of Argyll" and the Irish song, "Bonny Portmore". They are well sung by Barry Houlehen with good arrangements from the other band members. The tune medleys are also arranged nicely and the use of two fiddlers in a band always heightens my interest.

This is a self-produced CD from Atlantic Wave. They even provided their own photographs, Kaitlin designed the cover and John, Ed and Barry wrote the liner notes. The recording engineer is Vinny Millevolte and the mastering was done by Trevor Sadler. Good tunes and good songs; you couldn't ask for more.



Ceilidh Minogue

www.ceilidhminogue.co.uk

With a cheeky name like Ceilidh Minogue (If you're too young or too old to catch the ironic pop reference, ask someone.) you have to think, "This band had better be good." Well, you won't come away disappointed. This is the band's first recording and they offer up a varying menu of tunes. The thoughtful arrangements give the band a joie de vivre that is sadly lacking in other ceilidh bands and makes this an infectious CD that is fresh at every replay.

Ceilidh Minogue consists of Gregor Lawrey on accordion, Gavin Marwick on fiddle, Alastair Morrow on piano and Bob Turner on drums. Judging from the one small band picture on the CD cover, these guys aren't a group of twenty-something upstarts, but they do turn the sound of Scottish country dance music on its ear. Their sound has jazz and pop influences that combine with the traditional to get your feet tapping and put a smile on your face. They play Scottish and Irish music as well as their own compositions and some tunes not associated with the ceilidh music scene. The cut I really like has one Quebec reel, two New Brunswick reels and one written by drummer Bob Turner. On this cut it sounds as if the band has had some sessions with La Bottine Souriante.

The CD was recorded at Park Lane Studios in Glasgow and the band was joined by five musical friends on guitar, bass, mandolin, tiple sax and trumpet. Another fine CD from Greentrax. I look forward to Ceilidh Minogue's next offering.