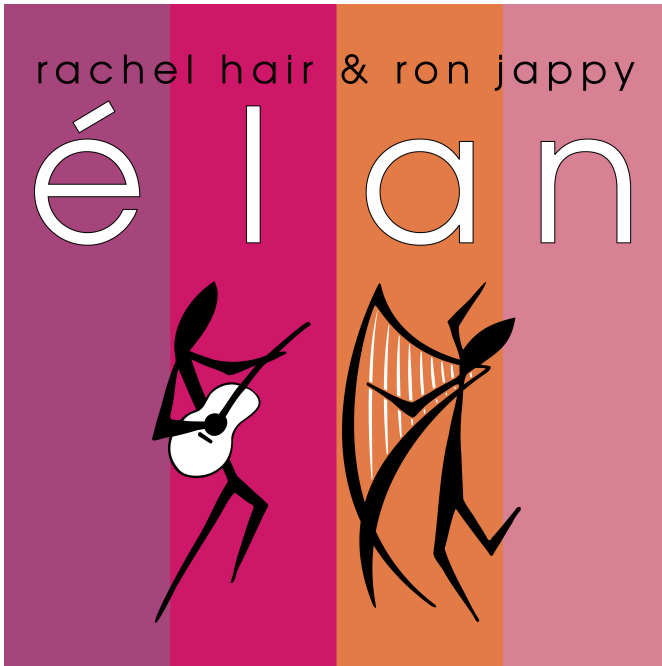


SLEEVE NOTES

Élan by Rachel HAir & Ron Jappy



TRACK LISTING

- 1.The Transatlantic Proposal
- 2.Daybrak
- 3.Tom Toi's Polka
- 4.McLeods of Waipu
- 5.Inverness Bridge
- 6.Irene's
- 7.John Macdonald's
- 8.Cape Breton Jigs
- 9.Ceò na Cailliche
- 10.To the Rock

TRACK DETAILS

1. The Transatlantic Proposal (2:59)

The Transatlantic Proposal (Rachel Hair, MCPS/PRS)

The Maidens (Rachel Hair, MCPS/PRS)

A couple of slip jigs – the first one has a tale and a half behind it (come to a gig and we'll fill you in) and Rachel wrote the second for a crowdfunder. In a happy coincidence, they named it after a village on the Ayrshire coast; which is not only full of family memories, but also happens to be a few miles up the road from where Rachel composed it.

2. Daybrak (5:55)

Dinan Dawn (Rachel Hair, MCPS/PRS)

Daybrak (Tom Anderson, MCPS/PRS)

Dinan Dawn is a Breton style tune, inspired by early morning walks to teach harp in the beautiful medieval town of Dinan, Brittany.

Daybrak is a beauty from Shetland's famed fiddle player and composer, Tom Anderson. Rachel was introduced to it by the chair of the Shetland Heritage Trust, who suggested she try it out on the harp as he thought it would suit the instrument well – he was right!

3. Tom Toi's Polkas (4:05)

Tom Toi's Polka (Rachel Hair, MCPS/PRS)

Battle of Aughrim (Trad. Irish)

Harper's Frolics (Trad. English)

Three polkas: the first is named after and written for a dear friend of ours from Japan, who has been learning to play harp for a few years now – we'll hopefully play it together sometime!

The second is a polka version of the tune The Battle of Aughrim, more commonly played as a march.

Lastly, a tune that we found when sourcing new material; it obviously caught our eye because of its name!

4. McLeods of Waipu (4:44)

(Rachel Hair, MCPS/PRS)

When we toured New Zealand in early 2020, people kept telling us we had to visit Waipu in the North Island, as it was an area of great importance to the Scottish settlers. We managed to work in a visit on a day off and upon visiting the village's wonderful museum, we quickly realized our strong connection to the area.

The first settlers in Waipu had been led by the Rev Norman McLeod, an ex-schoolteacher in Ullapool (where Rachel was born); who, during the Highland Clearances, led locals to first sail from Lochbroom to Cape Breton and then some years later, to Waipu. It was quite the experience; seeing photos of the village you grew up in, with folk you knew speaking in videos, unexpectantly in a museum over 17,000 miles away, on the other side of the world.

5. Inverness Bridge (4:06)

Mrs John MacColl (John MacColl)

Inverness Bridge (Trad. Scottish)

The Ferryman (PM Donald MacLeod)

A march, strathspey and reel is one of the classic pairings in Scottish music and we had great fun putting these pipe tunes together. Mrs John MacColl is a favourite of Ron's to play for dancing, and Rachel found the strathspey Inverness Bridge in one of the David Glen's Edinburgh Collection of Highland Bagpipe Music books, that were published between 1903 & 1908.

The final tune is a great double key reel from the pen of PM Donald MacLeod, from Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

6. Waltzes (3.16)

The Erigmore Waltz (*Graham Mackenzie, MCPS/PRS*)

Irene's Waltz (*Rachel Hair, MCPS/PRS*)

Graham Mackenzie is a fine fiddler and friend from Inverness and we found this tune in his self-titled tune collection. Erigmore is an estate in Perthshire, Scotland.

Rachel wrote Irene's Waltz for one half of her village surrogate grandparents. Growing up in Ullapool, in the rural Highlands, her grandparents lived many hours away; so many hours were spent at Irene and Sandy's, helping in the vegetable garden and climbing the counters to get to the sweetie shelf!

7. John Macdonald's (3.29)

(Trad. Scottish)

This 4 part reel is a new to us tune that we learnt from The Glengarry Collection; a wonderful book full of tunes played by the Highland fiddler, Aonghas Grant.

8. Cape Breton Jigs (4:56)

Professor Delbert's Birthday (*Paul Cranford*)

The New York Jig (*Alex Joe MacEachern*)

J. P. Cormier's Jig (*Jerry Holland*)

A set of 3 jigs by 3 Cape Breton fiddlers, HUP!

9. Ceò na Cailliche (5:14)

Bhannarach Dhonn a' Chruidh (*Trad. Scottish*)

Na Maraichean (*Trad. Scottish*)

Ceò na Cailliche (*Rachel Hair, MCPS/PRS*)

The first air in this set, translated as the Brown Milk Maid, can be found both in the Patrick McDonald Collection and the Gesto Collection of Highland Music.

The first of the strathspeys, translated as The Mariners, can be found in the Simon Fraser Collection Volume 2; his collections have been a tireless source of material for Rachel over the years.

Rachel wrote Ceò na Cailliche (The Old Woman of the Mist) after discovering the tale of the illicit distillers of Inverlael, a community lost in the Highland Clearances just South of Lochbroom. The story goes that they heard the excise men were coming from Ullapool, so the local witch conjured up some mist that caused the men to lose their way and end up in Elphin; some 20 miles north!

10. To the Rock (3.56)

Inneen Kilkenny (1st part Trad. Manx, 2nd part Dave Speers PRS)

Jerry y Theill (Trad. Manx)

The Answerer (Tomas Callister, MCPS/PRS)

Many Manx tunes were written as short, one part melodies, so it's become common place for musicians to add 2nd parts to them. The 1st part of the first tune in this set (translated as the Girls of Kilkenny, a farm) was collected from a Mrs. Lawson in Ballachurry and the 2nd part was added by Dave Speers; a local musician who's written some fantastic tunes over the years.

It's followed by a couple of reels: *Jerrey yn Theihll* is a popular session tune and *The Answerer* was written by Peel fiddler Tomas Callister, and named after the sea god Manannán mac Lir's sword.

CREDITS

Harp – Rachel Hair

Guitar – Ron Jappy

Guest Artist:

Bodhran – Adam Brown (tracks 3, 8 & 10)

Recorded by Scott Wood at Oak Ridge Studios, Glasgow, Scotland

Mixed by Andrea Gobbi at GloWorm Recording, Glasgow, Scotland

Mastered by Andrea Gobbi at Carrier Waves Mastering

Artwork and Design by Adam Rhodes

Photography by Sam Hurt

