

'The Friel Sisters'

Self-titled debut CD by The Friel Sisters

The Friel Sisters, Anna, Sheila and Clare Friel, are excited to announce the release of their long awaited debut album, 'The Friel Sisters.' Recorded in the summer of 2013 their album hosts a mixture of tunes and song with guest musicians Gearóid Mooney and Griogair Labhruidh on guitar and Seamus O'Kane, bodhran virtuoso.

The Friels are young traditional musicians born and brought up in Glasgow with their family roots firmly entrenched in the Donegal Gaeltacht (Doire na mainsear). They play a mixture of music interspersed with songs in English and Irish, many from their family repertoire. Being siblings, they achieve a close blend on fiddle, flute and uilleann pipes and have been drawn to music from bands such as The Bothy band, Altan and Planxty and singers such as the Ní Dhomhnaill and Keane sisters. The girls have performed in various venues and festivals including the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall as part of Celtic Connections, the Danish Tønder Festival, Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann as part of FleadhLive, Willie Clancy Summer School, Catskill's Irish Arts Week in New York, Frankie Kennedy Winter School, Sligo Live, Celtic Fusion and at many other festivals across Europe, America and Asia. They have appeared as guests on stage with acts such as Altan, The Chieftains, Cherish the Ladies, Solas and Fídal.

The official launch took place in Donegal 30/12/13 at the 20th and final Scoil Gheimhridh Frankie Kennedy, launched by Mairead Ní Mhaonaigh and was sold out. This was followed by a launch gig and BBC Radio 3 live slot on 'World on 3' at Celtic Connections on 17th January 2014, also both sold out. The album is available at Claddagh Records, Celtic Note, All Celtic Music, Tambourine (Japan), from www.frielmusic.com, CD baby (as CD and digital download) and iTunes/Google Play.

The girls performed music from 'The Friel Sisters' on TG4's "Róisín" chat show, the RTÉ 1's "The Fleadh Programme" amongst several other tv and radio performances. Following 'Humours of Ballyloughlin/Rakes of Clonmel/The Kilkenny Jig' featuring as TradConnect.com's track of the week, the album went on to become album of the month for March 2014 and Celtic Music Radio's album of the week week of 25/01/14. Upcoming gigs and festivals include several countries such as UK, Ireland, USA, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and more. Further information can be found at www.frielmusic.com or Facebook/Twitter pages.

Reviews

"They take each set with a determined and focused intent, biting into the tracks with an expressive authority. Each set has its own identity...This album is a triumph of natural raw talent delivered with passion and confidence by three sublimely gifted musicians...An early highlight to 2014 and a definite repeat play album."
Tradconnect, Jan 2014

"The new album is a mixture of instrumental and vocal music that any lover of traditional music will surely want to hear...Their instrumental work is top notch...(tracks) are well chosen and show off their superior talent. The album abounds with small, smart touches that draw the ear. ..They are an impressive young bunch with fabulous taste and impeccable chops who have released an excellent debut album...The "Friel Sisters" is one you'll want to hear." Irish Echo, New york. Jan 2014.

"...the Glasgow-born, Donegal-bloodlined Friel Sisters...a real breath of fresh air in singing clearly and unaffectedly and playing unencumbered jigs with skill, shape and heart to free the music from its showbiz straight jacket."- The Herald, Glasgow

"The Friel Sisters' music cannot be held back; it is what comes natural to them. They breathe music, they live music, they love music. Traditional Irish music is in a richer place for having these young genuine people carry it on to future generations." - Mairead Ní Mhaonaigh

For more information www.frielmusic.com

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