

Máiréad Nesbitt - 'Raining Up'  
Vertical Records

Oh POWERFUL stuff! As soon as you drop this CD into the player, you think Liz Carroll, Eileen Ivers, Frankie Gavin, James Kelly, Kevin Burke, Martin Hayes - a whole string of incredibly talented, nay gifted, fiddle players, who have climbed that mountain, subjugated the physical and technical limitations of the instrument, after which the violin is a biological extension of their being.



This is Máiréad Nesbitt's debut album and for you that don't think you know her - how about lead fiddle player with Lord of the Dance for the past few years? - Remember those fiddle extravaganzas on stage with the man himself? Yes, that was our Máiréad! - That's the glitz side, but there is also the other side, as in rock-solid-foundation- stone-of-granite Traditional Irish Music.

Her mum is Kathleen Nesbitt, who if you had gone to the Summer School at the Fleadh Cheoil in Listowel this August, you would have seen taking a Master Class for a week with 40 of the finest young fiddle players in Ireland - a gifted teacher with a magic way of passing it across to the youth.

And how she has passed it on! This album, by daughter Máiréad is simply brilliant.

It is also 21st century music and throws a titanium steel bridge across the divide between Traditional Irish and World Music, in much the same way as you dancers and teachers have bridged Irish dance to give us the modern recall set dance with entrechâts and much modern ornamentation - all in its own unique way beautiful.

Why say any more about this album? If you like funky music like Michael McGolarick's

'Fused', Davy Spillane's 'A Place Among the Stones', Dónal Lunny's 'Coolfin' and similar 'coalesce' albums, where there are no borders or divides. you will love this. Plenty time in the future for Máiréad to lay down her own definition of 'fierce traditional'. In the meantime, let's just jazz it up and live a little.

If you reckon you're fairly cool when it come to music and you like some of that Irish stuff, then LUCKY YOU! Go out and buy this and treat yourself or a friend to a very special Christmas present. It is quite simply ALBUM OF THE YEAR and you can trust IDM on this one!

-- Irish Dancing Magazine, December 2001  
-- CD Reviews - by Donal Lynch