

**Tionchar** is the Irish for 'influence' - the words *tionchar* and *influence* having the older meanings, respectively, of *input* and *inflow*. The arrangements on this album flow from musical influences present since my teenage years. While the music and Gaelic song tradition of Scotland have arguably had the most powerful impact, both in terms of source material and of my own writing and arranging, the work of Irish musicians and singers, Cape Breton singers and fiddlers, singers from the Balkans and various contemporary musicians and bands have also had an input.

I have always valued openness to diversity and playfulness with material as much as seriousness and adherence to tradition. Listening to a wide spectrum of people, music and singing styles over the years has given me a great sense of musical possibility. I hope that at least some of this is realised here.

**Buíochas do/Thanks to:** Pat Daly, Páraic Ó Farachtáin, Katherine Duffy, Martin Crossin, Jim Magill, Doug Bermingham, Aodán Ó Feinneadha, Frank Doyle, Gearóidín Bhreathnach, Seán Ó Conaill (RIP) and all the musicians and singers.

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All tracks traditional except where otherwise stated. Track 1 parts 3 and 4 © Paddy Keenan/Gael Linn Teo. Track 10 © Crashed Music

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# Tionchar Influence

*Brian Ó hUiginn*

*A contemporary arrangement of traditional and new music*



# Tionchar

1. **Balintore Fancy** Parts 1 and 2, traditional; parts 3 and 4 Paddy Keenan/Gael Linn. Arranged: Ó hUiginn, Magill, Ó Farachtáin, Bermingham, Ó Feinneadha. Traditionally a two-part reel, I first heard this tune played as a four-part reel by piper Paddy Keenan.  
Pipes/programming: Brian Ó hUiginn  
Guitar: Tony Byrne  
Drum programming/piano: Pat Daly

2. **Winter Deep Inside** (Ho-ri ho-rò mo nìonag): Ó hUiginn  
A song inspired by Ho-ri ho-rò mo nìonag (Ho-ri ho-rò my little one), a well known traditional Scots-Gaelic song which I first heard sung by Ishbel MacAskill from the Isle of Lewis. Lyrics and melody from the traditional song are woven into the chorus.  
Vocal (verse): Caoimhe Hogarty  
Vocal (chorus): Mary Mc Keever

Backing vocals: Andrea Hunger; Maeve Whelan  
Guitar: Tony Byrne  
Whistles/Programming: Brian Ó hUiginn  
Keyboard dulcimer: Páraic Ó Farachtáin


*Ho-ri ho-rò mo nìonag*  
*Ho-ri ho-rò mo nìonag*  
*Ho-ri ho-rò mo nìonag*  
*Gu dè nì mi mur fhaigh mi thu?*

*(Ho-ri ho-rò my little one*  
*What will I do if I don't find you?)*

*I searched for you alone*  
*in the forest and by the shore*  
*Dreaming I won't find you*  
*when morning comes once more*  
*Through the night I walked the*  
*stones in the mist calling your name*  
*Hoping your reply would carry*  
*through the rain*  
*I miss your warm heart now;*  
*I miss your warm heart now*  
*It's winter deep inside*  
*It's winter deep inside*  
*It's winter deep inside*

3. **The Ashplant/Nine Pint Coggie** Trad. arr: Ó hUiginn  
Two reels. The Ashplant, which I originally heard from a céili band whose name I cannot now remember, is a well-known Irish reel. I first heard the Nine Pint Coggie as part of an excellent set played by fiddler Mike Mc Dougall from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. It is also found in the famous Atholl collection of 18th and 19th century Scottish music. Here we play a slightly different version.

*And I remember how*  
*I came upon a strange town*  
*Saw you through the crowd*  
*you drowned out all the sound*  
*And I loved you so strong*  
*no storm could ever move me*  
*Nor the driving rain*  
*dashing to the ground*  
*I miss your warmth tonight*  
*I'm trying hard to fight*  
*This winter deep inside*  
*It's winter deep inside*  
*It's winter deep inside*

- Pipes: Brian Ó hUiginn  
Fiddle: Oisín McAuley  
Guitar: Tony Byrne  
Piano: Pat Daly  
Keyboard: Páraic Ó Farachtáin  
Programming : Brian Ó hUiginn/  
Pat Daly
4. **Máire Dhonn** Trad. arr: Ó hUiginn, Ó Farachtáin  
Sometimes sung as a waulking or fulling work song, various versions of Màili Dhonn or Màiri Dhonn have been recorded in Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Although not very well known in Scotland, a version from the Isle of Lewis is ascribed to John Mc Donald (Iain Dòmhnallach a' Chaolais ) 1801-1880 from Bearna Raigh. Many verses have been added over time, but the theme of homage to a beloved brown boat remains the same. The first version I heard was sung by John Shaw (Seògan) from North shore, Cape Breton. This is an Irish translation of four verses, albeit from a different version.
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Vocals: Mary McKeever  
Whistle/Programming: Brian Ó hUiginn  
Piano: Páraic Ó Farachtáin

*Bheirim laoi ar Mháire Dhonn  
Ainnir álainn gan éalaing  
Óna ceann 'dtína bonn  
Smál níl uirthi ar fiú aithris*

*'S iomaí lá garbh is fuar  
'Sna tonnaí ag briseadh tharainn  
Bhí sí liom ar bharr na stuá  
Gaoth ag séideadh smúit is fearthainn*

*Máire Dhonn, álainn donn  
Máire Dhonn phill 'n a' chladaigh  
Ainnir óg an fhoilt dhoinn  
Éiri croi domh tú 'fheiceáil*

*Oíche dúinn is muid faoi stró  
'S na báid mhóra 'déanamh tharainn  
'Bhí chun tosaigh mar ba dual  
Scoilteadh tonn a seoladh tuilleadh*

*Go mba fada seoladh cuain thú  
Péarla díonach, meidhreath, stuama,  
Ar gach turas guim rath  
Máire dhonn, an ainnir uasal*

Guitar: Tony Byrne  
Slide guitar: Pat Daly

*I sing of brown-haired Mary  
A beauty without flaw  
From stern to bow  
Not a blemish you'd find on her*

*Many's the rough cold day  
The waves crashing around us  
She climbed the crests with me  
Through wind and fog and rain*

*Brown-haired Mary, beautiful brown  
Brown-haired Mary returned to shore  
Girl with the thick brown hair  
It raises my heart to see you.*

*On nights when we were struggling  
The big boats rushing past us  
Overtaking us as they always did  
A wave would put a stop to their course*

*Long may you sail over the ocean  
Lively, sturdy, weather-proof pearl  
I wish you luck on every voyage  
Brown-haired Mary, classy girl*

(Irish translation: Brian Ó hUiginn, Seán Ó Conaill, Liam Prút)

## 5. *Maids of Monsisco/Rainy Day*

Trad. arr: Ó hUiginn,  
Ó Farachtáin, Ó Feinneadha  
Two reels played at a much  
slower pace than usual.  
Pipes: Brian Ó hUiginn  
Guitar: Tony Byrne  
Programming: Brian Ó hUiginn/  
Pat Daly

## 6. *Polkas*

Trad. arr: Ó hUiginn  
Three well-known polkas.  
Pipes/low whistles: Brian  
Ó hUiginn  
Fiddle: Oisín McAuley  
Guitar: Tony Byrne  
Programming: Brian Ó hUiginn/  
Pat Daly

## 7. *Miss Patterson's Slipper*

Trad. arr: Ó hUiginn, Ó Farachtáin,  
Magill  
Low whistles/Programming:  
Brian Ó hUiginn  
Guitar: Tony Byrne  
Additional keyboard: Páraic  
Ó Farachtáin

'Crowley's reel' and 'the  
Roscommon reel' - two-part  
and three-part reels  
respectively - were played by  
Donegal fiddler Johnny Doherty  
as a single set under the title  
'Miss Patterson's slipper', all five  
parts being played in  
succession, before returning to  
the start. Here, three of the  
five parts are played on the low  
whistle as a jig rather than in  
the normal reel setting.

## 8. *Slides*

Trad. arr: Ó hUiginn,  
Ó Farachtáin  
Three slides. The first I  
originally heard from Jackie  
Daly and Seamus Creagh.  
The second, the 'Cúil Aodha  
slide' I learned from piper Peter  
Phelan.  
I encountered the third 'This is  
my love, do you like her?' on the  
Bothy Band's album 'Out of the  
Wind, Into the Sun'.





## 9. *An Buachaillín Bán*

Trad. arr: Ó hUiginn, Ó Farachtáin  
A slow air taken from an Irish Jacobite song of the same name from the province of Munster. The eponymous Buachaillín Bán (small fair-haired boy) is reputed to be Charles Edward Stuart ('Bonnie Prince Charlie')  
Pipes/programming: Brian Ó hUiginn  
Keyboards: Páraic Ó Farachtáin

## 10. *Caisleáin an Óir* Martin

'Junior' Crehan Arr. Ó hUiginn, Ó Farachtáin  
This hornpipe, written by the renowned fiddler and composer Junior Crehan, is based on a slow air called 'Caoineadh an tSagairt' (the Priest's Lament).  
Low whistle/Programming: Brian Ó hUiginn  
Guitar: Tony Byrne  
Pianos: Pat Daly/Páraic Ó Farachtáin

## 11. *Dancing the Summer Away* (Ó hUiginn)

A song inspired both by a Roma song recorded by folk music collector Alan Lomax in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the 1960's, and also by more recent events in the same place.  
Vocal: Caoimhe Hogarty  
Guitar: Tony Byrne  
Pipes/Low whistle/Programming: Brian Ó hUiginn

*Pesha can you hear me all around  
In the streets, the fields,  
in the air  
I hear you calling far outside  
You're still dancing the summer away*

*Moving in the dark  
your head high,  
hope in your heart  
Dance like fire  
your flames lighting up  
the dark sky  
Did you not know it would end?*

*That the dance and the fire they  
would ebb  
Your feet on the ground they  
would bleed  
No voice, no sound, no song,  
no melody*

*Your voice so clear  
still carries over the years  
Lifeblood strong, your heartbeat  
so clear in your song  
I watch the sun come again  
to the places you danced  
till the end  
Where no-one now wants to  
believe  
Your dance, your voice, your  
song, your melody*

## 12. *The Copper Plate*

Trad. arr: Ó hUiginn  
A well-known Irish reel, in an untypical setting.  
Pipes: Brian Ó hUiginn  
Fiddle: Oisín Mc Auley  
Guitars: Pat Daly/Tony Byrne  
Programming: Brian Ó hUiginn/Pat Daly



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