



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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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*

*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*

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.

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 Bearnaraigh. 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.





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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