

Tune Notes

1) The Road to Yair (3.20)

The road past the Rink farm to the Yair, between Galashiels and Selkirk in the Scottish Borders, goes up and down and generally ambles along till it gets to where its going, much like this tune.

(Me: fiddle, guitar, bouzouki, bodhran, bass. Sally Caunt: cello)

2) Wednesday Nights at “The Reel” - The Earl's Bu (2.50)

“Wednesday Nights at “The Reel” is dedicated to the Orkney Accordion and Fiddle Club, who meet at "The Reel" in Kirkwall every Wednesday evening. The Earl's Bu was written to celebrate the Earl Paul's Drinking Hall at Orphir in Orkney - right next to the kirk where you could stagger in for each of the services and then stagger back again.

(Me: fiddle. Ian King: fiddle. Martin Marroni: flute. Liz Marroni: guitar)

3) Egan's Polka - Welcome Aidan! - Longridge March (3.42)

Welcome Aidan! was written on the birth of my son, Aidan. The first and last tunes are played by Aidan himself, and he also wrote “Longridge March” when he was 8. Egan's Polka is the only tune on the album not written by one of us!

(Me: fiddle, guitar, bass. Aidan: fiddle, piano)

4) Miss Kirsty Falconer – Fairnilee (4.58)

For my daughter, Kirsty. Fairnilee is a farm in a lovely spot just by Yair Bridge, at the end of the "Road to Yair"

(Me: 1st and 2nd fiddle, guitar. Sally Caunt: cello)

5) Pop to Papay – The Nesting Box – The Flounder (4.29)

The shortest scheduled flight in the world is between Westray and Papa Westray in Orkney. For Christmas 2011 my brother and sister-in-law sent us a nesting box. Hanging it up on our cherry tree without much optimism it attracted a pair of blue tits that summer who raised a family successfully. The third tune was written after a visit to Deep Sea World in South Queensferry. We saw sharks, rays, piranhas and blue dart frogs, but the abiding image in my head was that of a flounder. I didn't see any flounders at Deep Sea World, but I wrote them a tune anyway.

(Me: fiddle, guitar, bass)

6) Grace's Tune (4.25)

Written for my great-niece, Grace. *(Me: fiddle. Brian Holton: guitar. Tom Roseburgh: piano)*

7) Old-Timer Reels: Elbow Creek – Cumberland Nap – When I'm Down I Can't Get Up (4.40)

Three reels written by an old-timer for old-timers. The titles are self-explanatory (the third being a play on the title of one of my favourite Oyster Band tracks).

(Me: fiddle, bouzouki, guitar, bass, drum pedal. Brian Holton: dulcimer, whistle. Tom Roseburgh: piano)

8) Kerstin's Wedding Waltz – Whitemill Bay (5.16)

Written for my beautiful wife, and the first dance at our wedding. Whitemill Bay is a long sweep of white sand in the north of Sanday, one of the lovely Orkney islands.

(Me: fiddle. Ian King: fiddle. Martin Marroni: flute. Liz Marroni: guitar)

9) The Golden Mile – Wilma and Peter of Orphir – The Glendinning Nursery March (5.33)

Three marches. The first celebrates Blackpool's "Golden Mile" of illuminations. The second was written for my Auntie Wilma and Honorary Uncle Peter who live in Orphir in Orkney. The third celebrates the regular processions of nursery pupils from Glendinning Terrace Primary School in Galashiels in their high-visibility jackets, walking in a crocodile hand-in-hand around the town and the surrounding countryside, off exploring and finding out about something.

(Me: fiddle, guitar, bass)

10) Eric Falconer's Compliments to Matt Seattle (6.20)

Written for Matt Seattle, pioneer, virtuoso and general boundary-pusher of the Border Pipes. And a good guy.

(Matt: Border Pipes. Me: Bass)

11) Memories of Eddie (2.46)

Written for my dad, who loved to dance. *(Me: piano)*

Credits

Eric Falconer: Fiddle, guitar, bouzouki, bass, bodhran, percussion, piano (on track 11)

Sally Caunt: Cello (tracks 1 and 4)

Brian Holton: Guitar (track 6), dulcimer, whistle (track 7)

Matt Seattle: Border Pipes (track 10)

Tom Roseburgh: Piano (tracks 6 and 7)

Ian King: Fiddle (tracks 2 and 8)

Martin Marroni: Flute (tracks 2 and 8)

Liz Marroni: Guitar (tracks 2 and 8)

Aidan Falconer: Fiddle and piano (track 3)

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