

NEW FOLK RECORDS

Dáithí Sproule “Lost River: Vol. 1”

New Folk Records is pleased to announce the release of a remarkable new recording from one of the world’s finest Irish guitarists and singers, Dáithí Sproule.

“Lost River, Vol. 1” is Dáithí Sproule’s first traditional vocal album in 16 years, and follows his critically acclaimed solo guitar instrumental album, “The Crow in the Sun,” released in 2008. The album features songs in English and Irish, transformative versions of traditional song, exquisitely arranged and accompanied on guitar.

Drawing on decades of musical collaboration, Sproule has assembled an exceptional group of guest artists. The cd includes stellar performances by Seamus McGuire, Peter Ostroushko, Tom Schaefer, Randal Bays, Liz Carroll, Billy McComiskey, Danielle Enblom, Laura MacKenzie, John Wright, Dean Magraw, James Kelly, Paddy O'Brien, and Altan.

Listeners will recognize the familiar sound of seminal ensembles Trian, Bowhand and Altan, as well as some innovative and surprising musical pairings. The arrangements are original and unexpected, with melodic, percussive, and rhythmic embellishments.

Sproule brings a long history of innovative music arranging to “Lost River, Vol. 1,” which started with the ground-breaking group Skara Brae, and has continued in his solo and ensemble work since. Two of the twelve traditional songs on the album feature original melodies composed by Sproule. Like *The Death of Queen Jane*, first recorded by the Bothy Band and most recently by Loreena McKennitt, Sproule’s original melodies of traditional songs are likely to become standard versions.

Dáithí Sproule, well-known for his innovative guitar styles, uses two open guitar tunings on this album, including DADGAD, which he helped to pioneer in traditional Irish music.

Says Sproule: “The heart of this album is a body of songs performed by myself on vocal and guitar, traditional songs I have sung and loved for decades. But the end result you will hear is also the product of the collaboration and cooperation of many of my brilliant friends, recorded in places as far apart as Ramelton, Co. Donegal, and Whidbey Island, off the west coast of America. It sounds complex, but with their amazing skill and good-heartedness, my friends made it easy. I know you will love their playing, and I hope you will love these songs as I do, drawn from the deep river of traditional song.”

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The album was created while Sproule was an Archibald Bush Foundation Artist Fellow. Like his previous release on New Folk Records, "The Crow in the Sun" (2008), "Lost River, Vol. 1" is co-produced by Dáithí Sproule and John Wright. Other recent releases from Dáithí Sproule include: "The Pinery" (New Folk Records) 2009 - with Laura MacKenzie; "Seanchairde" 2008 - with Tara Bingham and Dermie Diamond; and "Fingal" (New Folk Records) 2008 - with Randal Bays and James Keane.

About Lost River, Vol. 1:

"Every song on the album features Sproule's excellent singing and acoustic guitar playing...Falling in love with these 12 songs for the first or fiftieth time is easy, for everything here exudes taste, touch, and alternating toughness and tenderness."

- Earle Hitchner, *Irish Echo*

General Quotes:

"One of the gentle architects of today's Irish music sound" - *The Thistle and Shamrock*

"A seminal figure in Irish music" - *the Rough Guide to Irish Music*

"One of Irish music's greatest guitar accompanists" - *Steve Winick, All Music Guide*

"Sproule's style also possesses a graceful fluidity and sensitive shading that turns tunes into taproots of expression and even confession" - *Earle Hitchner, Irish Echo*

For more information, interviews and promotions, contact Ken at New Folk Records on:
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Released in North America through The Allegro Media Group www.allegro-music.com
and in Ireland through Cló Iar-Chonnacht www.cic.ie

Bio:

Dáithí Sproule of Derry, whose first group was the legendary Skara Brae, has lived for many years in Minnesota. He is one of Irish music's most respected guitar accompanists, and one of the first guitarists to develop DADGAD tuning for Irish music. He is also a fine singer in English and Irish. Dáithí has performed and recorded with two highly influential traditional music trios: Bowhand (with James Kelly and Paddy O'Brien) and Trian (with Liz Carroll and Billy McComiskey), as well as providing accompaniment for recordings by Tommy Peoples, Seamus and Manus McGuire, Liz Carroll, Paddy O'Brien and others. He has performed around the world with the Irish supergroup Altan, and continues to tour and record with Altan, Randal Bays and James Keane (under the name Fingal), and several Minnesota-based musicians including Dean Magraw, Laura MacKenzie, Peter Ostroushko, and Jode and Kate Dowling. Dáithí's original compositions have been recorded by Skara Brae, the Bothy Band, Altan, Trian, Liz Carroll, Aoife Clancy, Loreena McKennitt, the RTE Concert Orchestra and others. He is known for his innovative arrangements of traditional songs, and in 1995 he released his first solo album, *A Heart Made of Glass*, with songs in English and Irish. In 2008 he released an instrumental guitar album, *The Crow In the Sun*, featuring thirteen original compositions. In addition to performing and recording, Dáithí is a sought-after teacher and lecturer in subjects ranging from guitar styles and song accompaniment to Irish traditional music, language and literature. He is a 2009 Bush Artist Fellow, awarded by the Minnesota based Archibald Bush Foundation.