

Dáithí Sproule & Victoria Adiiye release new duo album *There but for Fortune*

Fifty years and an ocean apart — two singer-guitarists, the Skara Brae and Altan legend Dáithí Sproule and Cork-based Victoria Adiiye, trade voices and guitars across a collection of songs and tunes, out now worldwide

June 2026 — Dáithí Sproule — founding member of the seminal group Skara Brae, three decades with Altan, and described by *The Rough Guide to Irish Music* as "a seminal figure in Irish music" — has released a new duo album, *There but for Fortune*, recorded with fellow singer-guitarist Victoria Adiiye. A guitar-led collection of songs and tunes, it was launched on 12 June 2026 at the Minnesota Irish Music Weekend and is out now worldwide on Bandcamp, Spotify, Apple Music and all major platforms.

There but for Fortune is a true duet, the two sharing both the singing and the guitar work across ten tracks of songs and tunes, many of them Sproule's own compositions. The arrangements weave acoustic and electric guitars, translucent vocals, and warm harmonies. In their liner notes the pair call it "a record of a friendship" — music "about rivers and journeys, about love and leaving, about the places that stay with you long after you've gone" — spanning Derry and Donegal, Uganda and Massachusetts, Minnesota and Cork.

The partnership has an unlikely origin. Adiiye first encountered Sproule's playing as a young musician in Uganda; years later, having moved to Minnesota for university, she found herself studying near the very guitarist whose recordings had drawn her to Irish music. Weekly lessons grew into a duo, and eventually into this album — recorded across studios in Minnesota, Co. Clare and Co. Cork.

"I am so happy that Victoria and I have brought this album to fruition, in spite of geographical complications — and so grateful for all the happy times playing and chatting and laughing that brought the music into existence." — Dáithí Sproule, from the album's liner notes

"When I was growing up in Uganda, Dáithí's music was already in my life — so when my family moved back to Minnesota and it turned out he was teaching nearby, it felt less like luck and more like the universe being unusually organised." — Victoria Adiiye

There but for Fortune is out now, available as both CD and digital album. **Listen / buy:**
[Bandcamp](#) · [Spotify](#) · [Apple Music](#) · [YouTube](#)

Track Listing

1. **Taylors Falls** (music by Dáithí Sproule & lyrics by Barton Sutter) 5:15
2. **Peace in the Storm** (by Dáithí Sproule) 2:49
3. **The Island of Woods** (music by Liz Carroll & lyrics by Barry Foy) 4:38
4. **Patty's Tune #1** (by Dáithí Sproule) 3:08
5. **The Beaver Brig** (traditional) 5:04
6. **An Teach Bán** (by Dáithí Sproule) 3:55
7. **The Queen of Hearts I** (traditional) 3:21
8. **The Queen of Hearts II** (by Dáithí Sproule) 3:52
9. **There but for Fortune** (by Phil Ochs) 3:56
10. **The Overland Trail** (music by Dáithí Sproule & lyrics by Barry Foy) 6:42

Credits

Produced by Macdara Ó Faoláin & Conor O'Sullivan. All tracks arranged by Victoria Adiiye & Dáithí Sproule. Artwork and design by Victoria Adiiye. Recorded in Minnesota, Clare, & Cork.

About Dáithí Sproule

Dáithí Sproule is a singer, guitarist and composer, born in Derry and based in Minnesota since the early 1980s. A founding member of Skara Brae — honoured with the Grúpa Ceoil award at TG4's 2022 Gradam Ceoil — he has been a leading innovator of DADGAD guitar tuning since the early 1970s and one of the most respected accompanists in Irish traditional music. From 1994 to 2024 he toured and recorded with Altan, performing at the Sydney Opera House, the Royal Albert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl and for American and Irish presidents. His melodies have been recorded by the Bothy Band, Altan, Liz Carroll, Loreena McKennitt and 10,000 Maniacs, and his song "The Death of Queen Jane" featured in the Coen brothers' *Inside Llewyn Davis* (2013). An Archibald Bush Artist Fellow, he teaches at the Center for Irish Music in St. Paul.

About Victoria Adiiye

Victoria Adiiye grew up in Jinja, Uganda, travelling to Kampala for music lessons and performing as a child at the National Concert Hall there with the Kampala Symphony Orchestra. After discovering Irish music — and Sproule's guitar playing in particular — she moved back to Minnesota at fifteen for university, where the two met, before settling in Ireland at twenty. A singer, guitarist and banjo player, she performs most often with her partner Macdara Ó Faoláin and has appeared at festivals in Ireland, Minnesota, Europe and Canada; she features on Ó Faoláin's recent album *Ar Thaobh Cill an Fhuarthainn*.

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