

LUCKPENNY SLEEVE NOTES



karen tweed - piano, accordion
tom mcelvogue - flute

LUCKPENNY

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- 01 - MISS THORNTON - ANDY MCGANN'S NO 2 - MAIDS OF MOUNT CISCO 3:53
- 02 - HORSE WITH A HEART (FRANKIE KENNEDY) - PADDY ON THE ROCKS (NOEL SWEENEY) - MUNSTER BACON 3:11
- 03 - THE HONEYMOON - FAHY'S - DEVANEY'S GOAT - EDDIE MOLONEY'S 4:14
- 04 - CUIL AODHA - TELL HER I AM - CON CASSIDY'S 3:42
- 05 - CRONIN'S - MISS GALVIN'S - TAILOR'S TWIST 3:49
- 06 - WILL YOU GO AWAY WITH ME? - THE ORPHAN - HEADWOOD CROSSING (PATRICK DAVEY) 3:11
- 07 - MAYOR HARRISON'S FEDORA - PADDY FAHY'S 3:59
- 08 - DOCTOR O'NEILL - HUMOURS OF GLENDART - SHANDON BELLS 4:48
- 09 - ORLA'S REEL (PAUL RUANE) - CROWLEY'S - ORMOND SOUND (PADDY O'BRIEN) 3:03
- 10 - BILLY MCCORMICK'S - ROSEWOOD (JAMES SCOTT SKINNER) - GAN AIM 3:09
- 11 - VICTORY REEL - THE BUNCH OF GREEN RUSHES - THE DAIRY MAID 2:10
- 12 - LUCKPENNY - WHEELS OF THE WORLD - THE BICYCLE JIG (STEVE COONEY) - BANK OF IRELAND 4:51
- 13 - MERRY DAYS OF EASTER - REEL SAM CORMIER (DENIS LANCTOT) - CASTLE KELLY 3:35

Andy McGann's No 2 (track 01) composed by Andy McGann
Horse with a Heart (track 02) composed by Frankie Kennedy
Paddy on the Rocks (track 02) composed by Noel Sweeney
Paddy Fahy's (track 02) composed by Paddy Fahy
Headwood Crossing (track 06) composed by Patrick Davey
Paddy Fahy's (track 07) composed by Paddy Fahy
Orla's Reel (track 09) composed by Paul Ruane
Ormond Sound (track 09) composed by Paddy O'Brien
Rosewood (track 10) composed by James Scott Skinner
The Bicycle Jig (track 12) composed by Steve Cooney
Reel Sam Cormier (track 13) composed by Denis Lanctot

All tracks arranged by Karen Tweed & Tom McElvogue
All tracks recorded January 2017 at The Mill Studios, Clondra, Co Longford

Karen Tweed:	Piano Accordion (Siwa e Figli 72 bass)
Tom McElvogue:	Flute (Holmes-McNaughton Pink Ivory)
Editing/Mixing/Pre-Masters:	N. Holmes
Mastering:	
Sleeve Design:	Tom McElvogue
Cover Photographs:	Tom McElvogue



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PAUL RUANE (1967- 2016)



WE BEGAN THINKING ABOUT THE IDEA OF RECORDING TOGETHER EARLY IN 2016. INITIALLY USING MELODICA AND WHISTLE, WE THEN MOVED ONTO ACCORDION AND FLUTE. AT THAT TIME, WE WERE AWARE THAT A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF OURS (PAUL RUANE) HAD BEEN DIAGNOSED A TERMINAL ILLNESS AND WAS UNDERGOING SEVERAL TREATMENTS. DURING THE EARLY PART OF THE SAME YEAR, PAUL'S HEALTH DETERIORATED AND VERY SADLY PAUL PASSED AWAY IN AUGUST OF 2016. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO EXPRESS IN WORDS HOW MUCH PAUL RUANE MEANT TO BOTH OF US BOTH AS A FRIEND, MUSICIAN AND WONDERFUL HUMAN BEING. HE TOUCHED OUR LIVES SO LONG AGO AND HIS ENTHUSIASM AND JOY WERE INFECTIOUS. OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS OF PAUL'S LIFE, WE AND OUR DEAR FRIEND NORMAN HOLMES REMINISCED ABOUT HOW WE ALL HAD SUCH GREAT FUN IN OUR YOUNGER DAYS WHEN WE SIMPLY PLAYED SO MUCH MUSIC FOR THE LOVE AND FUN OF IT. NORMAN AND HIS DEAREST JANET GAVE US SO MUCH TIME, LOVE, HELP AND SUPPORT IN TRYING TO CAPTURE THOSE EARLY DAYS IN THIS RECORDING. WE OFFER THIS RECORDING AS A DEDICATION TO THE LIFE OF ONE OF THE MOST GENEROUS PEOPLE WE HAVE HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO MEET ALONG OUR WIDE AND VARIED TRAVELS. THIS IS FOR YOU PAUL RUANE.

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Track 1

1. Miss Thornton - TRAD
2. Andy McGann's No 2 - composed by ANDY MCGANN
3. Maids of Mount Cisco - TRAD

Miss Thornton's Reel is a tune we have been playing as long as we can remember. It is listed in "O'Neill's 1001 Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes, Airs and Marches" as tune number 534 and we don't deviate too much from the original melody here.

Andy McGann's No 2 is a tune picked up from various sessions in the late eighties and early nineties.

The Maids of Mount Cisco is another popular session tune and one that we've played for many years. It can be found in notation form in Ceol Rince na hEireann, volume 1 as tune 118.

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Track 2

1. Horse with a Heart - composed by FRANKIE KENNEDY
2. Paddy on the Rocks - composed by NOEL SWEENEY
3. Munster Bacon - TRAD

The Horse with a Heart is a tune that we learned from an early Altan recording. We only recently learned that this was actually written by Frankie Kennedy.

The second tune was written by the fabulous Noel Sweeney formerly of Co Leitrim and now living in Longford. Noel has been a constant source of inspiration and encouragement since we moved to Longford and it was great to be able to include this tune on the album.

Munster Bacon is another old favourite from "O'Neill's 1001 Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes, Airs and Marches". It can be found as tune 340 and hopefully we're fairly close to the setting in O'Neill's!

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Track 3

1. The Honeymoon - TRAD
2. Fahy's - Composed by Paddy Fahy
3. Devanney's Goat - TRAD
4. Eddie Moloney's - Composed by Eddie Moloney

We learned the Honeymoon from a recording of flute player Billy Clifford entitled "Irish Traditional Flute Solos and Band Music from Kerry and Tipperary". We're not sure if the album is still available commercially but we did manage to find it recently on the internet. Tom recalls spending many nights learning tunes from Billy Clifford's playing and hope that this album will be re-issued.

The second tune we believe was written by Paddy Fahy. Like most of the tunes named Fahy's, we're not fully sure if it was written by the man himself or credited to him for popularising it. It sounds like a Fahy tune to us though so we are crediting him as the composer.

Devanney's Goat is another old tune listed in Ceol Rince na hEireann volume 2 (tune 267). Tom first learned this tune and the one that follows from a flute recording of Frankie Gavin (Up and Away). We follow this as he did with Eddie Moloney's reel. Again, Tom is not sure if Eddie wrote this but since his name is lent to the tune we're crediting him with the composition.

If there are any flute players out there who haven't heard the Frankie Gavin flute album, my word you're in for a pleasant surprise when you do!

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Track 4

1. Cuil Aodha - TRAD
2. Con Cassidy's - Composed by Con Cassidy
3. Tell Her I Am - TRAD

Tom learned the Cuil Aodha from the playing of the group De Dannan many years ago. It is quite often played in G however we recorded it in A here as this would be the first key we would have learned it in.

Con Cassidy's we presume is from the bow and fiddle of Con Cassidy although not having met Con Cassidy, Tom learned this from an early recording of Frankie Kennedy and Mairéad Ni Mhaonaigh called Ceol Aduaidh. This was a classic recording with such great tunes that Tom remembers being absolutely blown away to hear what were very odd sounding tunes being played on the flute. That odd sounding music was of course Donegal music! Tom still hasn't recovered.

Tell Her I Am is an old tune listed as No 37 in "O'Neill's 1001 Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes, Airs and Marches". The version in O'Neill's however only seems to have two parts (which we've only just noticed) and we presume a third part or a middle part came into existence somewhere along the way. We would have both learned this tune from sessions so please excuse the lack of alignment to the written notes!

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Track 5

1. Cronin's - TRAD
2. Miss Galvin's - TRAD
3. Tailor's Twist - TRAD

Cronin's hornpipe may well have been written by Paddy Cronin. He certainly recorded it and it has been given his name. We have not been able to find any links that would give him the tune as one of his compositions as there are quite a number of tunes called Cronin's or Paddy Cronin's when in fact they were more popularised by him rather than written by him. We're happy to be proven wrong on this though so if you know better please get in touch!

Miss Galvin's is a tune Tom learned from the whistle playing of Mary Bergin. There seems to be some debate as to whether this is a hornpipe or a barndance. Whatever the musically correct home for this is - we're playing it with a few hornpipes!

The Tailor's Twist (number 213 in Ceol Rince na hEireann volume 3). This is such a lovely hornpipe and not played very often (or not often enough whichever the case may be!).

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Track 6

1. Will You Go Away With Me? - TRAD
2. The Orphan - TRAD
3. Headwood Crossing - Composed by Patrick Davey

In researching this tune and title it seems that there is some confusion between this tune and the tune entitled "Will You Come Home With Me?". The latter is listed in O'Neill's and doesn't bear any resemblance to the tune we recorded or the tune we have learned and yet many recordings are confusingly listing that name as this tune. Confused? We are. Anyhow, we call this jig "Will You Go Away With Me?".

The Orphan Jig was learned from a recording of the great fiddle player Kathleen Collins entitled "Traditional Music Of Ireland". For Tom this was a classic and timeless recording from which he learned many tunes and never tired of listening.

The last tune in this set was composed by Patrick Davey. It's an absolutely gorgeous tune and one that is very hard to forget once it has been learned! Thank you Patrick for a cracking tune!

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Track 7

1. Mayor Harrison's Fedora - TRAD
2. Paddy Fahy's - Composed by Paddy Fahy

Mayor Harrison's Fedora is an old tune collected in "O'Neill's 1001 Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes, Airs and Marches" and listed as tune number 799. It has been recorded quite often and so we decided to play this in a different key that would fit better with the tune that follows.

The second tune is another of Paddy Fahy's compositions (or so we think!). We've taken both of these tunes at a slower pace which we hope suits the tunes and also the listener!

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Track 8

1. Doctor O'Neill - TRAD
2. Humours of Glendart - TRAD
3. Shandon Bells - TRAD

Hooray for three trad tunes! These would be all quite standard session tunes and ones that we would have learned quite early in our playing days. They are all in "O'Neill's 1001 Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes, Airs and Marches" and listed as numbers 6 (Doctor O'Neill), 19 (Humours of Glendart) and the dubious honour of being number 1 goes to Shandon Bells!

Shandon Bells was one of the first tunes Karen ever learned along with Saddle The Pony from "Allan's Irish Fiddler" which was given to her by her first accordion teacher Joe Coll.

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Track 9

1. Orla's Reel - Composed by Paul Ruane
2. Crowley's - TRAD
3. Ormond Sound - Composed by Paddy O'Brien

The first tune was composed by our good friend Paul Ruane to whom we have dedicated the album. A mild-mannered and unassuming man who never mentioned to either of us that he wrote any tunes. As we were travelling back and forth to the UK to see Paul, our good friend Norman Holmes mentioned that Paul had written some tunes. He definitely knew Paul had written one as they had recorded it some years earlier. We asked Norman to send over the track so we could learn the tune and play it in his honour. We think it's a cracking tune and we really wanted to record it so we were very happy to include this tune on an album for Paul.

Crowley's can be found in Ceol Rince na hEireann volume 1 as tune number 137! There's usually a pair of them played together but we felt one was enough for this track. Instead we added a beautiful reel from Paddy O'Brien - Ormond Sound.

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Track 10

1. Billy McCormick - TRAD
2. Rosewood - Composed by James Scott Skinner
3. Gan Aim - TRAD

The first tune was popularised by Paddy Cronin, so much so that it is often known as Cronin's however it can be found in "O'Neill's 1001 Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes, Airs and Marches" as Billy McCormick (number 341).

The Rosewood jig we were happy to learn is a composition of James Scott Skinner. It is a tune that Tom remembers being popular in the north east of England when he was growing up. Due to the proximity to the Scottish border there used to be a lot of Scottish tunes in the local sessions that were for the most part Irish sessions. Tom wasn't particularly good at getting the provenance of tunes back then but it is good that he is catching up a little now. Tom is fairly certain we play this quite differently to how the original composition may have been notated but he thinks this is generally the version played in sessions.

We failed to find a name or source of the last jig sadly. We would love for someone out there to help us with a name if such a name exists! We've both played it for many years so it has been doing the rounds for some time as we're both quite ancient! Hopefully we'll get a name soon so that we can correctly address it!

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Track 11

1. Victory Reel - TRAD
2. The Bunch Of Green Rushes - TRAD
3. The Dairy Maid - TRAD

Another traditional set of reels! The Victory Reel was first learned from the playing of Jackie Daly and Kevin Burke on their seminal album, *Eavesdropper*. The second tune Tom remembers learning (as well as he could) from the playing of Frankie Gavin on his fiddle album with Alec Finn. A tune of the same name can be found in "O'Neill's 1001 Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes, Airs and Marches" as tune number 478 however only the first part corresponds with what we are playing (and also the way he learned it!). The final tune Tom would have learned from the playing of the great Roger Sherlock. It's a personal favourite of Tom's and he was minded of this in many a session with our local flute legend Noel Sweeney.

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Track 12

1. Luckpenny - TRAD
2. Wheels of the World - TRAD
3. The Bicycle Jig - Composed by Steve Cooney
4. Bank of Ireland - TRAD

The first jig takes its name from our album :) Actually, it's the other way around. We were busy having a lovely time earlier this year until our car insurance renewal quote came in. Our car insurance was quite good up till this year when sadly the insurance cartel that is Ireland decided that our car was too old to insure and they would have to increase our premiums by 1000 euros. Nice! So, we were forced into buying a "new" second hand car. We went to our local garage (Peter Hanly Motors of Ballymahon). Peter has this great tradition whereby you agree a price and when you are getting the keys of your new car you also receive a "luckpenny"! It's a fantastic feeling and one that doesn't happen too often these days. But at that moment we knew we had a title for our CD! The second and third tunes seemed to fit so well that we couldn't help but go into them! Tom first heard Wheels of the World on a Mary Bergin album (Feadóga Stáin). These first two jigs are in "O'Neill's 1001 Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes, Airs and Marches" as tunes 290 (Luckpenny), and tune 54 (Wheels of the world).

Steve Cooney explains best how the bicycle jig came about.....

"The tune was written for a film about an Irish Arctic expedition.. I was playing bass with Stockton's Wing at the time and so the lads were in as session players on a couple of trad tunes, the other was a half-reel called Skidoo.. I called it the 'Bicycle Jig' because the footage that it accompanied showed the expedition team cycling around Dublin preparing for their trip, and the sequence started with a close up of the spinning pedals, hence the motif of '354 354'..

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Track 13

1. Merry Days of Easter - TRAD
2. Reel Sam Cormier - Composed by Denis Lanctot
3. Castle Kelly - TRAD

The Merry Days of Easter is a tune that was learned many moons ago at various sessions. It can be found in "O'Neill's 1001 Jigs, Reels, Hornpipes, Airs and Marches" as tune 470!

Reel Sam Cormier is a tune that Tom remembers being played by Brid Harper and Dermot Byrne many many years ago in Listowel. A tape was subsequently made of this session and circulated quite widely around the music scene at the time. We remember being in awe of the repertoire both Brid and Dermot had (and still do!) and how effortless it all was. Those were such happy and musical days!

The final tune of the album is another traditional favourite played in a non-traditional key. We dropped this down into E minor rather than A minor and hope it works. This can be found in Ceol Rince na hEireann volume 1 as tune 108.

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All tracks arranged by Karen Tweed & Tom McElvogue

All tracks recorded January 2017 at The Mill Studios, Clondra, Co Longford

Karen Tweed: Piano Accordion (Siwa e Figli 72 bass)
Tom McElvogue: Flute (Holmes-McNaughton Pink Ivory)

Editing/Mixing/Pre-Masters: N. Holmes

Mastering: Tom McElvogue
Sleeve Design: Tom McElvogue
Cover Photographs: Tom McElvogue

The photograph that forms a backdrop to the album cover was taken in Tullynally Castle Gardens in Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath. If you haven't been I'd highly recommend it.

The photograph on the back cover is an image of the sea in the bay of crabs, Tenerife. A stunning location inhabited by brightly coloured crabs!

The photograph used on the CD print was taken from a bowl of rose petals kindly arranged by Karen.

The inset photograph of Karen and myself was taken at the top of Mount Tiede in Tenerife.

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Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!

...to everyone who has ever contributed to our music along the way.

Karen would like to thank her Dad, Les Tweed, without whose relentless taxi service, homemade wooden accordion cases and late night singing in the car she wouldn't be playing. Bless you Dad (and all the Tweeds out there)....and most importantly to Tom who makes my heart and accordion sing!

Tom would like to thank the tree that had to die to give life to the flute he plays. *"Pink Ivory trees are said to be both rare and valuable, and have been rumored to be "rarer than diamonds." Some reports state that the tree is relatively common in some areas of South Africa—though large trees with straight, defect-free trunks are much more scarce. According to folklore, the tree is considered sacred to the Zulus in South Africa and is reserved for royalty."* I'd also like to thank both Norman Holmes and Bill McNaughton who have been so very kind to create such a beautiful instrument. Their craftsmanship has allowed me to enjoy the fruits of their labours while passing on some of the amazing music that I have had the pleasure to pass on in whatever small way I can. I'd also like to give special thanks to my Mam. My Mam has always supported my hobby of playing music and been both a source of encouragement in my very early days and the steady voice of reason keeping my feet planted firmly on the ground. (Mam, I'm 48 now so you don't need to keep telling me I can't make a living out of music! If I really wanted to I could you know!). Thank you to Karen for coming into my life once again and bringing sunshine into some of the dark corners (and some of the bright ones too!) of an ageing Geordie. You are an inspiration and a constant joy. I couldn't finish without a special thank you to Rafa Benitez - I hope you know what you've signed up for and I hope there's a happy ending for my beloved Newcastle United (he says after a 3-0 win against West Ham, last week was a different story). Hup!

...and lastly, thank you if you've bought this music or are simply thinking of buying it. We offer this, our Luckpenny with love and warmest wishes.