

MIDSUMMER MAY MONDAY SLEEVE NOTES



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Compositions 1 – 3 (Download Track 1)

1. PLANXTY PARR (Karen Tweed - May Monday Horizons Publishing/PRS)
2. DICKEYSTOWN HOP (Francis Ward - IMRO)
3. RUANE THE MAN (Thomas McElvogue - IMRO)

Karen: Planxty Parr was written to celebrate the 50th birthday of Philip Parr who is the director of Parrabolla Theatre Company. I was invited to be their Musical Director for the Community Play 'Land of Liberty' about the Chartists (scriptwriter : Brian Abbot). Philip is quite an inspiring chap.

Karen: I heard 'Dickeystown Hop' while teaching, some years ago at the University of Limerick and it stole my heart.

Karen: I learned my first Tom McElvogue tune when I was 16 or 17 and I have met them in the most unexpected places ever since. They are always a joy. 'Ruane The Man' is one of Tom's more recent wonders and is named to celebrate my and Tom's late and very dear friend and fiddler, Paul Ruane whose music plays on, inspiring us, always.

Composition 4 (Download Track 2)

4. HELEN TURNER'S TEXTET (Karen Tweed - May Monday Horizons Publishing/PRS)

Karen: A fun tune written for a fabulous lady in Gloucestershire whose kindness, laughter and gardening skills, I hold very dear.

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Compositions 5 – 6 (Download Track 3)

5. AMICUM (Timo Alakotila)

6. VÄLKE (Elina Sipilä)

Timo: Amicum (friend) is a piece for a great fiddler a good friend and student of mine Veera Kuisma. She graduated from high school in 2016.

Timo: Elina introduced "Välke" for me at Haapavesi festival 2016, an amazing piece from a great accordionist/ pianist.

Compositions 7 – 8 (Download Track 4)

7. LOVELY LORRAINE (Karen Tweed - May Monday Horizons Publishing/PRS)

8. ROSA KVINT (Mattias Pérez - STIM)

Karen: 'Lovely Lorraine' celebrates a lovely lady, agent and dear, dear friend.

Karen: I was in Karlstad, Sweden at the cosy house of Eva and Bert Deivert when I heard 'Rosa Kvint'. It takes a lot to stop me talking. . .this tune did!

Composition 9 (Download Track 5)

9. TANGUE PURPLE (Timo Alakotila)

Timo: Composed for a very good friend, great composer and full time mum Sarah Wilson on way to Celtic Connections Festival in Glasgow 2016.

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Compositions 10 – 12 (Download Track 6)

10. PILVI AND ESKOS BRUDVALS (Roger Tallroth - STIM)

11. THE DIAMOND (Billy McComiskey - BMI Publishing)

12. MANUKA COTTAGE (Karen Tweed May - Monday Horizons Publishing/PRS)

Timo: I was at Pilvis and Eskos wedding August 2011, was great to play this amazing tune with Väsen and JPP!

Karen: I first heard 'The Diamond' on fiddler Brid Harper's fine solo CD and was enchanted. Billy's tunes have a way of becoming your friend and travelling with you, wherever you go. He told me the story behind it :

'I wrote The Diamond as a "first waltz" for piper Dan Isaacsan and his fiancé Kelly. Dan's grandmother escaped from Nazi occupied Europe and made it to The United States. Her single possession was a Diamond that she'd hidden on her person. Dan had the Diamond mounted on an exquisite ring and gave it to Kelly. They're not married yet. But that's their tune.'

Karen: I wrote 'Manuka Cottage' for Ann and James Latchford of Wick, Worcestershire, England who share my love of all things Manuka.

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Felis Quartet



Sirkka Kautonen, violin
Anja Syvälähde, violin
Helka Hakasalo, viola
Marion Göbel, cello

Shanti Paul Jayasinha, trumpet, fluegelhorn



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Composition 13 (Download track 7)

13. SNOWLAKE (Karen Tweed - May Monday Horizons Publishing/PRS)

Karen : Some of my most vivid and beautiful memories have been during midsummer and midwinter. During both, in 2016-2017, I was in Finland.

Midsummer lakes there, are glorious, mesmerising and unfathomable to the eye.

Midwinter snow there, is delicate, fragile and so very beautiful.

This tune is for Timo.

'Snowlake' inspired lyrics by Steve Pollitt, Bloomington USA entitled 'If We Do?'

Composition 14 (Download Track 8)

14. ROOTS (JUURET) (Timo Alakotila)

Timo: Composed for the band of a great harmonium player Minna Lankinen and her daughter Jonna , premiere was at Toholampi July 2016. Toholampi, a small city in Ostrobothnia which is my Dad Toivo's birth place.

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Compositions 15 – 16 (Download Track 9)

15. TERRY'S TANGO PAINTING (Karen Tweed - May Monday Horizons Publishing/PRS)

16. RANNALLA (Vesa Tuomi)

Karen: 'Terry's Tango Painting' was written for Terry Hulf - for his birthday, his tea dance, his love of dancing tango and to celebrate my love of his paintings and films.

Timo: Vesa Tuomi composed this great tune for Tangomarkkinat-festival in Finland at 1989. I think Karen learned this tune from a great harpist Lily Neill.

Karen: Yes, I did – at the University of Limerick. Thank you, Lily.

Speedy Saarinen, guitars



Catriona McKay, Irish harp

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Compositions 17 – 20 (Download Track 10)

17. MNÁ NA hÉIREANN (Séan Ó Riada IMRO)
18. RICHIE DWYER'S (A Minor) (Richard Dwyer - IMRO)
19. TRIP TO GALWAY (Noel Sweeney - IMRO)
20. COL SIG OF THE 2-2-6 (Eilidh Shaw - PRS/MCPS)

Karen: I have always wanted to play 'Mná Na hÉireann' (Women of Ireland) since hearing it in my teens, from an LP by the Chieftains. It evokes memories you have never had. Originally a poem written by Ulster poet Peadar Ó Doimin (1704-1796), it was set to this air by the late great Séan Ó Riada. Some years ago, Pete Clarke asked me to play this in celebration and memory of his sweet Caroline. This is dedicated to both Pete and Caroline, both wonderful, inspiring and fun-loving friends.

Karen: I learned this beautiful reel (Richie Dwyer's) from my accordion teacher of Irish music, John Whelan, about 38 years ago. John loves hornpipes and wanted to share his love of tunes by Finbarr and Richard Dwyer with me. This tune is an all-time classic from a truly inspirational teacher. Thank you, John.

Karen: I am lucky enough to play, most weeks, in sessions around County Longford, Ireland with the some of the most splendid and inspirational musicians of my whole life. They are great fun, keep me on my musical toes and Noel Sweeney is one of them. A true gentle man, inspiring flautist and saxophonist and superb tunes writer. This is his reel, 'Trip To Galway' which every home should have.

Karen: 'Col Sig of the 2-2-6' . . . what a tune, what a fiddler, what a lady, Eilidh Shaw!

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Composition 21 (Download Track 11)

21. PROLAPSUS (Timo Alakotila)

Timo: Firstly a solo piece for piano; energy for this music came thru my back problems in 2015.

Compositions 22 - 23 (Download Track 12)

22. JILL WALDEN'S MERINGUES (Karen Tweed - May Monday Horizons Publishing/PRS)

23. BLACK AND WHITE (Karen Tweed - May Monday Horizons Publishing/PRS)

Karen: Jill Walden has been in my life for 49 years. Her son, John started school with me and Jill was our school secretary who made you feel safe, important and incredibly special. Jill's meringues, filled with love, matched her laughter which was plentiful. She and John are sadly missed.

Karen: 'Black and White': . . a tune about the little things in life that can drive you crazy. . .

Petri Hakala (with Timo), mandolin and guitar



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Ruth Dornfelt, violin



Thomas McElvogue, flute

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Composition 24 (Download Track 13)

24. TA DA TWEEDIE (Karen Tweed - May Monday Horizons Publishing/PRS)

Karen: Some years ago, while driving back from Cornwall, England, my Dad suddenly asked if I would write a tune for his funeral.

I almost crashed the car.

However, I kept calm and asked if it was because he was planning on leaving sometime soon?

"No," he said, "... it is just that while I do believe in life after death, I just want to make sure I hear it, in case I'm wrong."

He is still dancing, several nights a week and my joy, laughter and best friend. Bless you, Dad.

Timo Myllykangas, Double Bass



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Karen's thanks:

Hearfelt thanks, always, to Dad Tweed, Tom McElvogue, Jacky Dye, Janet George, Norman Holmes, Lorraine Carpenter, Frankie Liebermann, everyone in the Longford Collection at home, Michael and Olivia, Oran, Daire and Niamhy Lennon, Mike Nelson, John Regan, Pete Clarke, The Irish Traditional Music Archive in Dublin and all our generous hosts and inspirational friends everywhere and especially to our guests and Speedy, Timo and Marion for their amazing work on this CD. You are gold dust.

Timo's thanks:

Huge thanks to Marion who took great pictures and helped with every way to make this album to happen! As well warmest thanks to all great guests Ruthie, Catriona, Monstery, Petri, Paul, Speedy, Tom and Felis! Big thanks for inspiration/composing to Minna, Sarah, Veera, Elina, Billy, Roger, Francis, Mattias, Séan, Eilidh, Vesa and Noel! And finally biggest thanks to Karen!

Recording supported by MES

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Midsummer May Monday

Karen Tweed, accordion

Timo Alakotila, piano

With Guest Artists/Co-Arrangers:

Ruth Dornfelt, violin (4,7,8,9,13,14,15,19,20,23)

Catriona McKay, Irish harp (5,6,12,14,16,18,19,20,21)

Timo Myllykangas, bass (4,9,14,15,18,19,20,21)

Petri Hakala, mandolin, guitar (4,8,13,14,19,20)

Speedy Saarinen, guitars (4,5,6,9,13,21)

Shanti Paul Jayasinha, trumpet, fluegelhorn (4,8,12,13,20)

Thomas McElvogue, flute (2,3,19,20)

(Tom plays a Concert D flute in Pink Ivory made by Norman Holmes & Bill McNaughton and an F Prattens Perfected Blackwood Flute made by Ian Corrigan)

Felis Quartet (15)

Sirkka Kautonen, violin

Anja Syvälähde, violin

Helka Hakasalo, viola

Marion Göbel, cello

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Recording/mixing: Speedy Saarinen, Mediagents, Helsinki

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Arrangements: Timo Alakotila, Karen Tweed: 1-24

Producer: Timo Alakotila

Artwork: Mats Vuorenjuuri, Unikuva

Photos and additional Art Direction: Marion Göbel

Sketches: Karen Tweed

Cover Painting: Jarmo Kukkonen

Contact: info@karentweed.com
timoalakotila@gmail.com
www.karentweed.com
www.maymonday.com
www.timoalakotila.com

Karen plays a Beltuna 72 Bass Piano Accordion supplied by Perttu Paappanen at Traditune
www.traditune.fi