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What's new in CDs

03/14/07



HOIST THE SAILS

Hoist the Sails
(Newport)

Now here's a treat for St. Paddy's Day. Celtic music, rich in imagination, has the intrinsic ability to sweep listeners into another place, as Calgary band Fraid Knot demonstrate so well on *Hoist the Sails* - an outstanding mix of originals and traditional gems.

The guys (Byron Eddy, Glenn Webster, Danilo Terra, Ed Williamson and Lael Johnston) pour every bit of energy and passion they can collectively gather into the boisterous project (check out the rollicking, thundering title track and the upbeat, luminous *Beautiful*).

Traditional favourites *Tell Me Ma, Jack (Was Every Inch a Sailor)* and *South Australia* continue in a similar lively vein.

There's much that effectively runs along melancholic tones as well. The disc opens with the beautiful instrumental *Island Lament*.

Slow, mournful and melodic at first, the tune quickly escalates into energetic intensity without losing a shred of poignancy.

Other highlights include the simply-crafted *Seagull's Cry* and the gentle disc closer *Wild Mountain Thyme*.

Anyone who loves contemporary Celtic pop/rock tunes that don't abandon the warmth and textures of traditional styles will enjoy the skills and heart reflected on *Hoist the Sails*.

Rating: 4 out of 5

- Mark Weber

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