

CD Review

'Where the World is Thin' by Kris Drever

Reviewed by Barry Guy

Kris is an Orkney born, Glasgow based multi award-winning guitarist, singer and song writer. After touring with numerous traditional acts, his own profile flourished as part of revered folk experimental trio LAU and more so following the release of his much-loved debut solo LP 'Black Water' in 2006. He has been much in demand since, both as a solo artist and collaborator, working on projects like the 'Lost Words Spell Songs' and as part of Celtic Connections. One of the advantages of being such an accomplished performer is the quality of backing musicians you can invite to play on your album. Having John McCusker and Phil Cunningham included in the list of those contributing to this album says it all!

Kris' voice is ideally suited to the hauntingly thought-provoking lyrics, covering a great vista from personal reflections on leaving your home in 'Sandy' to epic themes like the sinking of the German High Fleet in Orkney at the end of WW1 in the track 'Scapa Flow 1919'. The musical accompaniment is perfectly balanced to complement, but not drown, his voice and provides an upbeat feel to songs addressing what are quite dark subjects of loss and leaving. Eight of the nine songs are Drever originals, albeit one 'Strike the Colour' was written by his talented younger brother Duncan. For the remaining song, 'Westlin Winds' he tackles one based on words written by Robert Burns in 1775 and more recently made popular by Dick Gaughan.

You can buy the CD and find out more about Kris on his website

<https://www.krisdrever.com/> where you can also listen to his music and even get a few playing tips.

