

'Awakening' by Ímar

Reviewed by Carl Filby



Ímar are another Celtic band (I have reviewed a few recently) who are described in their PR material as a Scottish/Irish/Manx alliance although all the band members are apparently based in Scotland. In 2018 at the BBC2 Radio 2 Folk Awards they won the Horizon Award for 'Best Emerging Act'

The members of the band are Mohsen Amini (Concertina), Adam Brown (Bodhrán), Tomás Callister (Fiddle), Ryan Murphy (Flute, tin whistle & uilleann pipe) and Adam Rhodes (Bouzouki) and as is common they all play in other bands, notably Amini in 'Talisk' and Brown in 'Rura' whose album 'Dusk Moon' has also been reviewed by [Unicorn Folk](#).

This is their third studio album and their first for five years and was released on 21st April 2023.

The CD comes in a good quality 3-piece folding cover with the striking image of Ímar, the Norse Gael King from whom the band take their name, on the front.

Most of the tunes are original arrangements by the band, with credits to individuals shown against sections in the overall title given to each track, augmented by a number of traditional tunes usually mixed in as a section of a particular track.

I often find it difficult to pick out favourite tracks in an album without vocals, more so when I enjoy an album such as 'Awakening' for two reasons. First, I find that my 'favourite' tune often changes so that I start off liking 'Legal Tønder' for example but will then start appreciating other tunes as I play the album more often which brings me on to my second point. I do play the album and not just sample tracks or add favourite tracks to more general playlists. I think good albums have a kind of internal integrity which enhances the music as a whole when played in one session and this is certainly true of 'Awakening'.

Ímar have already done a brief tour to promote the album but more details about the band and some upcoming gigs can be found on their website: <https://www.imarband.com>