Martin Hayes' Under the Moon: A Journey into 13 Celtic Fiddle Solos



In the realm of Irish traditional music, few musicians have captivated audiences with their artistry and soulfulness like Martin Hayes. His mastery of the fiddle has earned him worldwide acclaim, and his album, "Under the

Moon," stands as a testament to his profound understanding and love for Celtic music.



Martin Hayes - Under the Moon: 13 Celtic Fiddle Solos

by John T. Molloy

★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Released in 2005, "Under the Moon" is a collection of 13 solo fiddle pieces that showcase Hayes' virtuosic technique, lyrical interpretations, and deep connection to the Irish musical tradition. Each piece is a sonic journey, inviting listeners into the heart of Ireland's ancient musical landscapes.

Echoes of Irish Tradition

The album's title, "Under the Moon," reflects the mystical and ethereal atmosphere that pervades the music. Hayes' fiddle melodies dance and soar like moonbeams, painting vivid pictures of Ireland's rolling hills, misty glens, and starlit skies.

The solos are rooted in centuries-old Irish fiddle traditions, with Hayes drawing inspiration from legendary players like John Doherty and Paddy Canny. However, Hayes' interpretations are uniquely his own, infused with his own personal style and interpretations.

Hayes' Masterful Musicianship

Hayes' playing on "Under the Moon" is simply breathtaking. His fingers dance across the strings with effortless grace, creating intricate melodies that seem to float through the air. He expertly employs a wide range of bowing techniques, from long, sustained notes to rapid, rhythmic flourishes.

Hayes' mastery of ornaments and variations is particularly noteworthy. He weaves intricate trills, rolls, and grace notes into his melodies, adding a layer of embellishment and complexity that elevates the music to a new level.

Evocative Melodies

The 13 solos on "Under the Moon" showcase the vast range of Hayes' musical imagination. From the haunting and melancholic "The Farewell to Music" to the joyous and energetic "The Gravel Walk," each piece is a unique musical statement.

Some melodies evoke the majesty of the Irish countryside, with their sweeping lines and evocative imagery. Others capture the essence of Irish dance, with their lively rhythms and infectious energy. Throughout the album, Hayes' deep understanding of Irish culture and history shines through.

Technical Mastery

Beyond its artistic merits, "Under the Moon" is also a testament to Hayes' exceptional technical prowess. His flawless intonation, precise timing, and incredible dexterity are evident in every note.

Hayes' ability to control the dynamics of his playing is particularly striking. He can create the most delicate whispers or soar to thunderous heights with equal ease, drawing listeners into the emotional depths of his music.

Beyond the Notes

The music on "Under the Moon" transcends mere technical proficiency. Hayes infuses each note with a sense of passion, longing, and joy that is truly captivating. His playing speaks directly to the heart, evoking a deep emotional response in listeners.

Through his music, Hayes transmits the rich cultural heritage of Ireland, connecting listeners to the land, the people, and the traditions that have shaped it. "Under the Moon" is not just an album; it is a journey into the very soul of Irish music.

A Lasting Legacy

"Under the Moon" has been hailed as a masterpiece of Celtic fiddle playing and a significant contribution to Irish traditional music. It has received numerous awards and accolades, including the BBC Radio 2 Folk Album of the Year award in 2006.

Hayes' album continues to inspire and enchant listeners around the world, introducing new generations to the beauty and power of Celtic music. It stands as a testament to his exceptional talent and his enduring legacy as one of Ireland's greatest musicians.

Martin Hayes' "Under the Moon" is a captivating journey into the world of Celtic fiddle music. Through 13 enchanting solos, Hayes showcases his masterful musicianship, deep understanding of Irish tradition, and profound connection to the human experience. This album is not just a collection of

songs; it is a sonic tapestry that transports listeners to the heart of Ireland and leaves a lasting impression on the soul.



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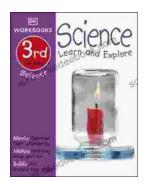
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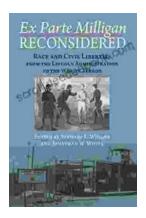
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