

Merrijig Creek

All-new Tunes and other
arrangements
by Fintan Vallely

With Caoimhín Vallely, piano; Sheena Vallely, flute; Brian Morrissey, bodhrán; Liz Doherty, fiddle; Dáithí Sproule, guitar; Gerry O'Connor, fiddle. Produced by Niall Vallely.



Here are new tunes and arrangements on concert flute marking Fintan Vallely's fifty-seventh year playing music. With him are musicians with whom he has played over the years: **Sheena Vallely**, his sister, is also on flute; framing and highlighting the music with superb piano melody and accompaniment is their cousin **Caoimhín Vallely**, a founder-member of the bands **North Cregg** and **Buille**. On bodhrán and percussion is Tipperary-born **Brian Morrissey**, and on fiddle is Donegal player **Liz Doherty**, of **Nomos**, **Fiddlesticks**, **The Bumblebees** and the international **String Sisters**. Also on fiddle is **Gerry O'Connor** from Dundalk, of the band **Skylark** and, with Eithne Ní Uallacháin, **Lá Lugh**; with Fintan he also performs and recorded with the audiovisual concert show **Compánach**. Guitarist **Dáithí Sproule** is here also, a soloist and singer, who was a member of the legendary **Skara Brae**, and has toured and recorded with Altan and Liz Carroll.

There are fifty minutes of music on Merrijig Creek, spread over ten tracks, a tastefully-balanced blend of 28 reels, jigs, airs, other tunes and arrangements. Eighteen of the twenty-eight pieces were made by Fintan between the years 1977 and 2017; the other ten are favoured, complementary pieces that came out of travel, session playing and listening.

Merrijig Creek can be purchased from **Claddagh Records** and other outlets.

Available online from www.whinstone.net for €15, worldwide postage included

Set 1: The Three Sisters (5'53"). 'An Grianán Feasa' (2'08"; Fintan Vallely), 'Merrijig Creek' (1'44"; Fintan Vallely), 'The Clonakilla Reel' (1'58"; Fintan Vallely). **Set 2: From Ballinakill to Ballinascreen** (3'59"). 'The Shoemaker' (1'04"; Lucy Farr), 'Music on the Wind' (1'04"; Lucy Farr), 'The Banba' (1'49"; Fintan Vallely). **Set 3: Emilia Romagna redoubt** (4'31"). 'Per i Morti di Reggio Emilia' (1'55"; Fausto Amodei), 'The Reggio Jig' (2'35"; Fintan Vallely). **Set 4: Roving rhythm** (4'32"). 'The Wounded Huzzar' (2'02"; Trad. Arr. Fintan Vallely), 'Captain O'Kane' (1'13"; Turloch Carolan), 'The Crosses of Annagh' (1'20"; Trad. Arr. Fintan Vallely). **Set 5: The Humours of Blundell's Grange** (5'00"). 'The Dark Loanen' (1'33"; Niall Vallely), 'The Miltown Collector' (1'11"; Fintan Vallely), 'Maisie Friel's' (2'20"; Fintan Vallely). **Set 6: Gregorium uproarium** (5'01"). 'Ómos Tadhg MacSweeney' (2'01"; Fintan Vallely), 'Raithneach a Bhean Bheag' (0'46"; Trad. Arr. Fintan Vallely), 'The Musical Priest' (2'14"; trad. Arr. Fintan Vallely). **Set 7: Homage to Brian Keenan** (4'23"). 'Syrian Sky' (0'42"; Fintan Vallely), 'Trip to Damascus' (1'52"; Fintan Vallely), 'Farewell to Lebanon' (1'50"; Fintan Vallely). **Set 8: The maid of Annaghmakerrig** (4'04"). 'Fool's Errand' (0'44"; Fintan Vallely), 'Judith Guthrie's Jig' (3'26"; Fintan Vallely). **Set 9: The rambles of grappa** (5'25"). 'Valentia Regatta' (1'33"; Seán Ó Riada & John Kelly), 'Garvey in the Sea' (1'57"; Fintan Vallely), 'The Verona reel' (1'54"; Fintan Vallely). **Set 10: The Ballyconnell Colours** (6'40"). 'Five Women and a Fiddle' (1'45"; Fintan Vallely), 'The Rockforest Reel' (2'14"; Fintan Vallely), 'The Wild Goose Chase' (2'42"; Fintan Vallely)

