

***** Press Release 12/2020 *****

Artist: Niamh Ní Charra

Album Title: Donnelly's Arm

Label: Imeartas Records (Ind)

Cat. No: IMCD005

Length: 56:21

Bandcamp link: <https://niamhnicarra.bandcamp.com/album/donnellys-arm>

Synopsis:

Two hundred years ago the boxing pioneer from Dublin's docklands, Dan Donnelly died. Discovered by piper and aristocrat Sir William Kelly, he famously beat three English prize-fighters of the time and was proclaimed Ireland's champion. This colourful character subsequently became a proprietor of several bars in Dublin, garnered a reputation for gambling, womanising and drinking and in 1820 passed away at the young age of 31.

Shortly after his burial in Bully's Acre his body was snatched by grave-robbers on order. Donnelly's admirers tracked the body down to a surgeon and it was returned for burial - minus his right arm! Legend has it that Donnelly's arms were unusually long and the surgeon successfully negotiated to keep one for medical research. It eventually made it back across the Irish sea where it was displayed firstly in a pub in Belfast before finally returning to Kildare, the scene of his first successful fight.

Dan Donnelly is one of several people and events commemorated in this latest album which was influenced by Niamh's upbringing in the musically rich area of Sliabh Luachra in Kerry, her time spent in Dublin, her travels playing music internationally, and her work as a professional archivist.

Alongside regulars Kevin Corbett and Dom Keogh, guest musicians Kate Ellis, Órlaith McAuliffe, Claire Sherry and Mikie Smyth also join.

Reviews:

"This album is a pleasure from start to finish – great tunes and great playing; full of life, emotion and that extra little something that makes the music sparkle. "

The Living Tradition

"Ní Charra is a superb, multi-dimensional musician, but she also has the sort of outstanding taste and reach that can really take a recording project and tie it together. The results here are a total knockout!"

Irish Echo

"Ms Ní Charra has perfected the art of the medley, mixing and matching styles and rhythms in a single set, constantly adding little surprises... One of the best albums of 2021 so far!"

Folkworld

Previous Reviews:

CUZ (2014)

“Everything about this album is heartfelt and well researched. It is impeccably presented, brilliantly performed and tells a compelling story about music and community – it’s a winner.”

Irish Echo

“Niamh Ní Charra’s beautifully rough-hewn collection celebrates Sliabh Luachra’s bounties with chutzpah”.

Siobhán Long, The Irish Times

INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR 2014

Chicago Irish American News 01/2014

Súgach Sámh / Happy Out (2010)

“A startlingly mature collection...that further sculpts her musical identity with both grace and danger... A wonderful, unforced further step into the limelight.”

Siobhán Long, The Irish Times (4 Stars) 09/2010

“Happy Out could well be one of the best albums of 2010, so don't miss it.”

Living Tradition Magazine, 01/2011

On Dá Thaobh / From Both Sides (2007)

“The aptly named *From Both Sides* reveals a wonderfully sensitive player of airs (on both instruments), a sprightly interpreter of itinerant harper Carolan’s music, someone innately capable of rendering the jauntiness of hornpipes and a marvellously dextrous player of her county’s pet tunes.”

Froots Magazine

“Major debut album from Riverdance fiddle/concertina player (& top musician chums). Eclectic trad and original tunes, played with exquisite virtuosity, heart and charm.”

BBCRadio2

Other

"She is an undisputed master of Irish music and the total performer. Focused, at ease with her instrument and has so much energy that she could power a small city."

James Keelaghan, Artistic Director Summerfolk Festival, Canada

FEMALE MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2014

LiveIreland Music Awards 2014