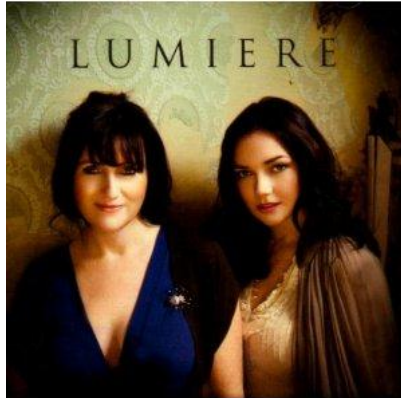


Lumiere - Lumiere (IRL)



There's probably nothing you haven't heard before on this offering from Irish duo Éilis Kennedy and Pauline Scanlon. That's not a put down, it's a statement of fact since the 11 numbers here are all well turned folk classics that include Fair And Tender Ladies, The Poor Wayfaring Stranger, and Martin Wyndham Reed's tale of notorious New South Wales bushranger Ben Hall, The Streets of Forbes.

Admittedly, Fíll, Fíll A Rún Ó, Ca Rabhais Ar Feadh An lae Uaim and Edward On Loch Erne's Shore(also known as Edward On Lough Erin's Shore) from the Irish tradition may not be quite as familiar as Spencer The Rover, but they all underline the setting of the girls' musical compass.

Both hailing from the Kerry town of Dingle, each has earned popular and critical notice as individuals but together they seem to set to reach a much wider audience with their pure harmonious voices and the vibrant and organic Gaelic mood of the music and arrangements. They also have a couple of guests on board. The second verse of their glorious hymnal setting of Thomas Davis' poem The West's Awake sees them joined by Damien Dempsey with James O'Grady providing pipes and whistles and high acoustic guitar by John McLoughlin while Seamus Begley sings harmonies and the third verse of wistful lullaby Óró Mo Bháidín.

The booklet is superbly presented and the photography is high class and the design a joy, and admirably the words of the songs and some personal background about each of them are included. With a full colour booklet that includes both lyrics and song notes, this is an auspicious debut and one likely to illuminate the best of lists of traditionalists and contemporary folk fans alike.

www.lumieremusic.net

www.myspace.com/lumieremusicofficial

Mike Davies October 2010