

## SONGLINES REVIEWS

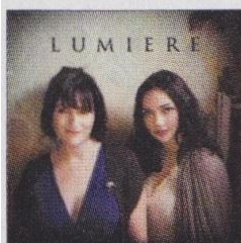
### Lumiere Lumiere

IRL

Full Price (44 mins)

★★★★★

*Inspiring debut of elegant Irish folk-pop*



The eponymous debut offering from Lumiere heralds an impressive and altogether bewitching partnership between seasoned vocalists Éilís Kennedy and Patricia Scanlon. Both hailing from Dingle in County Kerry, and both with established solo careers – Scanlon was a featured soloist with the Sharon Shannon Band for three years, and garnered a Meteor Ireland Music Award nomination for her debut solo album *Red Colour Sun* in 2004 – *Lumiere* pitches the duo somewhere between Enya (without the arch, hyperventilated feyness) and *Sean-Nós Nua*-era Sinéad O'Connor (without the studied solipsism).

Deftly blending traditional and modern idioms, Kennedy's long, lithe, luminous harmonies mesh seamlessly with Scanlon's evocative, ethereality to conjure a sound

that manages to be both hauntingly timeless and elegantly fresh.

Familiar tracks of love, longing and loss from their native Ireland and from Australia (the spryly delivered 'The Streets of Forbes'), America ('The Poor Wayfaring Stranger' a liltingly poignant lament) and England (the beautifully brittle 'Spencer the Rover') are all re-minted. With matchless instrumental support from the

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likes of fiddler Séan Regan, James O'Grady's pipes and whistles, and guitarist Donogh Hennessy, guest vocalists Damian Dempsey ('The West's Awake') and Séamus Begley ('Óró Mo Bháidín') cut across the polished grain to make valuable contributions of their own. Producer John Reynolds (who helmed Scanlon's solo debut and whose past credits include O'Connor, U2 and Natacha Atlas) frames proceedings with a warm array of seductive, watercolour-soft atmospheres. Lumiere look set for big things in the year ahead. On the strength of this first offering, they more than deserve it.

Michael Quinn

**D** Songlines Digital subscribers can download a free track from this album. See p73 for details



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Lumiere's vocalists Éilís Kennedy and Patricia Scanlon from County Kerry