

## Liner Notes

This is the stuff that would have been in the CD booklet, had there been a CD booklet. You know, the stuff that adds a little color...the stuff that lets you know about all the trials and travails of putting the CD together. Unfortunately, at the time of this writing, there seem to be no trials or travails, just mostly my own little insecurities that keep popping up.

I find myself surrounded by some incredibly talented people, including Jon Baade, who engineered this project and has come up with some pretty quirky, if not bizarre, ideas and suggestions, as only his mind can do. (Jon is a bit demented. We were a good fit for this project.)

Then there is John Van Thiel. John is responsible for the CD layout and design. John seems to know exactly what I am thinking, then pulls it off. He is also my proofreader and editor, so if his name is misspelled, it's his own fault. In addition to all this, John is one of the best Elvis impersonators I have ever heard. [www.elvoicepresley.com](http://www.elvoicepresley.com)

If it wasn't for these two, I would still be just thinking about doing this CD.

*g Angus*

## Aengus' Notes on the Tunes

- 1 The Hanging Of Jamie Macpherson (Hurdy Gurdy) 3:16  
(*Macpherson's Lament/Farewell Johnny Miner*)  
I really like what we did with this one! Some may think it a bit deranged, but I think it is best with headphones on. Be sure to read "The Hanging of Jamie Macpherson" on the inside cover. *Farewell Johnny Miner*, written by Ed Pickford, is used with permission. Visit [www.ed-pickford.co.uk](http://www.ed-pickford.co.uk).
- 2 Coilsfield House (Hammered Dulcimer) 3:56  
I have loved this tune for about 20 years.
- 3 Itsy Bitsy Kid Song (Hurdy Gurdy) 2:28  
(*Itsy Bitsy Spider/Twinkle Twinkle/This Ol' Man*)  
The children really make me smile. I had some great times with them over the years, so this is for the kids. So children dance, sing, find something to bang on, and most of all have fun!
- 4 Carolan's Receipt (Hammered Dulcimer) 3:44  
The word "receipt" in Carolan's time meant a prescription, as we would get from our doctor. Carolan wrote this in honor of his friend Dr. John Stafford who, although he wasn't Carolan's physician, did give him a "receipt" to start drinking again after his regular physician had told him he had to stop. He wrote the tune bright and early after his first long night of drinking with Dr. Stafford.
- 5 Boatie Medley (Hurdy Gurdy) 4:47  
(*Sky Boat Song/Mingulay Boat Song/Sailor's Prayer*)  
Some tunes about boaties and sailing and hoping ye donnae sink or drown! *Sailor's Prayer* was written by Rod MacDonald and is used with permission. Visit [www.rodmacdonald.net](http://www.rodmacdonald.net).
- 6 An Tsean Bhean (Hammered Dulcimer) 3:19  
An old Irish tune. The title, when translated, means "the old woman." She seems plenty spry, don't you think? Jon Baade adds the guitar to this one.

- 7 She Moved Through The Faire/A Maid in Bedlam  
(Hurdy Gurdy) 2:45  
Ghosties and insanity...how utterly delightful.
- 8 Si Bheag Si Mhor (Hammered Dulcimer) 2:47  
This was Carolan's first attempt at composition. His inspiration was a story told to him by Squire Reynolds (his first patron) of Si Bheag and Si Mhor, two ranges of hills nearby that were, according to local lore, the seats of two groups of battling fairies. Jon Baade on guitar and Lindsay Jensen on fiddle join me on this one.
- 9 Horse Bransel (gone native) (Hurdy Gurdy) 2:31  
This is the obligatory French tune for hurdy gurdy. We just had to mess with it. I almost renamed it "French Missionary Soup." Is nothing sacred?
- 10 Wild Mountain Thyme/Caledonia/Galway Shawl/  
Bonny Portmore (Hammered Dulcimer) 5:19  
Quite simply a nice medley of tunes, each one a personal favorite of mine.
- 11 Lass Of Fivie/Healy's March (Hurdy Gurdy) 3:25  
This is a pair of Scottish marches that I think go together just fine. Jon is banging the drum!
- 12 Twa Bridgets (Hammered Dulcimer) 2:54  
(Bridget Cruise 3<sup>rd</sup> Air/Bridget O'Malley)  
Tourlough O' Carolan wrote the first piece for his first love, Bridget Cruise. It is the third of four airs he wrote for her. The second tune is *Bridget O'Malley*. I think Jon did well on the drum in this tune, which gives it a nice medieval sound.
- 13 Bantry Girl's Lament/Ragland Road (Hurdy Gurdy) 3:06  
"The absence of love is the most abject pain." —Nosferatu

14 Greensleeves (Henry's Insanity) (Hammered Dulcimer  
and Hurdy Gurdy) 4:10

There is an enduring notion that Henry VIII wrote *Greensleeves* for Anne Boleyn. The way I see it, Henry couldn't have written this song for the Lady, then have her head lopped off. I added my hurdy gurdy to give an eerie counter melody that brings out the insanity in Henry's head.

Personally, I think Mark Smeaton wrote it, and Henry had his head lopped off under the pretense that Smeaton had an affair with his Anne. That way he could lay claim to the song. Just as plausible as Henry writing it, ya think?? Anyway, that's my story, and I am sticking to it!

15 Amazing Grace (Hurdy Gurdy) 3:21

This brings it all to an end and, to me, what it is all about.

Well, there you have it. I certainly hope you have enjoyed this collection of tunes as much as I have enjoyed bringing them to you. I hope I will be able to do it again sometime in the future. Thank you for your patronage and support—without you, the audience, I would be sitting in my living room playing for my doggie.

*& Aengus*

*aka Jim Petersen [www.greyaengus.com](http://www.greyaengus.com)*