

BALLYCOTTON – Fantasy Folk

Instrumental compositions and sophisticated arrangements take the listener on the fantastical journey which immerses him into a world of legends and myths. Pictures of an unforeseen world appear.

The band successfully merges the musical styles from different cultures, letting them develop into something special, something completely new that is Ballycotton.

Enjoy guitars, violin, accordion, percussions, bass and overtone singing.

‘Sheet lightning illuminates the horizon. Bright red leaves crackle in the bonfire. A wisp of fog floats over the valleys and mountains ... Images like these are captured by the spiritual eye when listening to *Jenseits vom Ende der Zeit*. The new album by the successful Austrian fantasy folk group Ballycotton is just waiting to be heard. With the 13 treasures that the innovative quintet pulled from the fires of creativity, the musicians have once again proven that they belong to the crème de la crème of the Austrian folk music scene. And also that the wait was well worth it for the exceptionally gifted instrumentalists’ steadily growing, loyal audience: The album takes Ballycotton’s music to a new level and unites quick, guitar-oriented folk hits with groovy gypsy rhythms; dreamy violin sounds with soulful accordion passages, and earthy percussion with exotic overtone singing. And above it all, there’s a magic that transports the listener to broad musical horizons ...’

(Mario Kern, journalist, poet)

Musicians and instruments:

Christina Gaismeier – violin

Alex Koenig – guitars

Peter Beinhofer – accordion, voice

Robert Polsterer – guitar, e-bass, voice, overtone singing, jew’s harp

Harald G. Binder – percussion

International Concert Highlights:

Festival Mediaval III and V at Selb, Kultursommer Bielefeld, Wilde Toene Festival Braunschweig, St. Patrick’s Day Parade Munich, Summer-Sound Gelsenkirchen (Germany), L’inoui Redange (Luxemburg), Sun-Yats-Sen Memorial Hall Taipeh, Chihteh Hall Kaohsiung, Chungshang Hall Taichung (Taiwan)

Discography:

Fairytale (1997)

A La Cut (2001)

Mondland (2003)

Eyla (2005)

Ballycotton-Portrait of a band (DVD, 2006)

Jenseits vom Ende der Zeit (2009) (*Beyond the edge of time*)

Contact:

Mobile: +43 (0) 680 1225313

E-mail: kontakt@ballycotton.at

www.ballycotton.at

Greenmanreview (USA):

'Once in a while, you find music that's addicting, lifts your spirit, makes you laugh and takes you on a wild ride you won't soon forget ... Ballycotton's music is a must-have ... This is an up-and-coming band that deserves some worldly attention.'

Taiwanfun (Taiwan)

'With such diversity, this music offers something for everyone. Ballycotton has toured Taiwan several times and is building quite a following. Pick up the CDs to find out why.'

STIRRINGS MAGAZINE (UK, Nr. 138/2009)

'[...] Their music is almost exclusively instrumental; even the vocal elements, mostly overtone singing (and a touch of yodeling), is used purely texturally, as another instrumental tone colour (and even that sparingly, on just a couple of pieces). The compositions all originals by group members mostly embody a strong element of dance therein, but don't adhere to any particular dance-form; they're possessed by a kind of sense of controlled abandon, even when there's an obvious deliberate progression or musical journey therein. In their invigorating and freewheeling mix, elements of gipsy, Latin, flamenco, Balkan, Russian, middle-eastern and classical flit in and out all the time, often giving an impression of edgy restlessness but, contrary to what the band name might suggest, there's not really anything approximating to Irish folk, either in spirit or letter. One or two of the more sedate-tempo pieces may be felt to meander a tad, even considering their organic nature, but the musicianship is immensely assured, both reliable and accomplished, and Christina, Alex, Peter, Robert and Harald are clearly enjoying their quirkily inventive brand of music-making. You may find it just a bit bewildering on first listen, as several of the pieces run into one another and the transitions between different musical episodes, even within those pieces, are often quite unexpected, but your patience is rewarded manifold. Stimulating and enjoyable world-folk-fusion doesn't come much better than this.'

Folk World (March 19, 2009)

'[...] With Ballycotton definition is difficult. Don't try. Let this music guide you through to a dream-like world, a fey place of fairy people imbued with ancient folk magic. Think of floating violin, gentle baroque touches diverse Eastern-tinged gypsy rhythms, the tightest of spot-on pulsating percussion, overlaying medieval-folk with myth and fantasy. Do all that and you have only an idea of Ballycotton's sound. There's a subtle mixture here that defies classification.

'[...] This is mystic music both for meditating and for dancing. This is music for spirit. It's both uplifting and entrancing. In one minute it expresses feelings hundreds of years old the next it delivers a rush of newborn thought.'

Sonic Pages Vienna (A, Vol. I, Nr. VIII 2009)

'[...] Stepping out into a contemporary world with roots based on history along with the desire of continuing the traditions of our forefathers, Ballycotton's music is the perfect soundtrack for our times. Ballycotton ambitions are to build bridges between cultures while introducing the values of life from ancient times into our modern era. The music of fairylike violinist Christina Gaismeier and the four bearded wild men – Alex Koenig on guitar, bouzouki and mandolin; Peter Beinhofer on accordion and vocals; Robert Polsterer on guitar, e-bass and vocals; Harald G. Binder on percussion – take one on a journey into a dream universe, a world of fantasy stories and magic. Their diverse and ingenious style is attributable to the versatility of the musicians, their rainbow of personalities and their disparate musical roots.'