



Celtic Connections

The folk music group Celtic Connections – based in Gothenburg, Sweden – will shortly release their first full length album entitled "Spindrift". The album contains traditional music from the Celtic nations, including Ireland and Scotland and others, and the arrangements are inspired by numerous styles and traditions; among others flamenco, jazz, West African folk music and Balkan music.

Celtic Connections was founded in 1990. Under the leadership of the charismatic Irish singer and bodhrán-player Jonathan McCullough the group experienced great success, performing in many of Scandinavia's top music festivals at the time as well as touring Ireland two summers in a row. Celtic Connections' interpretation of Celtic music was new, daring and innovative, and attracted great attention both in Sweden and elsewhere. Celtic Connections' activities also resulted in the creation of Gothenburg Irish Festival, which grew to become Scandinavia's biggest Irish culture festival and was held annually between 1995 and 1998.

In 1995 Celtic Connections recorded a full length album entitled *Spindrift*, but since the group broke up shortly thereafter the album was never mixed and released. Jonathan McCullough passed away in cancer in 1999, and as a result of this the master tapes of the recordings vanished and the project fell into oblivion.

In November 2017 the fiddle player Jonas Liljeström took the initiative to locate, mix and release the lost tapes. Three of the disappeared tapes turned out to be in the possession of Jonathan's relatives in Belfast but the fourth tape, which contained the last three tracks on the album, could not be recovered. A raw mix of the album had however been recorded on a cassette tape – with this recording as a source, the three lost tracks have been restored and are enclosed as bonus tracks on the album.

By releasing *Spindrift*, Celtic Connections want to ensure that their music lives on and reaches a new audience. The release of the album also marks the reunion of the group!

The release of *Spindrift* has been financed through a generous grant from the Church of Sweden.

Members:

Jonathan McCullough – vocals, bodhrán
Jonas Liljeström – fiddle
David Stiernholm – tin whistle, low whistle, oboe, willow flute
Kristin Lidell – trumpet, accordeon, djembe, shaker
Emil Pernblad – guitar
Greg McDermott – piano

Performer: Celtic Connections

Title: Spindrift

Release date: 2018-10-06

Catalog number: CELTCD001

Label: Liljans antikvariat

Distribution: Digital distribution through Spotify, iTunes, Amazon and others. Physical distribution through Bengans.se, CDON.com and others.

Recommended radio tracks: *Miner's Minor / Kid on the Mountain* (track 2), *Talking Me Talking Free* (track 3), *Oh! If I Knew But Her Name* (track 9)

Press material and website: www.liljansmusik.com

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