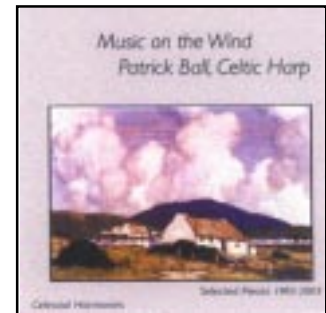


celestial harmonies

music on the wind:
selected pieces 1983-2003
patrick ball
celestial harmonies 13235-2
cd - 0 1371 13235 2 8
file classification:
world music (celtic)



the artist

Patrick Ball is one of the premier celtic harp players in the world and a captivating storyteller in the Celtic tradition. He has recorded nine instrumental and three spoken word albums which have sold well over one-half million copies internationally and won national awards in both the music and spoken word categories.

He has written and currently performs two critically acclaimed solo musical theater pieces—*O'Carolan's Farewell to Music*, and *The Fine Beauty of the Island*, a musical journey to Ireland in search of the origins and meaning of a deeply haunting tune that is said to float on the winds of the long-abandoned Blasket Islands.

On **JAMES JOYCE FINNEGANS WAKE, EXCERPTS READ BY PATRICK BALL (14113-2)**, Ball's understanding and love for the Irish wordplay combined with his expertise in traditional Irish music he seamlessly blends the Celtic Harp with each piece emphasizing the music of the words.

the project

In 1983, Patrick Ball recorded his first album, **THE MUSIC OF TURLOUGH O'CAROLAN** and brought alive the legendary sound of the wire-strung celtic harp and the compositions of its most celebrated master.

Over the next two decades, he recorded seven more tremendously popular celtic harp albums for the Celestial Harmonies/Fortuna Records label, performed thousands of concerts, and wrote and performed two acclaimed solo musical theater pieces in regional repertory theaters throughout the United States.

Whether in the recording studio, the concert hall or the theatrical stage, the celtic harp was always central and the praise unanimous. *Variety* enthused, "Hauntingly beautiful...a gem of a show." The *Oakland Tribune* described a recent performance as "...soothing, thrilling and haunting....one glorious tune after another." The *Courier Journal* of Louisville, KY described Patrick's playing as "ethereally gorgeous...almost a spiritual experience." And the *Washington Post* found the recordings full of "transporting lyricism and charm."

Now, to celebrate twenty years since the release of his first landmark album, Celestial Harmonies presents **MUSIC ON THE WIND: SELECTED PIECES 1983-2003**. Included are 22 tracks drawn from all of Patrick's albums—the tunes that most enchanted his listeners. Of this release, Patrick writes:

"There is an old Irish legend that tells of a fiddler who would sit and listen at certain *gentle* places in the countryside and hear drifts of music on the wind. He didn't compose this music. It was given to him as a gift.

I would love to be able to say that I heard the tunes on this album rising out of the mists of Ireland. In truth, I heard them from fiddlers, pipers, flute players, and harpers, all of whom received them from musicians before them.

When I was asked to select my favorite pieces from all my recordings for this album, I thought it would be a difficult business. In the end, it turned out to be fairly simple. I sat and listened. And chose these. To me, they are all gifts, all music on the wind."

