



## Celtic Rituals

Clíodhna Ní Aodáin - cello & vocals

### Dedication

For my parents, Marion and Bernard, who have given me everything. Thank you. Míle Buíochas!

### 1. Fáinne Geal an Lae (Daybreak)

Offering a whisper of an old Irish Song. I imagine the first light of a new day, breaking over the horizon.

### 2. Tha Mi Sgìth (I am Weary)

From Scotland, this wonderful melody tells the tale of a heartbroken Fairy King who is forbidden to marry his mortal love and condemned to spend eternity pulling the weeds from his Fairy mound.

### 3. Idir Eatarthu (Between Worlds)

Inspired by an ancient Celtic term describing a transitional or transformative space that is neither one place nor another, but the space between the two. Particularly apt for the world we currently live in.

### 4. Cailleach na gCrann (The Tree Witch)

The lyrics for this song are the names of Celtic trees sung in Irish. In the Forest near my home there are a number of ancient trees that I regularly visit and appreciate.

*Beith gheal* (Birch), *Caorthann* (Rowan), *Fearn* (Alder), *Saileach* (Willow), *Fuinseog* (Ash), *Sceach gheal* (Hawthorn), *Dair* (Oak), *Cuilleann* (Holly), *Coll* (Hazel), *Úll* (Apple), *Muin* (Vine), *Gort* (Ivy), *Biorrach* (Reed), *Draighnean donn* (Blackthorn), *Ruis* (Elder).

### 5. Port na bPúcaí (Song of the Pookas)

One of the blessings of 2020 was finding the online masterclasses of the legendary Irish Fiddler, Martin Hayes. I have had the great privilege of studying with Martin and this track is inspired by his playing. Originally from the Blasket Islands, the story goes that a fiddler heard this tune on the waves one night and sang it all night until he had it memorized.

### 6. Donnachadh Bán (Pale Donnacha)

A sister's lament for her brother Donnacha, who was hanged unjustly by the English. Inspired by the singing of Darach Ó Cathain.

### 7. Ag Teacht in Aois (Coming of Age)

There are very few rituals in our western society. This piece marks a young person's transition from being a child to being an adult.

### **8. Solstice**

I have always been fascinated by the summer and winter solstices, which are the turning points in the solar year. This piece is my vision of ritualistic possibilities.

### **9. Dóin Dú (Dotie Potie)**

An old Irish love song, there is no real translation for the title, which is a term of endearment, so I added a family equivalent. The amazing sean-nós singer Saileog Ní Cheannabháin gave me this tune.

### **10. Ancestors**

A blessing and honouring of our ancestors who gave us the gift of life.

### **11. Anam Chara (Soul Friend)**

A love song for my Darling.

### **12. Reconciliation**

An original composition expressing the forgiveness and acceptance that hopefully occurs after a difference in opinion.

### **13. Misty Mountain**

Imagined music from an envisioned ancient place.

### **14. Ritual Fire**

Regardless of culture, all our ancestors would have participated in Fire Rituals, gathering around a fire to dance, grieve, sing and celebrate the cycle of life.

**A massive thanks to my friend and sound engineer Darren Hayne, who mixed and mastered the final version, as well as being a huge musical, technical and emotional support throughout the whole process.**