

# WALTZING FOR JOY

Dan Brouder and Angelina Carberry in conversation with IMM's Eileen McCabe.



It's high praise when you have liner notes on the cover of your latest album describing it as 'one of the best banjo and accordion duet recordings of all time', especially when the man imparting the praise is Cork fiddler, Connie O'Connell. That's just what appears on the sleeve of *A Waltz for Joy* which encapsulates the synchronicity of the avid box playing of Dan Brouder and the intricate weave of the banjo from Longford based Angelina Carberry.

"We've been playing together for the last eight years and we had never recorded anything together," Dan tells me. "Then we did a festival over in Norway last year and met the cello player, Snorheim, who we played tunes with and we thought she was superb. So much so that we ended up asking her if she would like to play a few tracks on an album that we were thinking of making and she said she would love to. We never got around to recording the album at that time but then last year we got a

but in *The Tunes of the Munster Pipers* it's played with sharps so that kind of changes the tune a little bit. It was nice to come across different versions of tunes. We found a nice version of *The Blackbird*, of which there are lots of versions, and we really liked this one," Angelina adds.

"The album's mainly accordion and the banjo and Angelina plays the tenor guitar on track eight. We tried something else as well; we had two bouzoukis playing together, an Irish and a Greek bouzouki played by Brian Mooney and Ruairi McGorman. Johnny Moynihan and Alec Finn did it in the early days with two Greek bouzoukis but this track is with an eight string Irish and a six string Greek one. I had it in my head a while to do it so we tried it and it turned out lovely. It's nice to try new things and it's nice when they work out too." Dan laughs. "We recorded just down the road in Paul Gurney's Studio in Longford; he's an excellent sound engineer. Myself and Angelina had prepared every-

**"Myself and Angelina had prepared everything beforehand and the whole thing was done in about a week"**

phone call from her and she said she was coming to Ireland for about a week and would be able to do the recording," he explains. "We had the album planned for a long time," adds Angelina, "and we kept saying we would do it. Then when Siri told us she would be in Ireland and would come to Longford then that was the real start of it all." She smiles.

*A Waltz for Joy* stays true to the past and showcases the musical stalwarts of the present. "There's new compositions from great composers like Charlie Lennon, Connie O'Connell, Nan Tom Teaimín de Búrca, Richard Dwyer and Finbarr Dwyer and the rest we sourced from a collection of music that was collected in 1860 called *Tunes of the Munster Pipers Volume 2*. They were actually tunes that were played around Ireland pre-famine around the 1820s and forgotten about now, Nicholas Carolan of *Come West Along the Road* was telling us about them so we looked the book up and bought it and looked at all the tunes and picked out ones we liked," Dan says.

"One of them, *Tatter Jack Walsh* is a well-known tune in a slightly different setting. It would normally be played in the minor/c natural key

thing beforehand and then it went to editing and the whole thing was done in about a week."

There are quality guests on the release. "We play a lot with Brian McGrath and he plays well with us and we like John Blake's backing style; we thought it suited us and what we were doing," Dan explains. "Johnny Ringo McDonagh is lethal on the bodhrán and the lads on the two bouzoukis worked really well together and it was something new. Siri, on the cello, worked really well with the Irish music and James Blenerhasset was brilliant on the soft double bass. We were also delighted to have the artwork designed by Jesse Smith. I think it will be a great tool book for young musicians with tunes that are part of the real old tradition. A way to look at researching this music and keeping it present."

Both Angelina and Dan have showcased *A Waltz for Joy* at various venues around Ireland. There's more to come though, so don't miss out on this exquisite pairing. Head to [www.danbrouder.com](http://www.danbrouder.com) for all the info.