

RON JAPPY

Vincular

Bow Fiddle Records, 10 tracks, 43 minutes

www.ronjappy.com

Ron Jappy was before the pandemic, an in-demand accompanist on the Scottish traditional circuit. Originally from Moray he began his musical life as a fiddler and has toured professionally playing that instrument. His accompaniment credentials are many; folks he's backed include Rachel Hair, The Scott Wood Band and Skerryvore.

The album has a large cast of characters; there are 14-featured artists in all. Ron playing guitar on most tracks and highlighting his fiddle playing on A Day To Remember and Shalom.

Most of the tracks are full-on band productions, from the opening Trouble to Ron's own Ashley Park, expect a fiddle lead, a big splash from the percussion and flowing harmonic underbelly. Ron's A Day To Remember is somewhat different, his fiddle and Alistair Iain Paterson's piano weaving gently through the piece. Mairead Nan Cuiread is a sombre moody song in Gaelic, sung by Ainsley Hamill; the song builds over a simple but aggressive drum riff, the song climaxing on a high choral explosion.

Interlude does seem to be incidental music, whilst Tactical Penguin is a tune that is going places, with its opening salvo from an electric guitar and repeated fiddle motif, I can see crowds dancing to this next time we are allowed back in a crowded dance hall.

If you need a gentle moment, single malt melody then Shalom will fill your glass. To wake you from your reverie the album ends with another big production, this time the song A Place Called Home. Ron Jappy shows his skill not just on many instruments but also as a visionary arranger. In his hands the Celtic big band remains a formidable musical concept.

Seán Lafferty - Irish Music Magazine

