

RON JAPPY

Vincular

Bow Fiddle Records

The name Ron Jappy may not be that familiar to you, but I suspect quite a few of you may have seen him play. For the last ten years, he has played with or accompanied the likes of Claire Hastings, Iona Fyfe, Joy Dunlop, Mànran, Jamie Smith's Mabon and Skerryvore. Ron, who comes from Findochty on the North-East coast of Scotland, started off his career as a fiddle player, but is now also sought after as an arranger, producer, teacher, guitarist and pianist.

He describes his debut album, *Vincular*, as 'diverging from the norm and celebrating the role of the accompanist'. He is indeed 'accompanied' on this album by thirteen of the top Celtic folk musicians in the business, including Innes Watson, James Lindsay, Alice Allen and Lissa Robertson. There are ten tracks, including both songs and tunes, many written by Ron or other artists and one taken from the tradition called 'Mairead Nan Cuiread'.

The album starts with a set of three fast jigs, which he has called 'Trouble'. This track does sound a lot like the aforementioned Skerryvore and there is some fine piping by Scott Wood. The pace of the album varies from track to track. 'Ashley Park' is a modern tune written by Ron and inspired by a love of 3/4 retreat pipe marches, and 'A Day To Remember' is a waltz composed as a wedding gift for two friends, Brendan and Karen Toal. The pace quickens again with a set of reels called 'Tactical Penguin', which again features the pipes and an electric guitar solo by rock maestro Euan Malloch. The last track, a song called 'A Place Called Home', has a pop feel and features the singing of Ainsley Hamill.

Vincular is a very accomplished piece of work. I think we will be hearing a lot more of Mr Jappy in the forthcoming years and not just as an accompanist. Check out more about Ron and this album at www.ronjappy.com

Graham Hobbs - Shire Folk

