

Moorland Winds

By

Sarah Copus

Written by

Steve Sheppard

To be honest I wasn't sure what to expect with this new release from Sarah, I have known *2002* for eons now and expectation was high, but we can confirm that she has solidly taken her place and stands not only with her parents in a musical masterclass of excellence, but now on her own right as a performer that has an amazing potential to achieve literally anything she wishes.

One can tell by the opener that she means business; it's called **Wind on the Moor**. Her skills on the harp are blissful and the violin on this piece creates such a wonderland of Celtic harmony.

I'm quite glad in a way that this album has crossed my desk as I have been thinking for some time about putting a Celtic music special show together for *One World Music Radio*, now I have more material, and this one is a cert to make the playlist should I do so, and called **Rights of Man – Off To California**. This jig is a real fascinating combination of instrumentation, **Sara Copus** has brought a delightful sense of movement and rhythm into this fun and light-hearted composition and one that reminds me of Celtic band *Govannen*.

This musical journey dear reader is a real pleasure to walk, and with the talented hand of **Sarah Copus** at the wheel, we can be assured of a truly fresh and fascinating sojourn. As an example of the abilities of the musician listen to a track you may remember best from the artist *Sting*. **Fields of Gold** is a stunningly beautiful song filled full of passion and desire and Copus puts in a superb performance here. I have sung this song myself, and I can tell you it's not that easy, a splendid rendition.

Next up is a piece called **Merrily Kiss The Quaker – The Mist Covered Mountain** and it's time to jig to another reel, one that has a sense of liberated fun about its energy. There is simply nothing to dislike about this track and this is placed cleverly to make us feel that through music, we are once more off on another pathway through the labyrinths of this fantastic release.

For a moment, let's stop once more, we can now feel that all around us the day has just about started and through **Foggy Dew** that is portrayed brilliantly. There can be no denying that Copus is a fine Harp player, and while we watch the mists rise to unveil another day, we can bathe in her rich tones of Celtic magic and mystery.

On **Gleanntain Ghlas Ghaoth Dobhai**, which I believe translates into the green glens of Gweedore, we have another precise performance from the young artist, this is sung in the Irish Language and wonderfully so. This is a track that seems to float across the mind, like a dove dancing with the Sunday morning sun.

It's time to pick up your knapsack and once again we're on our way, we can dance along the hill sides and through the valleys onto our next stop with the lively, **Hut on Staffin Island-Paddy's Trip to Scotland**.

At this point we now find our journey has taken us into the second half of the album where we find a fine composition called **Star of the County Down**. Now ease back to this lovely arrangement, this is so carefully and delicately played and also a piece that creates a great atmosphere as it goes.

Walking in the Air, this is usually a song we hear every Christmas, but the composition seems to fit the overall collection and project with a sublime majesty. The vocals of the young Copus seem to have an equal measure of talent with her skills on the harp; a nice production can be found here, some clever overlaid vocals that manifest something truly special, all this goes to create a very class filled offering.

Once more it's time to move onward, and we can do this with the energy created by this next piece called, **Buttercup Spree-Garret Barry's-Clare Jig**. **Sarah Copus** has created a brilliantly thought out intent to move us through

the project with these wonderfully styled up-tempo musical links, nothing more than sheer genius at work.

As we break from our reel, you will find yourself in a sun kissed meadow of many delights called **Down by the Sally Gardens**, yet another example of the musician's prowess on both harp and angelic vocals; her tone and pitch reminds me so much of Celtic singer *Juliana*.

We're now very deep within the album and we come across a dreamy opus called **Dawning of the Day**, this is an opportunity taken by the artist to once more deliver a perfect performance on Harp. The tempo and energy of this composition is like drifting down a stream on a hot July morning.

So now let's go homeward and jig our way through the green meadows and run down the footpaths; we can do this to an arrangement called **Harvest Home-Boys of Bluehill**. This slice of classic Celtic refrain will lead us right into the loving arms of the last track on the album called **She Moved Through the Fair**. Now if you haven't heard this composition before, where have you been? **Sarah Copus** has decided to leave us with this parting gift of an all-time legend of a song. This has been covered, re-arranged and performed by many, many artists over the decades, but we must honestly say that this careful and very respectful version is one very classy rendition, and as such she leaves us with a moment of sublime class and professionalism.

With the background and support that **Sarah Copus** has, it's no wonder that the release of this her debut album is going to be a huge success, however one has to say that each track has been carefully crafted, subtly arranged and produced, and the layout of the release, cleverly thought-out. **Sarah Copus** will, in years to come, look back at this album and be very proud of what she has achieved, but for now she can sit back and watch her legacy grow, as **Moorland Winds** is a superb first release, from an artist of such tender years, but immense talent.