

Pat Walsh
Simply Whistle

Bunowen Music

The longstanding Manchester-based Irish whistle player Pat Walsh has recorded and released an album of 19 traditional and composed tunes, many of her own making.

Listening to this CD, it is obvious that recording is something she should really have got around to years ago. Now it's finally here, it is lovely and beautifully recorded. Pat should be very proud.

Her graceful, dancing, even shimmering, whistle playing is a real joy. Her decoration is always effective, well executed and never overdone, nothing is rushed or too fast, and her phrasing is impeccable.

The way Pat plays is almost conversation-

al – I've never met her but hearing this CD, I feel I could have known her for years.

For this is the most autobiographical CD package I've seen. The 12-page book of notes packed with tiny photos tells the story of her musical life around Manchester and in Ireland, and her highly musical close family, relations and friends.

Like her life in traditional music, *Simply Whistle* is sparkling with excellent accompanists who really need no introduction, including Michael McGoldrick (who also produced and engineered the album), John Doyle and Tim Edey.

The only thing I'd change about this album would be to have the accompaniments just slightly more prominent in the mixes, for these are all very fine players.

I enjoy all the tracks so much that I'm unable to name a favourite, but if there's a sound I'd like to hear more of, it's Pat's high whistle accompanied by either Mike's low whistle or his C flute. Either way, it's a marriage made in heaven!

Available from patwalshwhistle.com

Gavin Atkin