



#134 February/March 2008 – Review

CARA In Between Times

Cara is a German band that has taken inspiration from Irish and Scottish traditional music in order to form a new and unique sound. Each of the four musicians have been instrumental in the German folk scene and have been part of such groups as More Maids, Adaro, DeReelium, Steampacket and La Marmotte, as well as active studio players.

The CD opens up with "Poisoned Peas", a variant on "Lord Randall" (made famous by Steeleye Span), which spotlights the duo vocals of Sandra Steinort (who also plays superb piano and flute) and Gudrun Walther (who also doubles on fiddle and viola). The band also tackles such standards in the tradition as "The House Carpenter", "The Maid of Whitby", and the Tannahill Weavers' ode to whales, called "Bustles and Bonnets". Supporting both the songs and several sets of dexterous reels and jigs are the talents of flute, whistle, and concertina player Claus Steinort, guitarist Jürgen Treyz, and Rolf Wagels' powerful bodhrán playing. Their musical fireworks can best be heard on the set of reels called "The Flying Sofa", which features some particularly fine fiddle work by Walther.

Lahri Bond (Leverett, MA)

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