



MALINKY

scotland's finest folksong quintet

"May be the finest young Scottish band since Silly Wizard" **Boston Globe**

"Malinky should be one of the folk bands of 2009" **The Guardian, UK**

"Scots music at its most evocative" **MOJO**

"producing great music...another gem of Scottish folk" **Irish Music Magazine**

"a class act...just gets better each time you play it" **fRoots**

"just glorious" **Living Tradition • ★★★★★ Rock'n'Reel**

BOSTON GLOBE TOP 10 PICK OF 2008
FOLK BAND OF THE YEAR NOMINEE, SCOTTISH TRAD MUSIC AWARDS 2008

With their stunning fourth album *Flower & Iron*, Malinky celebrate their tenth anniversary and introduce a newly revamped line-up, meanwhile underscoring their reputation as one of Scotland's most distinctive and accomplished folk bands. While retaining their hallmark song-based repertoire, performed by three superb lead vocalists and arrayed with tastefully inventive instrumentation, Malinky today unite seasoned maturity with sparkling freshness, casting their musical net wider than ever.

Formed in Edinburgh in 1998, Malinky showed their mettle early on by winning a prestigious Danny Kyle Open Stage Award at the following year's Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow. Ten years on, the two remaining members from that founding line-up – Steve Byrne (vocals/bouzouki/guitar) and Mark Dunlop (vocals/whistles/bodhrán) – are now joined by Fiona Hunter (vocals/cello), who replaced original lead singer Karine Polwart in 2005, alongside recent recruits Dave Wood (guitar/bouzouki) and Mike Vass (fiddle). With Dunlop hailing from over the water in Antrim, and Wood from Derbyshire, their respective roots in Ulster song and English tradition add further vibrant layers to Malinky's core Scottish sound.

Malinky's three previous recordings, *Last Leaves* (2000), *3 Ravens* (2002) and *The Unseen Hours* (2005), all on top Scottish folk label Greentrax, have each won successively greater acclaim, establishing the band not only as outstanding interpreters of traditional song, but as equally gifted exponents of contemporary material. This breadth of artistry is firmly to the fore on *Flower & Iron*, with Hunter, Byrne and Dunlop all taking turns to shine on vocals, while Wood and Vass bring renewed dynamism and verve to the instrumental arrangements. Combining the very best of tradition and modernity, hard-earned experience and revitalised enthusiasm, Malinky enter their second decade with the world increasingly at their feet.

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