

We open with *The Dear Green Place*, a song first recorded by Alan way back with Battlefield Band. It recounts the legend of Glasgow's origins and its more recent industrial history. *The Final Trawl* is Archie Fisher's fine elegy on the demise of the Scots fishing industry. *Glesca Peggy* (Child Ballad 228) has a Glasgow lass being abducted and taken to the north by her Highland captor/suitor who happily turns out to be both rich and generous. *The Drookit Road* mixes Lowland Scots and English in its tale of regret. The popular Scots actor of yesteryear, Roddy McMillan, added verses to *I Will Go, I Will Go*, a song on the endless tribulations of the 18th. century Highland soldier. *By The Dry Cardrona* was written by New Zealand poet James Keir Baxter and comes from a radio play (also a film) called *Jack Winter's Dream: the play relates the story of an old prospector in the Depression years who has a dream about his young days in the goldfields* (Scheelite, incidentally, is a component of tungsten and is found in the Otago mountains). *Lady Kilmarnock's Lament* is another song reprised by Alan, first recorded on a 1978 album *Sidetracks* (with Battlefield Band colleague Brian McNeill) which was sadly deleted around 1982. The theme of *The Islander* is the conflicting pulls of the city and island and is followed by the well-loved island tune *Leaving Lismore* (Fàgail Liosmòr in Gaelic, or the great garden). *Will Ye Go Tae Flanders* is another favourite traditional song (with added verses by singer John Faulkner) whose antiwar message still resonates. *Bess And Her Spinning Wheel* was a song composed by Robert Burns from a melody derived from the much older *Cosen Cole's Delight* from the Playford collection of 1700. It's played here as an air before *Mary Scott Flower of Yarrow*, a melody dedicated to the 16h. Century beauty who was also an ancestor of Sir Walter Scott (across the border it's known as *Sir John Fenwick's The Flower Amang Them All*). *The Gambler* is a warning to all smitten by the bug to desist and to beware of false friends. We close with *Ruthwell*, a reflective piece on a rare early Anglo-Saxon cross which lies within a church in the village of Ruthwell in Dumfriesshire.

Musicians:

ALAN REID: vocals, piano, accordion, guitar, church organ

ROB van SANTE: vocals guitars, bass, egg shaker

STEWART FORBES: clarinet, saxophone (tracks 1,5)

FELICIA DALE: hurdy gurdy (tracks 2,5)

ALISTAIR RUSSELL: harmony vocals (tracks 1,5)

Recorded and engineered by **ROB van SANTE**

Produced by **ROB van SANTE and ALAN REID**

We recorded this album on the hoof in many different and unusual places and are thus mightily indebted to a host of people: but special mention must go to Carole Etherton, Andrew McKay, Jane Yolen, Judy McDowell, William Pint, Felicia Dale, Yvonne and Catherine O'Grady, Bill Montgomery, Jil Chambless, Dan Vogt and not forgetting Llangennith Church in South Wales as well as Torrance Bowling Club. Grateful thanks to all.

Cover painting of ships on the Clyde in 1832 is used by kind permission of Glasgow Museums/Glasgow Life Photo Library (<http://www.csgimages.org.uk/>)

Track Order:

THE DEAR GREEN PLACE - Alan Reid, PRS

THE FINAL TRAWL - Archie Fisher

GLESCA PEGGY - trad. arr. Reid/van Sante, PRS

THE DROOKIT ROAD – Alan Reid, PRS

I WILL GO, I WILL GO - trad./arr. Reid/ van Sante, PRS

BY THE DRY CARDRONA - Baxter/Tomms

LADY KILMARNOCK'S LAMENT - trad./Reid, PRS

THE ISLANDER - Reid, PRS /**LEAVING LISMORE** - trad. Arr. Reid/van Sante PRS

WILL YOU GO TO FLANDERS - trad. Arr. Reid/van Sante, PRS

BESS AND HER SPINNING WHEEL / MARY SCOTT / FLOWER OF YARROW - trad. arr.
Reid/van Sante, PRS

THE GAMBLER (A Gullible's Travails) – Alan Reid, PRS

RUTHWELL – Alan Reid, PRS