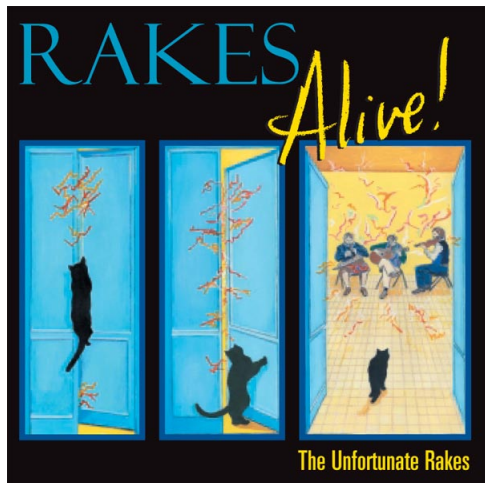




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The Words of Others

“certainly alive with the magic of three different minds disciplined to ravel their instincts together, apart, together again... Michael DeLalla's finger-style guitar genius is akin to that of Tony McManus and of the inspired constructionisms of John Doyle of Solas.”

- *Green Man Review*

The Unfortunate Rakes

Rakes Alive!

FM-1038, CD only

Produced by The Unfortunate Rakes

About this Title

Rakes Alive! was recorded in concerts at the venerable Wayside Theatre in Middletown VA and during Winchester VA's First Night celebration. *Rakes Alive!* captures their signature sound developed over a quarter century of performing together in the immediacy and energy of the concert hall, where the electricity flowing between the trio and their audience is palpable. Their usual eclectic mix of music from many Celtic lands is fleshed out with old favorites such as "Merrily Kissed the Quaker" and "Ballydesmond", heart-stirring songs such as "The Ould Triangle" and the Breton anthem "Ne Bado Ket Atao", and new standardbearers like the plaintive "Eagle's Whistle" and "Jackson's Frieze Coat". Fifteen selections adding up to over an hour of music, including nine pieces never before recorded by the Rakes, make this a most satisfying addition to any Celtophile's library.

About the Artists

Jigs, reels and waltzes; stories of false love, faraway places and fierce pride; the Shenandoah Valley-based group The Unfortunate Rakes bring all these and more to their performance of traditional music from Ireland, Scotland, England, Brittany and even Canada, tracing the far-reaching influences of Celtic music. The dynamic Celtic trio, comprised of **Michael DeLalla** on guitar, bodhran and vocals, **Chas Fowler** on tin whistles, pipes and flutes, and **Bruce Wilkin** on fiddle, tenor banjo and vocals, have steadily become one of the mid-Atlantic region's premiere Celtic groups; their "Celtic Suite", a collaboration with choreographer Erica Helm, premiered at Washington's Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Discography

FM-1038	<i>Rakes Alive!</i>	2003, CD only
FM-1022	<i>The Strayaway Child</i>	1997, CD/tape
FM-1008	<i>Banish Misfortune</i>	1994, out of print

The Unfortunate Rakes

Rakes Alive!

FM-1038, CD only, Total Time 61:15

For interviews or other artist relations, please visit the artist page at our website, www.FallingMountain.com, for email links and contact info.

To the DJs: These program notes are designed to make it easier to quickly navigate the track information on this CD. We at Falling Mountain Music appreciate you taking the time to review new material and add it to your library, and we hope you enjoy the music.

PROGRAM NOTES

1. Opening Air/The Unfortunate Rake/The Road to Lisdoonvarna/Morrison's Jig 4:33

These jigs, including the tune for which we are named, have been in our repertoire from the beginning.

2. Merrily Kissed the Quaker/Cunla 4:23

We first heard these two tunes paired by guitarist Pierre Bensusan. We decided to keep the pairing and add our special touch.

3. Ne bado ket atao! (This Will Not Last Forever!) 1:49

The lyrics, written by Yann-Ber Piriou, tell the story of hardship borne by the people of Bretagne who to this day struggle to maintain their unique and decidedly Celtic culture. Alan first recorded this piece on his early album "E Langonned", and graciously granted us permission to record it.

The style of singing is peculiar to Bretagne, and is known as kan ha diskant, or "song and counter song".

4. Patch-Pi 2:32

More music from Bretagne. A Patch-Pi is a circle dance. We don't know of any other recordings of this tune.

5. Off to California/The Peacock's Feather 3:33

*Another pair of tunes that we've played for a long time; we also recorded them on *The Strayaway Child*.*

6. Man of the House/Touch Me If You Dare 3:29

The guitar is a relatively new addition to the family of Celtic instrumentation. Here, we omit it to invoke the spirit of early seisiun (session) music, with just unison melody and bodhran.

7. Return to Fingal/Banish Misfortune/Julia Delaney 7:10

We have no compunction about mixing tunes from, say, Scotland and Ireland, as we do here. Banish Misfortune was the title cut of our first recording.

8. Mrs. Sterling 2:52

This O'Carolan piece had never been recorded before we did it on Banish Misfortune. To our knowledge, it still hasn't been...

9. Port Lairge/Spanish Ladies 3:10

Two classic polkas from our earliest days.

10. Ned of the Hill/A Fig For A Kiss/The Rights of Man 7:08

An air, a slip jig, and a reel comprise this set. It was a happy accident at the Wayside Theatre concert, where we weren't even planning on playing it, but inserted it at the last moment.

11. Introduction to The Ould Triangle 1:02

12. The Ould Triangle 3:04

Brendan Behan wrote this song that opens his first play "The Quare Fellow", produced in 1954. The play is based on Behan's imprisonment from 1942 to 1946 in Mountjoy Gaol for "republican activities". Our audience was gracious enough to help out on the chorus.

13. Da New Rigged Ship/Da Full-Rigged Ship 3:43

*We first recorded this pair of tunes from the Shetland Islands on *The Strayaway Child*. The applause in the middle is for dancer Erin Conefrey, who performed a wonderful solo at the Wayside concert.*

14. The Eagle's Whistle 6:26

This piece has become a fixture in our concerts. During the American Civil War, both armies maintained Irish brigades, who marched with their own musicians. This tune was a favorite of both North and South. There is a poignant story, perhaps apocryphal, of when both armies were encamped on the Rappahannock River the night before the Battle of Fredericksburg. A musician on one side began playing a tune, perhaps this tune, only to be joined by his musical compatriots across the river. Our rendition begins as a plaintive air, then becomes a march that evokes the battle of the next day, complete with a cannonade-like guitar part.

15. Jackson's Frieze Coat 2:26

Walter Jackson was an 18th Century piper to whom many tunes are attributed, including the venerable "Drowsy Maggie" (though we don't play it here). Many of his tunes refer to garments made of "frieze", a coarse, shaggy woolen cloth. Perhaps, if Maggie would ever wake up, he could shed such uncomfortable clothing...

16. Ballydesmond/The Red-Haired Boy 3:24

We closed the concert at Centenary Church, a First Night Winchester celebration, with this set of tunes that have been with us from the beginning.