

CELTIC SPELLS

Máiréad Nesbitt in conversation with Robert Heuston for Irish Music Magazine.



Robert: Can you tell us the story and background to *Celtic Spells*?

Máiréad: The story behind *Celtic Spells* is a true story of a young couple's journey from Ireland in the early 1900's.

That was really my main inspiration for bringing *Celtic Spells* together. The story of my close friend and co-creator Ed Keane's family on their journey from Ireland to the USA against all odds.

Celtic Spells is a love story between a young man and woman. An instant, passionate, soulful connection. A spell was cast between them, even though they were from different backgrounds. The choice is to stay

or go...to follow the heart...or surrender to demands of family, of culture, of times, of religion. They were told - know your place, accept your life. A new life in a new land may be more than a heart could celebrate - and endure. Love and loss. Passion and struggle. As old a story as any could be, as real and relevant as today. This is their story; these are their *Celtic Spells*.

Robert: How excited are you about the release of the new album and what can the listener expect?

Máiréad: I am very excited about the release of my new album *Celtic Spells* in March with Valley Entertainment! Out now is my single *Man of the House* from *Celtic Spells* on all streaming platforms.

I wanted to bring some songs and tunes that people know and love with some beautiful original pieces to make a tapestry of a journey. The



listener can expect to be brought on this journey through the different "spells" on the album and in the show.

I am delighted to have a great balance of original music, of dearly loved songs and of rare and well known Irish Traditional tunes.

Neil Grover (former Boston Pops percussionist and owner of Grover Pro Percussion) and myself put all the music together along with the brilliant orchestrations from Cork born composer Peadar Townsend. To work with my brilliant brother Karl Nesbitt is always a treat for me! Karl played bouzouki, flute, low whistle, bodhrán and co-arrangements on the album.

What has really blown me away is that *Celtic Spells* sounds epic, a testament to the amazing orchestrations and arrangements and hundreds of hours of home studio work to ease budget. I'm happy to say that it sounds as if we had all the budget in the world! To also have done all this remotely is truly remarkable. The journey of the recordings themselves span from the East Coast, USA to West Cork, Ireland to Bournemouth, UK to Nashville and then to mastering in Hollywood! My aim is to bring the listeners on that journey.

Robert: You are starting a series of Tour dates in March 2023. Where can audiences see you Live and will there be a Live Stream offering also?

Máiréad: Audiences can see *Celtic Spells* live starting on the West Coast, USA with dates on my website, on Bandsintown and at edkeane.com

Follow me and *Celtic Spells* on socials for other possible streaming options. All links are below in the QR code and at maireadnesbitt.com

“The listener can expect to be brought on this journey through the different "spells" on the album and in the show”

Robert: How has life been for Máiréad Nesbitt, the musician post Covid-19 and what challenges have you faced?

Máiréad: *Celtic Spells* has been my main project during Covid and to make it a reality post Covid is a dream come true! It is probably the first album that people will see Covid in the credits! This is purely because Covid taught us all that despite dealing with a crippling pandemic worldwide, the human spirit could prevail and band together remotely from different corners of the Earth to create beautiful music. This is what happened with *Celtic Spells*. It is truly a massive achievement and testament to the brilliant people who worked on both the album and the show to be able to bring it to fruition.

I am very grateful to get *Celtic Spells* into venues for 2023. The venues themselves are faced with funnelling through concerts that had been postponed all the way from 2019 through to 2022. This poses real challenges for musicians who hope to get into venues for 2023 and onwards. I am grateful to have coveted dates for *Celtic Spells* and even more dates booked once the venues really get up to speed.

Robert: Outside *Celtic Spells* what other plans have you in place for 2023?

Máiréad: I have solo performances and trio performances in place for 2023. I enjoy collaborations and I have a few of those coming up with some great artists. My online shop for my Violin line and signature bows, Music, Lessons, Cameo personalized messages and more is at maireadnesbitt.com

Follow @maireadnesbittcelticviolinist and @celticspells on socials.

For further details scan this QR code for all things Máiréad!

