

## TIM MOHER

### Clefs of Moher

Own Label, 13 Tracks, 51 Minutes [www.clefsofmoher.com](http://www.clefsofmoher.com)

After retiring in 2016 Tim Moher visited the old country. Totally smitten, on his return home to Canada he began work on the music for this album. His Celtic jazz ensemble features his saxophone, uilleann pipes, one fiddle, cello, two percussionists, bass, keys, guitar, trumpet and a French horn. This album is a joyous trip around Ireland, with track titles recalling places that mean so much to Tim: the *Wicklow Mountains*, *Dublin*, *Cashel*, *Edenderry* and yes the *Cliffs of Moher*.

That title Track, *The Clefs of Moher* is a jig played on sax and whistle, full of feet lifting energy. His *Dublin Romp* reminds me of Keith Donald in his pomp, whilst his rock of *Cashel* is like a 1950s Cadillac ride around the Golden Vale. *Danny Boy* is played as an air; the cello and piano are prominent in this arrangement. His *Wicklow Mountain* is a shoe in for an Irish dance show, its middle section recalls *Moving Hearts* at their best.

Track 11 is digitally labelled as *Galway Bay*. The track begins on pipes and whistle, before a slow air from Tim's rich saxophone takes the reign, the piece picking up tempo with percussion and a key shift into a funky big band section, before a bass and piano's late night jazz vibe interludes until the sax and whistle gently walk us out of the music.

*Down by the Sally Gardens* introduces us to the voice of Shannon Kingsbury, a simple beginning with acoustic guitar, joined later by a resonant electric guitar and lush vocal harmonies. Michael Kelly Cavan sings his own *Child of Immigrants*, a powerful evocation of what it is to be one the first generation Diaspora.

Ninety years ago the Irish Church railed against jazz in Ireland. Today in our more enlightened times this album will lift your spirits and like the country itself, its variety and complexity will leave you spellbound.

**Seán Laffey**