

Artist – Michelle Burke

Title – STEP INTO MY PARLOUR

Label – Kilcronat Records KLC002CD

Release date- April 20 2015

*“Daft and heartwarming” *****

The Scotsman



One day while Michelle and her sister Laura were having biscuits, cakes, club orange and chatting a mile to the dozen, they came up with a beguiling idea triggered by their recent discovery of their great grandmother's dusty old scrapbook. It blossomed - and Step into my Parlour was born.



Michelle's 'Parlour' is very much inspired by all the characters, music and family gatherings that surrounded her growing up. The album takes its audience back to her great-grandmother's era, with a quirky mix of traditional and music-hall songs, plus a song in similar spirit by Edinburgh's Sandy Wright, *Dublin Diner*.

Step into my Parlour started out as a duo performance by Michelle and long-term musical partner James Ross during a run at the 2012 Edinburgh Fringe Festival in the iconic Royal Oak bar. It has grown arms and legs in the course of subsequent stagings. The show featured as part of The Made in Scotland and Summerhall programme at the 2014 Edinburgh Fringe. Most recently the show featured in The Old Fruitmarket at Celtic Connections festival 2015 in Glasgow which surely sets a new record as the world's biggest parlour.

Cathal McConnell (Boys of the Lough) has been a great inspiration, mentor and friend to Michelle and has been a huge influence on this project, indeed Cathal joins Michelle on two songs on this album *Dan O'Hara* and *So Here's To You*.



STEP INTO MY PARLOUR was recorded in June 2014 and features a stunning line-up of musicians and guest singers including legendary Irish singer Maura O' Connell, Rhiannon Giddens (Carolina Chocolate Drops & The New Basement Tapes) and Heidi Talbot. Produced by Calum Malcolm (Blue Nile) the album also features James Ross (piano), Anna Massie (guitar, mandolin and banjo), Brendan Power (harmonica), John Kenny (trombone), Kathleen Boyle (accordion) and Martin O' Neill (bodhran).

Burke hails originally from rural East Cork, where she grew up in a music-loving household - who join her on grand-aunt Peggy's party piece Whooped and Died. Michelle studied music at University College Cork; where she earned a B/Mus and went on to earn an MA in Irish Traditional Music Performance at the Irish World Music Centre at Limerick University. Since 2002 she has been based in Scotland, honing her craft in the thick of today's dynamic Scottish folk scene. In April 2008, she signed up as lead singer with the long-established and illustrious outfit, Cherish the Ladies and spent two years touring extensively with them, singing to crowds of thousands across North America, Alaska, Canada and Europe performing in art centres and folk festivals. She sang on their critically acclaimed album 'A Star In The East' and has performed with several symphony orchestras throughout America.

To view the promo video for STEP INTO MY PARLOUR, please click on the link below <http://youtu.be/xWXp7cr5qQE>

"Burke's voice shows traces of the earthiness of Dolores Keane" **Hotpress**

For more information and the latest tour dates, please visit www.michelleburkemusic.com

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