

## MICHELLE BURKE

**THE IRISH TIMES \*\*\*\* “A delicious selection of parlour songs”  
“Burke takes each song by the scruff of the neck and makes it her own”.**

A dusty old scrapbook filled with songs and housekeeping tips which was owned by her great-grandmother, inspired the latest album from Michelle Burke, formerly the lead singer with Irish-American trad legends, Cherish the Ladies.

Step into my Parlour recalls the family gatherings music and characters that were a major part of Michelle’s childhood in East Cork. Its quirky mix of traditional and music-hall songs take listeners back to her great-grandmother's era, with traditional numbers such as A Kiss In The Morning Early, Eileen O’Grady, Dan O’Hara, Dear Old Donegal, and the wonderfully titled music-hall song, Whooped and Died. There’s also a contemporary song in similar spirit. Dublin Diner was written by cult Edinburgh songwriter Sandy Wright.

**THE SCOTSMAN \*\*\*\* “daft and heartwarming”**

The album began life as a show in the 2012 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, featuring Michelle and her longtime musical partner James Ross. It has grown arms and legs in the course of subsequent stagings. Most recently it featured in The Old Fruitmarket at Glasgow’s 2015 Celtic Connections Festival.

Step into my Parlour, the album, was recorded in 2014 with a stunning line-up of musicians and guest singers. They include Cathal McConnell (Boys of the Lough), who has played a major role in this project and has been a great friend and mentor to Michelle. Legendary Irish singer Maura O’Connell is also involved, as is Rhiannon Giddens (Carolina Chocolate Drops and The New Basement Tapes) and Heidi Talbot. Produced by Calum Malcolm (Blue Nile), Step into my Parlour features James Ross (piano), Anna Massie (guitar, mandolin and banjo), Brendan Power (harmonica), John Kenny (trombone), Kathleen Boyle (accordion) and Martin O’Neill (bodhrán).

**THREE WEEKS \*\*\*\*\* “Irish stew for the soul”**

Following her musical childhood, Michelle graduated from University College Cork with a degree in music, after which she was awarded an MA in Irish Traditional Music Performance at the University of Limerick’s Irish World Music Centre. She has been based in Edinburgh since 2002, honing her craft in the in the thick of today’s dynamic Scottish folk scene.

She was lead singer with the highly acclaimed Cherish the Ladies from 2008-2010. In that role, she performed for audiences of thousands across North America, Alaska, Canada and Europe, in concert venues and folk festivals. Michelle sang on the

group's critically acclaimed album, A Star in the East. In addition, she has performed with several symphony orchestras throughout America.

Celtic Music Radio describes Step Into My Parlour as “**a simple concept executed with sublime excellence**”. The same can be said for the album which is released on Kilcronat Records KLC002CD.

[www.michelleburkemusic.com](http://www.michelleburkemusic.com)