

FIDIL

biography - 2011

"A trio of undeniable range, vision, and chops. Ciarán O' Maonaigh, Aidan O'Donnell, and Damien McGeehan are recalibrating how the sound of the fiddle is received and perceived in Irish traditional music, and are charting new territory for the instrument in the process. This is expansion through reduction, compelling the listener to ponder a rich, rewarding sonic palette produced by three fiddles and nothing else. Enchantment inevitably follows". (Earle Hitchner, The Irish Echo)

'Fidil' are a fiddle trio from Co. Donegal, Ireland. They are rapidly forging a reputation for exhilarating and challenging music that draws on the rich heritage of their native place and the famous fiddle style unique to this region.

The band formed in late 2008 when Aidan O'Donnell and Ciarán O' Maonaigh invited Damien McGeehan along to perform with them at the launch of their duet album, entitled 'Fidil'. Although the trio had already played in numerous impromptu sessions together, they soon discovered a new chemistry when they sat down and began exploring each others individual influences and interests. After only a few months of playing together as a unit, they were awarded the 'Young Musicwide Award' by Music Network and started touring internationally, which to date has included performances in the UK, U.S.A, Canada and also extensively in mainland Europe.

Their debut album, simply entitled '3', was released in November 2009 to widespread critical acclaim and impressively received the coveted title of 'Album of the Week' with a five star rating across all musical genres in Ireland's premier newspaper 'The Irish Times'.

"Here is a place where strings are plucked and caressed, tickled and swept into fresh air by three exceptional and ambitious musicians who still cosset the music of their home place with unyielding affection. 3 is a masterclass in the marriage of tradition and musical exploration, and a milestone in traditional music". Siobhan Long, The Irish Times.

Utilising several playing techniques such as strumming, fingerstyle, and percussion, Fidil are pioneering a truly original, fresh and exciting sound in the field of world music and in the ancient music of their homeland. Their music making is marked by an intricate and intelligent approach but most importantly, still manages to maintain and respect the element of fiery exuberance that is the hallmark of traditional fiddle music from Donegal. This is music for the 21st century - mindful of its origins but breathtakingly exciting in its ambition and delivery.