

## CATHERINE FRASER & DUNCAN SMITH

“This duo make a powerful team..” *The Living Tradition Magazine, UK*

Scottish fiddle and piano duo Catherine Fraser and Duncan Smith have been performing together since 2001. They have gained a reputation as world class performers and teachers in the Scottish idiom, and have travelled extensively both around Australia and overseas, giving many recitals and workshops.

A classically trained violinist, Catherine Fraser graduated from Flinders Street School of Music with a teaching degree in 1993, but it was the music of her Scottish heritage that continued to inspire and motivate her and she has since specialised solely in the idiom.

Originally from Boston, USA, Melbourne based pianist Duncan Smith trained firstly as a harpsichordist, and went on to play guitar and harmonica in a rock and roll band. He was also a member of an *a Capella* singing group that focussed on medieval and renaissance song, and later played piano in a Boston Scottish Country Dance band.

Meeting in a dance band, Catherine and Duncan soon realised that they approached playing in a similar way, looking beyond the notes to access the extensive emotional experiences available through music, and they began exploring concert repertoire.

They were the first Australians invited to perform and teach at the annual Scots Fiddle Festival in Edinburgh, and their 3<sup>rd</sup> recording “Unity” (2006) has gained consistent airplay on ABC Classic FM.

In 2008 Catherine and Duncan travelled to Quebec, Canada, to work with producer Laura Risk on their fourth album, “Rhymes & Reasons”. A year in the making, the album also includes the wonderful talents of special guest artists Natalie Haas, cello (USA), Tony McManus, guitar, (Scotland) Hanneke Cassel, 2<sup>nd</sup> fiddle (USA) and Eric Breton, percussion (Canada).

“superb, clear and elegant...just how Scottish music should sound”. [www.musicinscotland.com](http://www.musicinscotland.com)

### **DISCOGRAPHY**

**Rhymes & Reasons**, Catherine Fraser & Duncan Smith

With guests Tony McManus, guitar

Natalie Haas, cello

Hanneke Cassel, fiddle

Eric Breton, percussion.

Produced by Laura Risk Cromarty Records, 2009 CRM091

### **Unity**

Catherine Fraser & Duncan Smith

Move Records, 2006 MCD312

### **Old Favourites and Odd Couples**

Catherine Fraser & Duncan Smith

CFDS001 2004

### **Presence,**

Catherine Fraser & Duncan Smith

Locrian Records 2003 BFSCD0301