

The Coral Suite

Our 2015 album, “The Great Arc”, was born from our concern for disappearing animal species. Upon learning about the precarious state of coral reefs, we dedicated the closing track, “The Rainy Day”, to The Great Barrier Reef. In 2017, two-thirds of the 1600 mile-long reef was declared dead after a massive coral bleaching event. This inspired us to arrange a set of music

that mirrors the life cycles and natural processes of coral reefs, using the vocabulary of traditional Irish melodies, and to enhance the “musical environment” with lightboxes and projected video. Through the music and art from “The Coral Suite,” we hope to celebrate the reefs’ extraordinary biodiversity, while calling attention to the urgent need for their protection.

Dear Irish Boy (*Air*)

Once a year, fertilized Coral eggs float on ocean currents eventually landing on the seabed to begin a new reef.

Strawberry Blossom (*Reel*) / Mulhaire’s (*Jig*)

Different species of young corals grow and compete for space on the reef.

Silver Slipper (*Hop Jig*)

The stinging tentacles of a Sea Anemone protect a family of Clownfish, while the fish, beating their fins, open up the Anemone’s tentacles to circulate oxygen & nutrients.

Aqualude (*Improvisation*)

Sea Snakes glide and hunt smaller fish who hide in the tight architecture of the Coral Reef.

Bunch of Keys (*Reel*)

A school of Parrotfish bite off chunks of algae-rich coral, which they excrete as sand, helping create small islands and strands of beaches.

Toss the Feathers (*Reel*)

A storm approaches and the animals take shelter. Lobsters seek deeper waters and fish hide in crevices.

The Mooncoin (*Jig*)

Above, the storm ravages coral structures exposed by the troughs and tides to wind-driven waves.

Dear Irish Boy (*Air*)

When the storm subsides, the blue light of the full moon penetrates the water, triggering the mass coral spawning that occurs once a year.

Tie the Bonnet (*Reel*)

Seahorses populate the new growth, perfectly camouflaged to the color of their coral hosts.

The Green Fields of Woodford (*Reel*)

A pod of Dolphins arrive at the reef to feed and play.

Eddie Moloney’s (*Reel*)

Yellowtail Surgeonfish spawn in a frenzy of fertilization.

Aqualude (*Improvisation*)

Night falls. Shape-shifting and communicate with fluorescing colors.

Cuttlefish gather polarized light and

Gigue (*J.S. Bach*)

In the dim evening-light an Octopus emerges from a crevice and goes hunting for fish and shellfish. No crevice is too small for its tentacled reach.

Jug of Punch (*Reel*)

Manta Rays sieve plankton from the warm ocean.

Sporting Nell (*Reel*)

A Ray is chased by a Shark but manages to escape.

My Mind Will Ne’er Be Easy (*Slip Jig*)

At last we follow a lone Sea Turtle as it ventures into the ocean currents in search of a new reef.

