



## RAPID RIVER MAGAZINE Arts & Culture

### CD Review

There is an undeniable beauty to master violinist Jamie Laval's playing that transcends my past indifference towards Celtic music.

Having worked extensively as a recording musician for which he has racked up an impressive number of awards and commendations, Laval is the very definition of a consummate musician.

After attending several of Laval's passionate concerts, I can attest that the man lives and breathes music. He's in constant motion, looking for new and perfect ways to express his art. But what really elevates his music to a higher plane is the sincerity

and exuberance he brings to his performances. That's what makes his latest album *Murmurs and Drones* more than just a "pleasant" listen, but rather one that demands your attention and rewards with continual depth and rediscovery.

Each subsequent listen has revealed, even to my Celtic-challenged ears, new sounds, intonations, and subtle shifts in tenor that evoke the atmosphere and traditions of Scotland and Ireland. *Murmurs and Drones* has made me realize there's much more to Celtic music than bagpipes, kilts and Highland whiskey.

-James Cassara, March 16, 2012