



Folk/Fiddle/Celtic/Québécois

Jamie Laval: Murmurs and Drones

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Jamie Laval SITE 2

Jamie Laval is an accomplished fiddler who has won the National Scottish Fiddling Championships and who tours in the US and Scotland. The cover of *Murmurs and Drones* features the iconic Scottish highlands; anyone would expect an album of straight-up Scottish

traditional music. So why is my favorite track – the track I now play obsessively because I love it so much – "Le Reel en Vielle," a Québécois tune?

It turns out that Laval has made something far more than a traditional album: he has arranged a beautiful selection of tunes from many origins. Airs and reels of his own authorship sit next to Scottish reels and strathspeys, Québécois reels and highland pipe marches. He has arranged them with innovative accompaniment from a mixture of instruments (cello, tablas, small pipes), and then composed the album into an artistic whole.

This isn't just a list of his favorite tunes, one after the other. It is a holistic vision, start to finish. I cannot recommend this album enough.

[Zach Hudson]