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GLOR NA MBAN

The Sound of Women

(Elite)

THE four women who comprise Glór na mBan (which translates to the album's title) are of Celtic extraction, living in Wellington. This is a beautiful collection of Irish music — the songs sound gorgeous thanks to heavenly vocal harmonies and the sprightly jigs and reels are propelled by bodhran, bouzouki, fiddle and flute. The highlight of the record is a superb version of *She Moved Through the Fair*, but every song is expertly performed by the four singers and multi-instrumentalists, and has been lovingly recorded by Robbie Duncan from Braeburn Studios. The lively set of jigs comprising *Out on the Ocean*, *The Killaveil*, *Conor's* will transport you to the heyday of The Chieftains. Elsewhere, there are traces of Clannad (vocally), but *The Sound of Women* is a record that owes as much to organic folk as it does ethereal Celtic music. What is most impressive is that the band has been together only a little over a year, but it's very clear that these talented women are performing songs that are in the blood, the heart and soul. If you like Irish music, this is a must. Highly recommended.

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Simon Sweetman