

LIVE IN CONCERT 2008 : REVIEWS

CLANNAD



CLANNAD @ BRIDGEWATER HALL
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by Glenn Meads



This excellent band has been off the touring circuit for 10 years, so you might expect them to be a tad rusty or disinterested. But on Monday night, they sounded as accomplished and as heavenly as ever.

Lead singer Moya Brennan has a fragile, vulnerable quality to her vocals, which transports you away to an Irish shore and thus, brings back some musical memories via the band's timeless material.

Some may criticise the tunes as being down-beat or slightly worthy. And it's true there are not many songs where you can clap along. But when you have soothing tracks like The Trail Of Tears and the classic I Will Find You (from the film, Last Of Mohicans), who needs anodyne pop?

Evocative

Clannad are well known for providing evocative soundtracks and the one which receives the biggest cheers is Robin – The Hooded Man from the TV hit starring Michael Praed. Close your eyes and you are in Sherwood Forest as Moya guides you through the winding paths with real grace.

This band is multi-talented playing a variety of instruments and the effect is like watching trained athletes storm through a triathlon. The gig is not without humour also as vocalist, guitar, keyboards and bass player Ciaran has a lovely gentle and warm rapport with the audience.

By the time Clannad sing the ethereal themes from Harry's Game, the Bridgewater Hall crowd are mesmerised. They reward them with a standing ovation following the instrumental encore.

Who needs MySpace singers or overrated singer-songwriters now that this unique band is hopefully back to stay!

Link: manchestereveningnews.co.uk

From the unofficial Clannad website: www.clannad.org.uk