

# Laghdú

## Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh and Dan Trueman

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*Laghdú*, the title of this debut album by Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh and Dan Trueman, translates as a lessening, a decrease, a reduction. The music they have written stretches and abstracts the DNA of Norwegian and Irish fiddling; the result is something new, sparse and stunning. It ranges from the near-silent to the nigh-on orchestral, at times exploding joyously from their hybrid 10-string fiddles, at times barely there, holding time still. Utterly unique, this is music of an exceptional and unusual beauty.

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**Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh** plays traditional and contemporary folk music on Hardanger d'Amore and other fiddles. In addition to being an established solo artist, he performs duos with dynamic Kerry accordion player Brendan Begley and Dublin uilleann piper Mick O'Brien and is a member of two groups: The Gloaming and This Is How We Fly. He has released ten CDs to date, including the debut album from The Gloaming, which reached #1 in the Irish music charts.

He has performed far and wide, from New York's Lincoln Center, to London's Royal Albert Hall, and upcoming at the Sydney Opera House. As well his work in traditional Irish music, Caoimhín writes new material that explores the region where traditional music begins to disintegrate.  
<http://www.caomhinoiraghallaigh.com/>



**Dan Trueman** is a composer, fiddler, and electronic musician. He began studying violin at the age of 4, and decades later, after a chance encounter, fell in love with the Norwegian Hardanger fiddle, an instrument and tradition that has deeply affected all of his work, whether as a fiddler, a composer, or musical explorer. Dan has worked with many groups and musicians, including Trollstilt and QQQ, the American Composers Orchestra, So Percussion, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, the Brentano and Daedelus string quartets, the Crash Ensemble, many wonderful fiddlers, and has performed across America, Ireland, and Norway. Dan's work has been recognized by fellowships and grants from the Guggenheim and MacArthur Foundations, among others. He is Professor of Music at Princeton University, where he teaches counterpoint, electronic music, and composition. <http://www.manyarrowsmusic.com/>

for more information and media visit: <http://irishmusic.net/more/> or email [info@irishmusic.net](mailto:info@irishmusic.net)

This music defies genre, it's just a beautiful, spacious and luscious soundscape. Everyone should hear this.

—*Martin Hayes*

a lovely warm bath of silky string sounds from this innovative duo, treading the line between tradition and invention.

—*Garth Knox*

Not often does one hear such beautiful musical interaction as in the duo of Dan Trueman and Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh. Their music reflects one joint voice, and yet, myriads of impulses and ideas flow freely in their light, transparent and organic sound. Their music sounds new and familiar at the same time – truly original and like nothing any Norwegian hardanger fiddle duo could have come up with. A truly refreshing and inspiring musical encounter!

—*Anne Hytta*

Beautifully played throughout by the fiddlers Dan Trueman and Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh, *Laghdú* is a revelation. Austerely elegant, spare, and evocative, there's not a note out of place. Yet nothing is predictable: looping phrases suddenly unfurl to produce incredibly beautiful melodies, meeting together in unusual harmonies between the two fiddlers. And nothing quite prepares you for the stunning barren yet evocative landscape of the final track, *Aonar*.

—*Donnacha Dennehy*

Driving around the Hill of Uisneach on first listening, I recall that in an instant we encountered airborne filaments of the strangest stillness, sudden flowerings of joy, cloud bursts of exuberance. What followed were shadows of dreaming and feathering heart-waves of great feeling. Round bend and the ear felt the arc of an essential effervescence on a scale unexpected, modest yet marvellous. To be moved thus is to understand that great music has this magnificent power over us, a power to which the heart must yield always and without regret. Possibly one of the most fulsome and beautiful recordings I have ever heard.

—*Iarla Ó Lionáird*

1. **Laghdú**
2. Gollywhopper
3. **What What What**
4. Mausoleum
5. The Jack of Diamonds Three
6. Tuireamh na n-Iolar
7. Folamh
8. Leathan le Leathan
9. **Fead an Iolair**
10. Caol le Caol
11. Aonar



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*words on Caoimhín:*

the most imaginative and fascinating musician in all of trad.

—*Earle Hitchner, Irish Echo, USA*

the missing link between Martin Hayes and Purple Haze.

—*Nick Kelly, Irish Independent, Ireland*

the most singular traditional Irish musician of [his] generation.

—*State Magazine, Ireland*

*words on Dan:*

The dazzling results mixed George Crumb's knack for unearthly timbres, Alvin Lucier's infinitesimally fine gradations of tone and the fierce creative audacity of Jimi Hendrix.

—*The New York Times*

Trueman is a man out of time, one foot in tomorrow's software, the other in yesterday's folk music.

—*Electronic Musician*