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# *Putting on Airs*

By Jamie O'Brien

## **Bua**

### **Down the Green Fields**

#### **(Independent)**

Bua has a lovely old time sound. Fiddle, pipes, whistle, flute and concertina tend to lead the melodies, with dancing, guitar and bouzouki providing the rhythm. (Of course, it's never that simple, is it -- the melody instruments contain all the rhythm you really need, but the guitar, for example, with its fascinating chord progressions helps emphasize the rhythm while providing that little extra in the sound.)

This hour-long, 16-track album features a healthy mix of tunes and songs, played and sung with a good feel for tradition. Brian O hAirt has a tremendous voice, keeping his approach simple and effective. He's also something of a sean nos dancer and a good concertina player.

The rest of this Chicago based band is Sean Gavin (flute, pipes, whistle), Brian Miller (guitar, bouzouki) and Devin Shepherd. Shepherd is new to the band, but his fiddling fits in perfectly, maintaining that sound the band has honed so well. You almost feel you're in a kitchen somewhere listening to them as they pick up their instruments and play.

With this, their third album, Bua really shows itself as a band to be reckoned with.

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