Written by bluesever Friday, 13 February 2015 17:00 -

The Waterboys - Fisherman's Blues (1988/2006)



1 Fisherman's Blues 4:26 2 We Will Not Be Lovers 7:03 3 Strange Boat 3:07 4 World Party 4:01 5 Sweet Thing 7:14 6 Jimmy Hickey's Waltz 2:06 7 And A Bang On The Ear 7:33 8 Has Anybody Here Seen Hank? 3:19 9 When Will We Be Married? 3:00 10 When Ye Go Away 3:45 11 Dunford's Fancy 1:04 12 The Stolen Child 6:56 13 This Land Is Your Land 0:54 Mike Scott - vocals, guitar, piano, hammond organ, drums, bouzouki Anthony Thistlethwaite - saxophone, mandolin, harmonica, hammond organ Steve Wickham Trevor Hutchinson - bass guitar, double bass Roddy Lorimer - trumpet Kevin Wilkinson - drums Peter McKinney - drums Dave Ruffy - drums Colin Blakey - piano, flute, border horn Fran Breen - drums Vinnie Kilduff - guitar Noel Bridgeman -Jay Dee Daugherty - drums Mairtín O'Connor - accordion tambourine, congas Finn - bouzouki Charlie Lennon - violin Brendan O'Regan - bouzouki Tomás Mac Eoin Paraig Stevens - bells Jenne Haan - vocals Ruth Nolan - vocals - vocals Rachel Nolan - vocals The Abergavenny Male Voice Choir – vocals

Mike Scott had been pursuing his grandiose "big music" since he founded the Waterboys, so it came as a shock when he scaled back the group's sound for the Irish and English folk of Fisherman's Blues. Although the arena-rock influences have been toned down, Scott's vision is no less sweeping or romantic, making even the simplest songs on Fisherman's Blues feel like epics. Nevertheless, the album is the Waterboys' warmest and most rewarding record, boasting a handful of fine songs ("And a Bang on the Ear," the ominous "We Will Not Be Lovers," "Has Anybody Here Seen Hank?," and the title track), as well as a surprisingly successful cover of Van Morrison's breathtaking "Sweet Thing." [Fisherman's Blues was reissued in 2006 with a bonus disc containing fourteen outtakes, alternate versions and late-night studio jams. The re-mastered original included extended versions of "And a Bang on the Ear" and "World Party."] --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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