

# MUSIC REVIEW

## ANNA'S ANCHOR ISLANDS

As we're faced with weather warning upon weather warning and enough storm names to fill a phone book, take heart that Anna's Anchor: The Islands Spring is upon us. Days like these require a half hour of relaxing with a nice cup of tea and some soothing music. In February, I discovered one of Limerick's musical gems. Anna's Anchor is the perfect backing track for those moments to recoup and recharge on blustery afternoons. Anna's Anchor is a music project lead by Marty Ryan, who hails from Limerick indie-rock band Going 90, amongst a gang of other great musicians. With influences such as Brand New and the Smashing Pumpkins, Anna's Anchor have taken alternative rock music to the next level with hard, honest lyrics juxtaposed by soft acoustic delays making them a suitable soundtrack for the rare heatwave on the beach, or a stroll through the countryside upon a carpet of leaves and twigs.

In their latest album, released late 2015 and available for purchase on their website and on Spotify, Anna's Anchor tried their hand at captivating the natural beauty of Irish landscapes through music. Eight weeks, eight islands, eight gigs and eight songs. Each weekend through June to July they would travel to a different island off the coast of Ireland and write, record, and release a song in the space of a week. The end result of this project was *The Islands*, a phenomenal album with eight beautiful tracks each one with their own unique, island-inspired sound making the album itself a rare treasure. The islands visited and used on the album are Bere Island, Inis

Mór, Inishturk, Clare Island, Cape Clear, Inis Óirr, Inishbofin and the Valentia Islands. . If you do manage to get your half hour of peace and solace this month, I strongly recommend giving this artist a listen and if you love what you hear, spare a few quid and purchase the physical copy from their site. You never know what it might be worth in years to come. Anna's Anchor are another one of the many examples of Limerick's thriving music scene and talent pool, so next time you're heading off to a gig in Limerick, don't skip the local support band.

Previous releases by Anna's Anchor include *Crossing Channels* and *Oak Street* which can be listened to on their Bandcamp page or Spotify. Anna's Anchor can often be found playing gigs in Dolan's. For more information on purchasing their music and gig details, you can visit their Facebook page.

Article by: Christine Costello

Photograph by: Ashley Taylor





