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Dispatches from The Fringe – Nonchalant, excellent, This Is How We Fly

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Rating: ★★★★★

The stage of The Lir is bathed in an aura of blue, misted light. From the darkness that fringe its edges, four men emerge to welcoming applause. Unhurried, they take their positions: three musicians and a dancer. Swedish percussionist, Petter Berndalen and American dancer Nic Gareiss begin by marrying Gareiss' soft shoe shuffle on sand with Berndalen's rhythmic percussion and bells. Presently Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh on fiddle and Seán Mac Erlaine on clarinet ease into this gentle fray. Creating hypnotic music, tonal poems and soundscapes *This Is How We Fly* deliver musical conversations and solos that overflowed with nonchalant, dissonant beauty. At the conclusion of each number you found yourself applauding so hard and not wanting to stop.

If a barometer for great artists is how they make it all look so effortless, then *This Is How We Fly*

are indeed masters of their craft. Playing music firmly rooted in the folk tradition, this group of individually recognized artists bring jazz's playful, improvisational spirit to their interpretations and original compositions. Here is spontaneity after refinement, both individual and collective, at its very best. Gareiss' soft shoe shuffling covers you like a warm caress. Ó Raghallaigh's fiddle doesn't so much play as gently flood throughout the room. Mac Erlaine's dexterity on clarinet and saxophone is mesmerizing in its range and depth and Berndalen's percussive interplays show an ease and a charm that is as beguiling as it is infectious. Put these individual talents together and you get *This Is How We Fly*, who delivered an outstanding set mesmerizing in its power, depth and simplicity.

With more than a few references to Manfred Eicher's ECM stable, including Jan Garbarek and Arild Andersen, *This Is How We Fly's* polished and focused works would not seem out of place among such illustrious company. Formed back in 2010, in response to a call from Dublin Fringe Director, Róise Goan, on Saturday they celebrated the second anniversary of their inaugural performance at the Dublin Fringe to a full and appreciative Lir. Whatever Goan saw back then, her perspicacity deserves to be recognized. For on this evidence, it's only a matter of time before *This Is How We Fly* deservedly go global.

For further dates and information go to <http://www.thisishowwefly.net/>



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