



Artist:
**John McSherry, Dónal
 O'Connor
 &
 Seán Óg Graham**

Title: **Ulaio**

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"Ulaio features three supreme instrumentalists, gifted composers and talented interpreters of traditional and original music in one explosive package" - John O'Regan - *Irish Music Magazine*

When three of Ireland's finest talents join forces on a new recording it's time to sit up, take note and fine tune the ears. This is where the tradition is at!! Lynette Fay - **BBC Radio Ulster / Fleadh TV**

John McSherry and Dónal O'Connor are the creative force behind the highly innovative traditional band **At First Light**. They have toured the world extensively and produced some of the most influential albums in Irish music today. Seán Óg Graham is regarded as one of Ireland's finest accompanists and he tours and records with the successful and dynamic group **Beoga**. All three are currently living in County Antrim in the North East of Ireland, and having spent many late nights in each other's company on the Belfast session scene, it was inevitable that they would come together to record at some stage. Featuring new compositions which sit comfortably alongside traditional pieces from 19th Century collections, plus fresh and progressive arrangements, coupled with occasions of free form solos, **Ulaio** will take you on an emotive and uplifting musical journey. From Ireland to the neighbouring Celtic regions, these three fearless musical adventurers will chart a path from the ancient music of the Gael to the contemporary shape of traditional Irish music today.

John McSherry has been a major figure in Irish music for almost twenty years, and is hailed as one of the finest exponents in the art of Uilleann Piping. Described as 'a true master' by the **Irish Music Magazine**. He is a founding member of **Lúnasa, Tamalin** and **Donal Lunny's** ground-breaking super group **Coolfin**. John has subsequently produced an array of critically acclaimed and innovative albums, both solo and collaborative, and continues to push the boundaries of Irish music with his current bands **At First Light** and **The Ollam**. He is a composer, producer, arranger and an established studio session musician of international renown, recording and performing with a myriad of artists including **Clannad, Sinéad O'Connor, Rod Stewart, Nanci Griffiths, Gary Kemp** and **The Corrs**.

Son of the celebrated fiddler **Gerry O'Connor** and much revered singer **Eithne Ní Uallacháin** of **Lá Lugh**, multi-instrumentalist Dónal O'Connor has established himself as one of Ireland's leading producers. He has played and recorded with the likes of **Grainne Holland, Moya Brennan, Steve Cooney, Mary Dillon, Cathal McConnell, Bob Brozman, Muireann Nic Amhlaobh, John Spillane, Lumiere** and **Barry Kerr**. Having inherited a musical legacy of at least five generations of fiddle playing he has toured the world from a young age as both a lead and backing instrumentalist with a number of bands including **Lá Lugh**, more recently **At First Light** and the Gaelic song super group **A Stór Mo Chroí**. He has composed music for theatre, television and film and has presented music shows for BBC ALBA, BBC NI, TG4, BBC Radio Ulster and Raidio Na Gaeltachta.

Seán Óg Graham is a guitar and accordion player who has performed and recorded with many of Irish traditional music's top artists over the last 10 years. He is a founding member of the highly acclaimed band **Beoga**, with whom he has recorded 5 albums and toured worldwide. He is also a talented arranger and composer, with more than 50 of his works featuring in the **Beoga** repertoire. Seán Óg is a first class Honours graduate of the Irish World Academy of Music and is also a member of the Scottish super group **Fiddler's Bid**. His versatile and tenacious style of accompaniment is in much demand and he has performed and recorded with Grammy nominated fiddler **Liz Carroll, Karan Casey, Buille, Flook, Lunasa, Máirtín O'Connor Band**, and **The Cora Smyth Band**.

Press Contact:	RedBox Music PR, Oonagh Derby 173 University St, Belfast, BT7 1HR, T: +44 2890314981 E: oonagh@redboxrecording.com	Bookings:	Sonasasta Productions Tiona McSherry, T: +44 7954316576 E: tionamcsherry@hotmail.com
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