

Bill Margeson, Live Ireland (Radio)

There are four albums this month to which attention must be paid. Great stuff to be sure, to be sure! Two of them are immediate contenders for Vocal/Instrumental CD of the Year, one is the early leader for Compendium Album of the Year, and one is a stunner from an incredibly talented fiddle player, Haley Sandoz. No priority order here in the albums: Let's start with Hailey Sandoz. Prodigy. Unbelievable. The album is entitled, Fingerprints. The name of the group is Óga. Actually, the "group" is she and guitarist, Joseph Carmichael. Brace yourself. Hailey is 15 years old. 15. But here's the deal. She is just about the best new fiddle player we have heard in a long, long time---regardless of age! The correct word IS "prodigy". Four of the tunes on this album are also penned by her, with two co-authored by Óga partner, the very good guitarist, Carmichael. Two are penned by her friend and musical mentor, Liz Carroll. When we heard the cd, we called friend Liz, and she raves about Hailey in two areas. Liz is as stunned as we are by the ability and musical maturity of Hailey---and, far more importantly, what a great young person she is. We are going to do a full article on her here very soon. LiveIreland's worldwide audience must know of this young gun! WOW! There are lots of guest artists on this album, but be in no doubt. The story here is Hailey Sandoz. There is nothing better in our business than finding new, young talent of a major league level out of the starting gate. Óga is that. Long career here for Hailey. Did we say it before? Let us repeat. WOW!