

Taito Hoffrén

October 1, 2007

CROSSCOUNTRY 50 KM, NEW ALBUM OUT NOW

Two talented and diverse musicians, Samuli Karjalainen and Eero Grundström formed a duo in the spring of 2007. The moving compositions of Karjalainen and Grundström draw inspiration from ancient Finnish traditions and Celtic music. The virtuoso improviser and pump-organ player Eero Grundström colours the songs with breaths of Finnish, Ingrian and Swedish folk music. The simple melodies give plenty of space for spontaneity and improvisation. When playing music Karjalainen and Grundström focus on the process itself instead of striving for a perfect results.

**Samuli Karjalainen** is a multi-talented musician from Helsinki. In addition to guitar Karjalainen plays different kinds of tin whistles and flutes. He also plays the bodhrán and sings. During autumn 2006 and spring 2007 Samuli studied Irish traditional music in Ireland at the University of Limerick and completed the one-year Masters of Arts programme in Irish Traditional Music Performance. Karjalainen has worked with in the following artists: Dympna O'Sullivan, Andrew McNamara, Tola Custy and Cyril O'Donoghue...

**Eero Grundström** is finishing his studies at the Sibelius Academy. He is also a multi-instrumentalist, composer and true improvisation wizard and has worked in all musical fields including free improvisation, theatre, circus, rock and jazz. Eero plays pump organ, kantele and harmonica. His other projects are Sväng, Spontaani Vire and Von & Af.

ÄÄNIÄ -Records  
Taito Hoffrén

MORE INFORMATION

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## REVIEWS OF THE ALBUM

"Music played with love and tenderness, tunes and soundscapes possessed of a tonal palette that is so beautiful"

### **Caoimhin Ó'Raghallaigh**

"Samuli Karjalainen and Eero Grundstrom have produced a modern masterpiece of acoustic music woven in a curious fabric of Hiberno-Scandinavian tradition and sensibility. Samuli's whistles contain echoes of Willie Clancy and Teppo Repo while in Eero's majestic harmonium we can hear the soft heart beat of a cold, Lutheran tradition. These two musicians manage the meeting of musical worlds, moulding, firing and finishing their own beautifully simple and strikingly effective aesthetic. If Crosscountry 50k is the flower of musical globalisation, then more of it!

**Niall Keegan**, Course Director  
MA Irish Traditional Music Performance,  
Irish World Academy of Music and Dance,  
University of Limerick.  
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"Crosscountry 50 km" I played it in a radio show I present on Clare Fm and there was a major reaction to these beautiful compositions featuring mainly whistle and harmonium. Irish people liked and understood this music and it was not long before Samuli's music was regularly heard on Irish radio and even if people had difficulty with his name they knew they loved the music of "the lad from Finland"

### **Eoin O'Neill**