

# Eddi Reader to play the Queen's Hall next month



Eddi Reader is returning to the capital next month, playing the Queen's Hall on 25 April as part of her 'Vagabond' tour.

Vagabond was released by Reveal Records last month and was recorded by Mark Freegard in Eddi's hometown of Glasgow with a cast of well chosen musicians and friends eager to play their part in this, most captivating, deeply personal yet universal sounding album.

The album was produced by Eddi and features many of her long-term musical collaborators including: John Douglas (Trashcan Sinatras), Alan Kelly, Ian Carr, Ewen Vernal, Roy Dodds (Fairground Attraction), John McCusker and Boo Hewerdine.

Eddi said: "I have been on a journey with this set of recordings. Two years ago, I began writing and playing with ideas on John's new piano. Well, I say "new" – it's a second-hand, small Zender piano. I'd never heard of that make, but when we got it tuned, the fella said that they use this kind of piano to train the piano tuning students.

"Often, if they got bad marks, the saying goes that they had to 'return to Zender'. After I kicked him out of my house for that terrible joke, I sat down and began falling for its sweet tone and I attempted to learn my way around it.

"The guys in the Edinburgh music shop who sold it to me told me that Tom Waits had been in the shop earlier and sat playing on it for a half hour then bought another one. Mr Waits was playing Edinburgh that night, so it seemed plausible. It's a lovely piano nonetheless. It took me all the winter of that year to become acquainted with the idea that I was writing and

that I should start recording. I did, but only the odd day here and there. 2012 was a wonderful and weird one. John and I got married on 8 June. With that we are both blissful, but in other things we were challenged.

“John developed an incurable illness and we were distracted by health issues and family troubles. I took a while to steady my feet about all of that. Then by the end of the year, I knew I needed to pull the fellas together and try recording live – if only to bring myself back to land.

“The good news is John is walking the road to recovery and will get better. No fear or doubt! Buíochas le Dia! The recording sessions progressed throughout January 2013, (it's the best time to grab everyone as most are at Glasgow's Celtic Connections festival) and they were amazing. We all squeezed into Mark Freegard's Kyoti studio with Roy Dodds (drums) and Ewen Vernal (double bass) creating an engine for Boo Hewerdine's steady rhythms (guitar) to steer through the songs with me (singing) sometimes playing guitar or piano, Ian Carr (guitar) soloing and Alan Kelly (accordion) floating in and out of everything.

“I recorded around 26 songs and had to choose 12 as 26 won't fit on a CD. This new album was supposed to be 12 songs that flowed well together but I couldn't bear to leave some off. So I got John to choose. When I protested he would say, “Those songs are on the next record”. We compromised on 14.”

Tracklisting:

1. I'll Never Be The Same
2. Back The Dogs (Dancing Down Rock)
3. Vagabond
4. Married To The Sea
5. Edinah

6. Snowflakes In The Sun
7. Baby's Boat
8. Macushla (My Darling)
9. Midnight In Paris 1979
10. Buain Ná Rainich (Fairy Love Song)
11. In Ma Country
12. Pray The Devil Back To Hell
13. Here Comes The Bells
14. It's A Beautiful Night