

OLIVIA BRADLEY'S MISTY MORNING SHORE

Vocalist, performer, bodhrán player, and champion Irish dancer from Atlanta, Georgia in conversation with Gráinne McCool.



Olivia Bradley grew up with a love of Celtic music and culture. She is an emerging solo artist and her debut album, *Misty Morning Shore*, is now available.

Gráinne: “When did you become immersed in Irish music, song and dance?”

Olivia: “My family has Irish and Scottish heritage and my friend’s grandparents are from Ireland and we both started competitive Irish dancing together at a young age. I was already singing and performing for years as a child, I eventually started competing in Sean-nos singing and competed in the Fleadh Cheoil in Ireland back in 2015. There’s also a fantastic Irish community in Atlanta that’s constantly growing. I’ve been singing and performing on stage quite literally for as long as I can remember. It’s always been something I’ve loved to do and that I knew would be a part of me forever.”

Gráinne: “What inspired your debut album?”

Olivia: “It’s been a lifelong dream of mine to have an album of my own. Irish music has been a huge part of my life and I’ve always had a passion for it and been captivated by the beauty of the Irish language and countryside. I also have a love for Irish folklore and fairy stories. I’ve met and worked with so many incredible Irish musicians and artists over the years: this album is a reflection of that. It’s a collection of different Irish songs I’ve learned over the years and compiled to reflect all the different facets of Irish music I’ve come to know and love.

“*County Down* is a song I performed as a duet with guitarist and vocalist Dave Curley and is a wonderful example of traditional Irish songs done in a modern style. *A Gaelic Blessing* is more Celtic and reflects my Classical music background. *Galileo* is a duet I originally learned on tour from Peter Sheridan and instantly fell in love with. The

song features my husband Brian Adams as my duet partner and multiple tour bandmates including Peter on piano, and a gorgeous performance from Lacy Rostyak on violin. Each person who collaborated with me on the album is someone I’ve either collaborated with in the past, met through different musician friends, or worked with on tour in *Celtic Angels*.”

Gráinne: “How does it feel having your very own album now out there?”

Olivia: It’s definitely given me a wide range of emotions having put so much work into it and it being my first big musical project. I’m immensely proud of how it turned out and I’m just excited for everyone to be able to listen to it and enjoy it. My younger self would be ecstatic and over the moon!”

Gráinne: “The album’s title *Misty Morning Shore* is a very typical Irish vision. Was there a reason for choosing this song title as the album title?”

Olivia: “I wrestled with the album title for a bit and eventually met an Irish musician and songwriter named Gary O’Driscoll. He reached out to me online about singing one of his songs and it became the official title track months later! The words create the exact vision and feeling I was wanting for the album.”

Gráinne: “Do you have any favourite songs on the album?”

Olivia: “I’d pick every song as my favourite for different reasons, but I’d currently choose *County Down* and *Mountains of Pomeroy*. I’m so proud of how they both turned out and was overjoyed to get to work with each of the artists performing on them. I also will always love *Galileo* which features quite a few of my Angels cast mates and my husband as my duet partner which is so special.”

Gráinne: “What’s next for you?”

Olivia: “Music is my first love and I plan to keep recording and releasing music. I’m influenced by and listen to all kinds of music, so I’d love to explore different styles in addition to Irish. I want to keep performing and just keep learning and soaking up all I can. Music is a universal language that brings people together in the most beautiful ways. I want to keep sharing my passion for it with the world for many years to come.”

Discover the delights of *Misty Morning Shore* at www.oliviabradleymusic.com

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