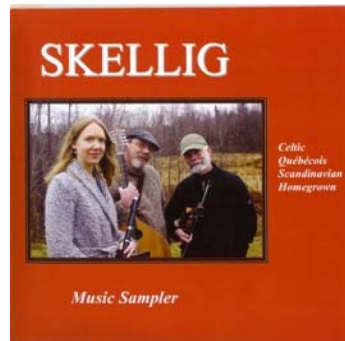


CD Review: Skellig's demo a tease for more



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It's always good to see old friends making fine music. At the recent New World Festival in Randolph, I caught a set by Skellig. The trio is Rachel Clark, Bob DeMarco and John Drury.

Drury might be familiar to local readers as he formerly lived in Middlesex and was married to Martha Pellerin Drury, the late Franco-Americana singer and musicologist for whom the local bandstand is named.

Skellig has produced a "demo" CD and it's a fine sampler. The band performs a variety of styles from traditional Celtic to Swedish, Québécois and Americana. The instrumentation includes flute, whistle, accordion, piano, fiddle, cittern, guitar and vocals.

Clark and DeMarco also play in the Vermont band The Wind That Shakes the Barley, but in Skellig they get a chance to move beyond Celtic styles. Drury produced a solo Celtic instrumental CD a few years ago that we reviewed for the InVite section.

Clark's singing on this six-track sampler is plaintive and we get to hear a rare Swedish song with just guitar accompaniment.

There's a lot of cittern featured on the CD. That's an instrument like a bouzouki with five pairs of doubled strings. Used for both rhythm and melody playing, in the hands of DeMarco and Drury it gets an airing that is not all that frequent in traditional music.

I certainly hope there's a full album coming from Skellig soon. They're a talented trio and their music is interesting. For now you can order the CD by visiting skelligvt.com