

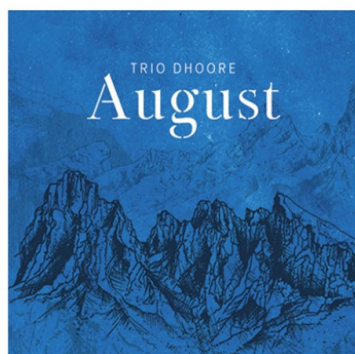
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TRIO DHOORE

★★★★

August

(TRAD) www.triodhoore.com



From Flanders, the brothers Dhoore (Koen, hurdy-gurdy; Hartwen, diatonic accordion and Ward, guitar, synth and electronics) return

with their much-anticipated fourth album and follow-up to their 2016 release *Momentum*.

Inspired by the Flemish tradition, these nine instrumentals are loosely themed around the story of August, an 18th century Flanders fisherman who made thirty-three fishing trips from his homeland to Iceland to provide for his family, and which also reflect the lives of the musicians with pieces that celebrate, among other things, the joy of bonfires ('Poldervuur'), childhood innocence ('Speelhuis') and the bonds that hold families together ('Noord').

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Those same bonds also inform the interplay between the musicians and strengthen the theory that something special happens when families perform together. Here, that's manifest in the stunning interplay between the instruments as they swap leads, come together in different combinations and intertwine to create music that at times exhibits razor-sharp precision and, at others, sounds like friends playing around the kitchen table.

Instrumentally, on *August* the brothers demonstrate an admirable restraint in their playing with no one dominating, not an easy task when hurdy-gurdy is involved, but here it's kept low-key, beautifully complementing accordion and guitar on an atmospheric and moving collection.

Dave Haslam

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