## Mp3 Ricko Donovan - The Kilmoon Road



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Raw folk energy harnessed in loads of strings 12 MP3 Songs FOLK: Modern Folk, FOLK: Folk Pop Details: This record is, according to Irish Music Magazine "a gem...expands the boundaries for acoustic-based music" Local Clare musicians lend their wonderful talent to this rollercoaster ride of a record. Lots of strings, lotta heart! So it just might pull at your heartstrings. Ricko Donovan is both an accomplished performer of traditional Irish music on the hammered dulcimer and an award-winning singer/songwriter. Having made his mark in music-rich County Clare Ireland and at festivals throughout Europe, he now looks to spread his wings with the releases of three new CDs very different stylistically from each other. Ricko spent his formative years as a singer/songwriter in Nashville TN, where the Jersey boy gained a large influence of roots/acoustic music, playing the hammered dulcimer, a rare folk instrument rooted in Appalachian culture. A growing obsession with Irish traditional music led to lengthy sojourns to Ireland and County Clare, the source of the tunes and now much of his repertoire. Ricko's song Devil At My Door was a winner in Nashville's 1998 Spree Songwriting Contest. It has wowed audiences and garnered airplay worldwide. In 1999, Ricko spent four winter months in a high-profile gig fronting house-band Plastic Paddy at Seanachie Irish Pub in the heart of Nashville's famous Lower Broadway music district. The six-member band performed three nights a week to enthusiastic audiences. Ricko returned to Europe in the Spring of 2000, performing at folk festivals such as Scotlands's Loch Tay and Edinburgh Fringe Festival and England's Redditch Folk Festival. In his home base of Lisdoonvarna in County Clare Ireland, Ricko has assimilated his bluegrass background into a part of Ireland revered both home and abroad for its long-standing wealth of Irish traditional music. He regularly wields hammered dulcimer, guitar and voice in the trad scene. The Clare Champion recently described him thus, 'He renders Irish ballads with the greatest sensitivity and the rest with the reckless abandon of a steamrolling

train with no brakes'. In the Spring of 2003, The Hidden Well, a CD featuring traditional music on the hammered dulcimer was released and gained regular airplay on Clare FM. The CD contains a blend of jigs, reels, O'Carolan airs and songs. In addition, Ricko has recorded and released Light From Ancient Stones, an instrumental CD featuring guitar and hammered dulcimer with other sounds including drum loops. Ricko supplements regular traditional Irish session residencies with performances of original material at venues including Mrs. O'Brien's Kitchen in Lehinch and Winkles in Kinvara. This material has been the genesis for The Kilmoon Road, a CD released in 2004. In winter months Ricko wows the Tampa Florida pub crowds with regular shows at such venues as The James Joyce Irish Pub and The Irish Fox and Hounds Pub and was a featured performer at Ybor City's Fiesta Day in 2004 which drew 10,000 people to 3 main stages. Regular on-air performances on WMNF 88.5 radio in Tampa help to promote regular area gigs. Ricko Donovan looks forward to a busy 2005 promoting these three works through festival performances, ongoing residencies, and concerts.

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