

The Cape Breton Symphony comprises four fiddlers, plus a host of backing instruments, including piano, accordion, guitar, bass and drums. Bobby Brown doubles on piano and accordion in this group.

The blend and mixture of music is superb and the playing is superb!!

Trying to single out any track is like trying to pick out the best malt whisky—they're all so good it's virtually impossible. The only thing to do is to sample them all!

Side one begins with a Canadian medley of two jigs and a reel, all composed by the now famous J. C. Hayes, who wrote the "Lemonville Jig."

**Traditional**

Track two has two well-known tunes, the strathspey "Cathkin Braes" and the reel "Miss Stewart of Fasnacloch."

Following on from that is a waltz, which I must confess is new to me despite being credited as traditional. "The Old Victoria" is quite a nice tune too. The band performed on tracks one and three and the fiddlers had the floor on track two.

It follows that the fiddlers should take on track four, which is right up their street—a set of hornpipes (reel style) which they just romp through.

Bobby dons the box again for the next two selections and both are quite different from anything on previous LPs. A couple of pipe marches and, although it could be argued that he's no Frazer McGlynn or Bobby MacLeod at the pipe stuff, Bobby makes a super job of them. Track six has the intriguing title of "A Wee Polka I Wrote Myself," which has more notes per bar than I'd care to try!

By way of a total contrast the last track on side one starts off with a really haunting accordion sound for the slow air "The Auld Fisher." Beautiful playing by Bobby Brown. The fiddles join in, however, in a couple of stoters later in the set—"More Power to Your Elbow" and "Lisdoonvarna Puck." Where do they get the titles?

Side two is a collection of another six sets of the best in Canadian/Scottish music.

Band one kicking off with a selection of jigs played only as these boys do. A 2/4 and 6/8 march follows next and then a strathspey and reel medley.

Track four is a waltz medley of well known tunes—"The Loch Tay Boat Song" and the "Spring Wheel" with one titled "The Shepherd's Wife" sandwiched in between. You and I know that tune better by the title "A Rosebud by My Early Walk."

Following the waltz, another set of the fiddlers speciality—the Hornpipes played in reel time.

To finish the record Bobby Brown has chosen a reel miscellany of tunes for what he calls "A Scottish Fancy." A super arrangement of tunes, starting with a drum solo and swinging into a Wm. Marshall jig "Mr Morrison of Bognie," quick changing, into the late Ronnie Cooper's "Hayfield House Reel."

"I'm down for lak of Johnny" on solo accordion is next as a slow air with the band joining in for the traditional "Hey Tuttie Tattie," the queer timing of the Dusty Miller and the fast 6/8 on Andrew Carr.

The fiddlers finish up with the Scottische "Earl Gray" and "Miss Crawford," a super reel.

I think that this last track really sums up the whole thing. This is the Cape Breton Symphony and the Scottish Accent and Bobby Brown.

Undoubtedly, one of the most entertaining records in my collection and it takes pride of place.

**Canada on Tour with Bobby Brown, The Scottish Accent and the Cape Breton Symphony (Ross Records, LNGR 046)**

The highlight of the off season for many, many enthusiasts was the concerts given by these talented musicians from Canada.

The record was released to coincide with the tour and it's a cracker!

The adjectives that can be applied are countless — clean, fresh, tight, lively, light, airy, happy, infectious and I haven't even started on the superlatives like brilliant, marvellous, etc., etc., etc.

There's no doubt that Bobby Brown's type of music is definitely "in" at the moment and with records like this it must continue to gain in popularity.

I have enjoyed all the records that this gigantic Scots expert has been involved in, but this latest one is probably the best, purely because of the variety.

For the less initiated the Scottish Accent is a country dance band with two accordions, piano, bass and drums. Bobby himself plays lead accordion and boy can he play!