

## RECORDSHOP NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

Happy New Year to All!

What better way to start off the 2019 dancing season than with a New Release! Aberdeen's much respected bandleader, **Frank Thomson & his S C D Band** (accordion, fiddle, piano/bass, drums) have recorded 16 tracks to match a book of dances marking the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RSCDS Dunfermline Branch! And what an interesting selection of tracks: Reeltime(7): 1- 4x40, 3- 8x32, 1- 4x32, 1 x 80 , 1 x 96 bars. Jigtime (3): 1-3x40, 1-5x40, 1-4x32 bars. Strathspeys (6): 1- 4x40, 1- 6x32, 2- 4x32, 2- 3x32 bars and a wide range of good tunes - some new, some real favourites - ranging from traditional: Scott Skinner, Nathaniel Gow to Alastair Hunter, Iain MacPhail, Gordon Patullo, Ian T Muir, Ian & Bill Powrie and other more recent composers. The reels and jigs are brisk and lively, strict tempo with a good beat; for two of the strathspeys, Frank has used well-loved Scottish ballads which, though pleasant to listen to, I found, shall I say, "dreamy"! I missed that powerful drive which was more evident in his other two strathspey tracks. His longest tracks on this CD are the 6x32 and 4x40 s'speys, 6.39 min and 5.20 min respectively, whilst the 80 bar reel is very short at 1.34 mins! This could be a very useful CD when shorter dances are sought (handy for displays etc. ) or a CD just to sit back (if you are able to remain still!) and just enjoy the music! CD Price \$30-00



**Jim Lindsay's "Music for Book 52"** – I think this will have been the most popular CD released by the Society, certainly as far as the NZ Branch is concerned. As one member remarked, "every track is a winner"! It makes for enjoyable listening, but even better for dancing! Copies still available at \$30.



**"Recorded Highlights"** - Jim has another CD due for release later this year, but as yet I have no details. I am told this CD is for dances which until now have no specific music recorded.

**RSCDS Annual CD Release:** Some of you will already be aware, but others may not realise, that HQ in Edinburgh will **NOT** be releasing a new CD for 2019, so I shall not be canvassing for orders this year. Perhaps they are resting on their laurels after the very successful "Music for Book 52"!!!

BBC Radio Scotland recently featured two tracks from Marian Anderson's latest CD "Musicians' Wedding" on their Take the Floor programme. Go online at BBC Scotland Take the Floor to hear this. (Available from Gaye Collin, Wellington)

**End of an Era:** It has been decided that, as from 1 January 2020, the two Branch Shops – Recordshop and Bookshop - will merge and be managed by the current Bookshop Keeper, Sue Pearson. Trading in CDs has dropped steadily in recent years, for several reasons, viz. the growing popularity of down-loading from the Internet, fewer new CDs being released - this trend seems set to continue. Combining the two Shops has one big advantage, and a win-win situation for everyone. When the CD has a matching book of dances (often the case nowadays) it will be possible to purchase both book and CD as a package - one order, one despatch, one payment - a saving in time and expense for everyone involved. I shall greatly miss the Recordshop and the interaction with so many lovely people throughout NZ and overseas, but am convinced it is the right decision.



However, until 31 December 2019, it is Business as Usual and I look forward to receiving your orders in the coming months.

**DOROTHY**