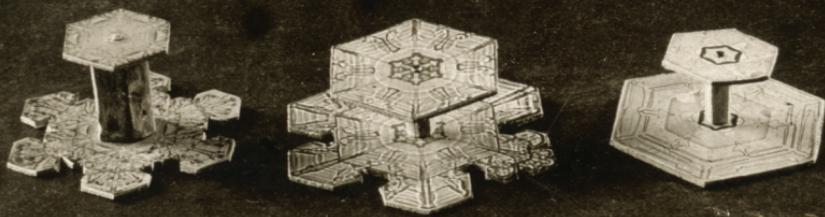


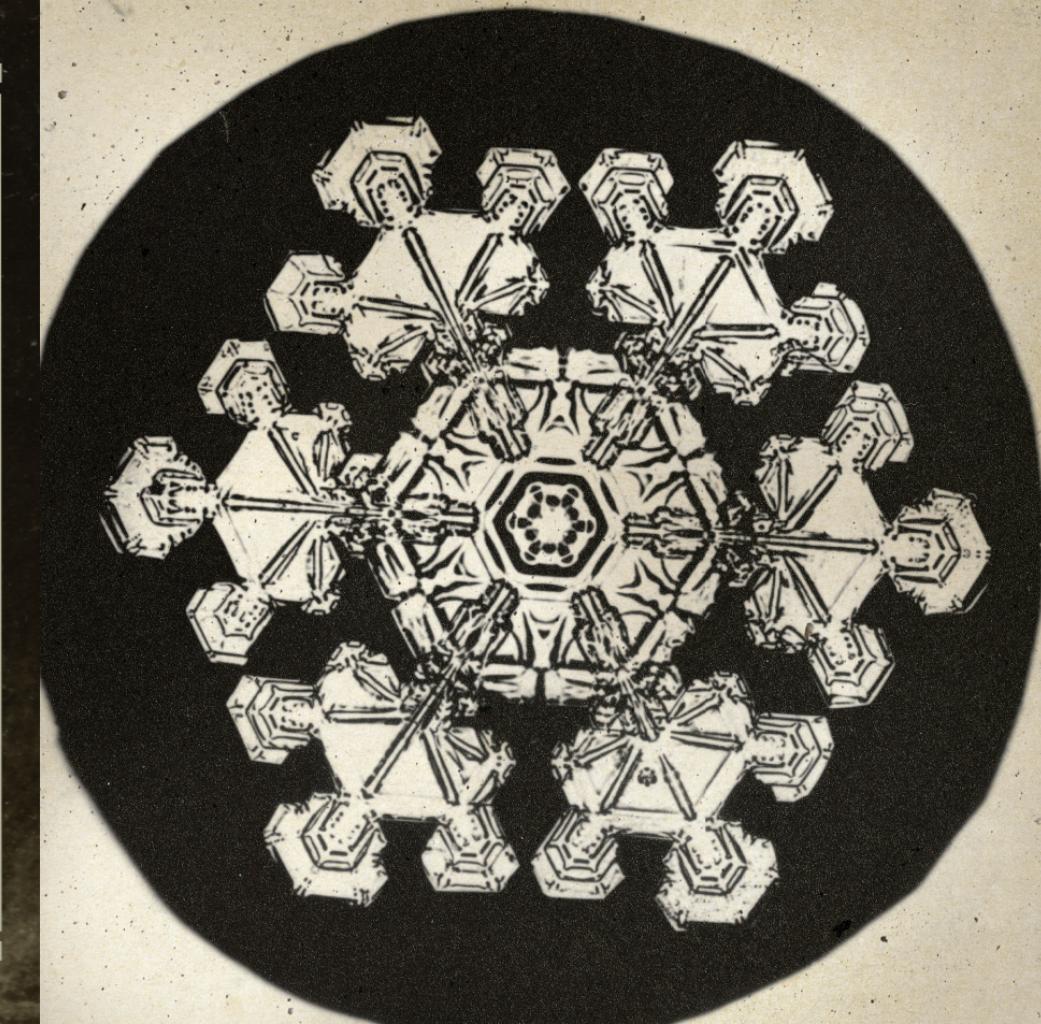
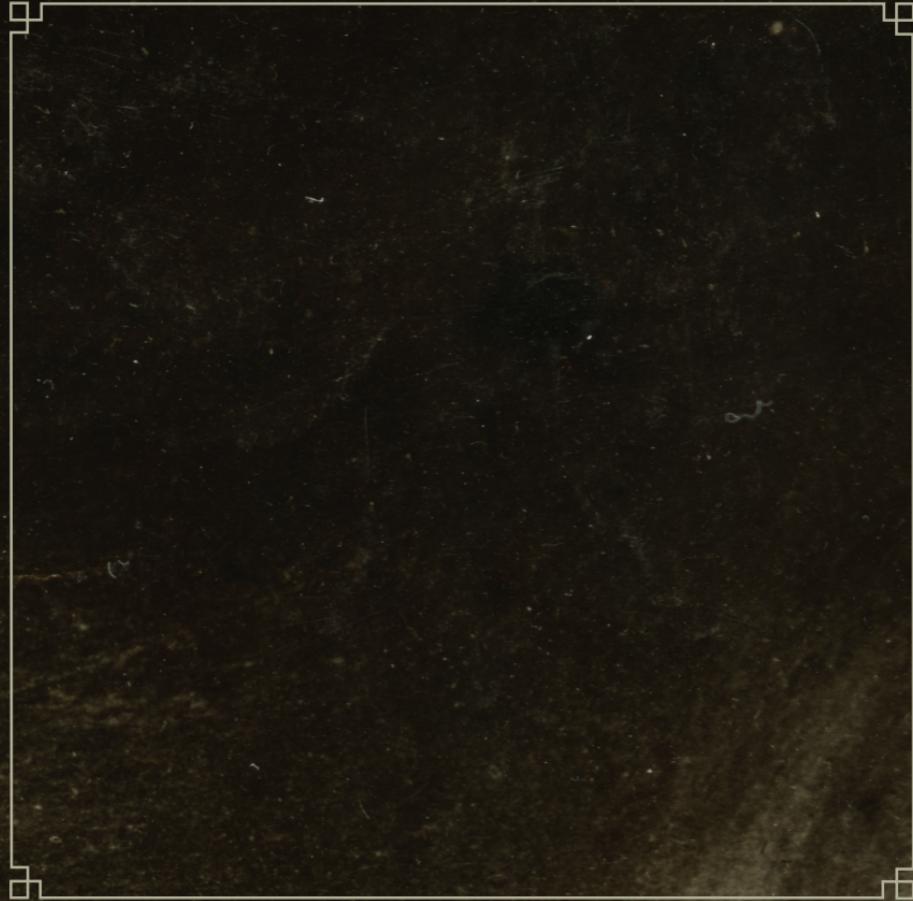
# SNOWFLAKE TRIO

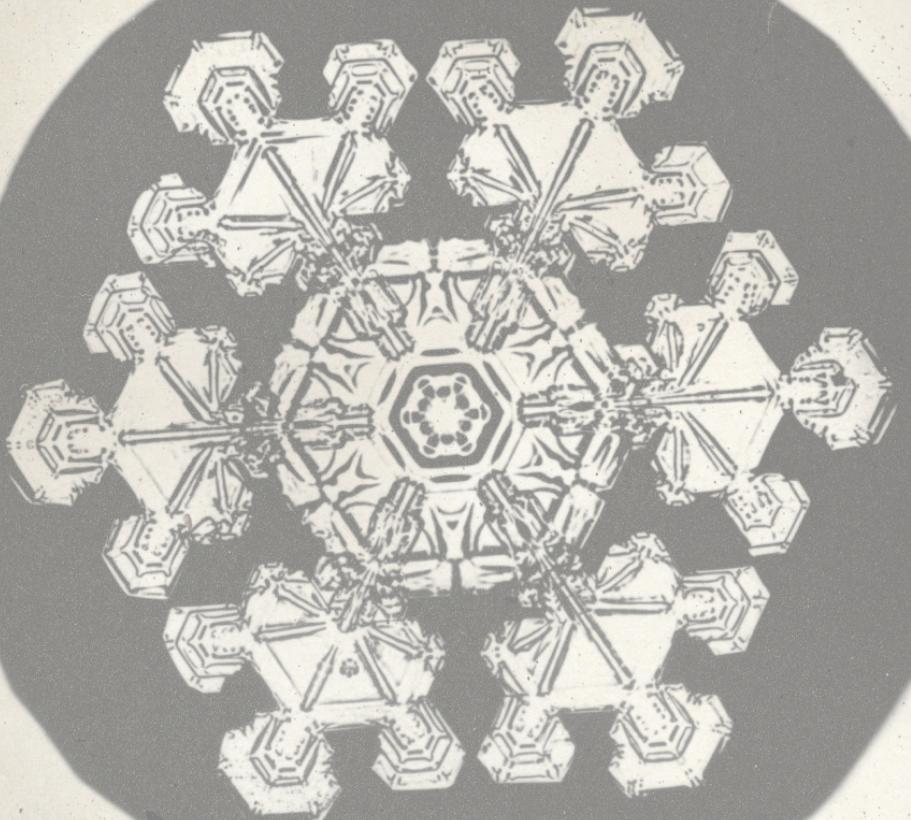
• NUALA KENNEDY, VEGAR VÅRDAL, FRODE HALTLI •



## SUN DOGS

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Snowflake Trio was founded in Dundalk, Ireland in 2009 when we came together as part of a larger project organised by Louth Contemporary Music Society. Building on an immediate musical rapport, we have continued to collaborate and develop our repertoire; touring in Norway and Ireland as well as performing at international music festivals such as Celtic Connections in Glasgow, Celtic Colours Festival in Canada and Telemark Festival in Norway.

The music of Snowflake Trio encompasses both a fine-boned delicacy and a rugged spontaneity. To best capture its spirit, we recorded a live album. Here we have carefully selected pieces of traditional music from both countries and interwoven them with freely improvised sections and newly composed melodies. We hope you enjoy listening...

Snowflake Trio begynte å spille sammen i Dundalk, Irland i 2009, hvor vi var en del av et større prosjekt organisert av Louth Contemporary Music Society. Vi tre fant tonen umiddelbart, og har fortsatt samarbeidet og utviklet repertoaret på turnéer i Norge og Irland, og på festivaler som Celtic Connections i Glasgow, Celtic Colours Festival i Canada, og Telemarkfestivalen i Norge.

Snowflake Trios musikk inneholder både finmaskede arrangementer og spontane innfall. Vi synes det som representerte oss best var å gjøre en mest mulig 'live' innspilling. Det musikalske materialet inneholder tradisjonell musikk både fra Irland og Norge, med fritt improviserte partier såvel som nykomponerte melodier. Vi håper dere liker resultatet...

## **1. WHAT WILL WE DO / FJELLVÅK (MOUNTAIN BIRD)**

*(comp. Mjelva, Morken, Børshheim)*

Nuala learned the simple but powerful song 'What Will We Do' from Sligo singer Cathy Jordan in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina in 2015. We combine it here with a waltz entitled 'Fjellvåk' (Mountain Bird) composed by Olav Luksengård Mjelva, John OleMorken and Annlaug Børshheim. Nuala picked up the waltz from old-time fiddler Sammy Lind whom she met while on tour in the Yukon. Vegar and Frode also knew it from fiddler Kevin Henderson and the group Nordic Fiddlers Bloc.

Nuala lærte den enkle men sterke sangen 'What Will We Do' fra irske Cathy Jordan i vakre fjellområder i North Carolina, USA i 2015. Vi kombinerer den her med valsen 'Fjellvåk', komponert av Olav Luksengård Mjelva, John Ole Morken og Annlaug Børshheim. Nuala lærte faktisk denne valsen av den amerikanske felespilleren Sammy Lind fra Foghorn Stringband en uforglemelig kveld hvor nordlyset danset

på himmelen over Yukon, Canada. Vegar og Frode kjente også valsen, fra felespiller Kevin Henderson i Nordic Fiddlers Bloc.

## **2. THE GREEN LADY**

*(comp. Nuala Kennedy PRS/MCPS)*

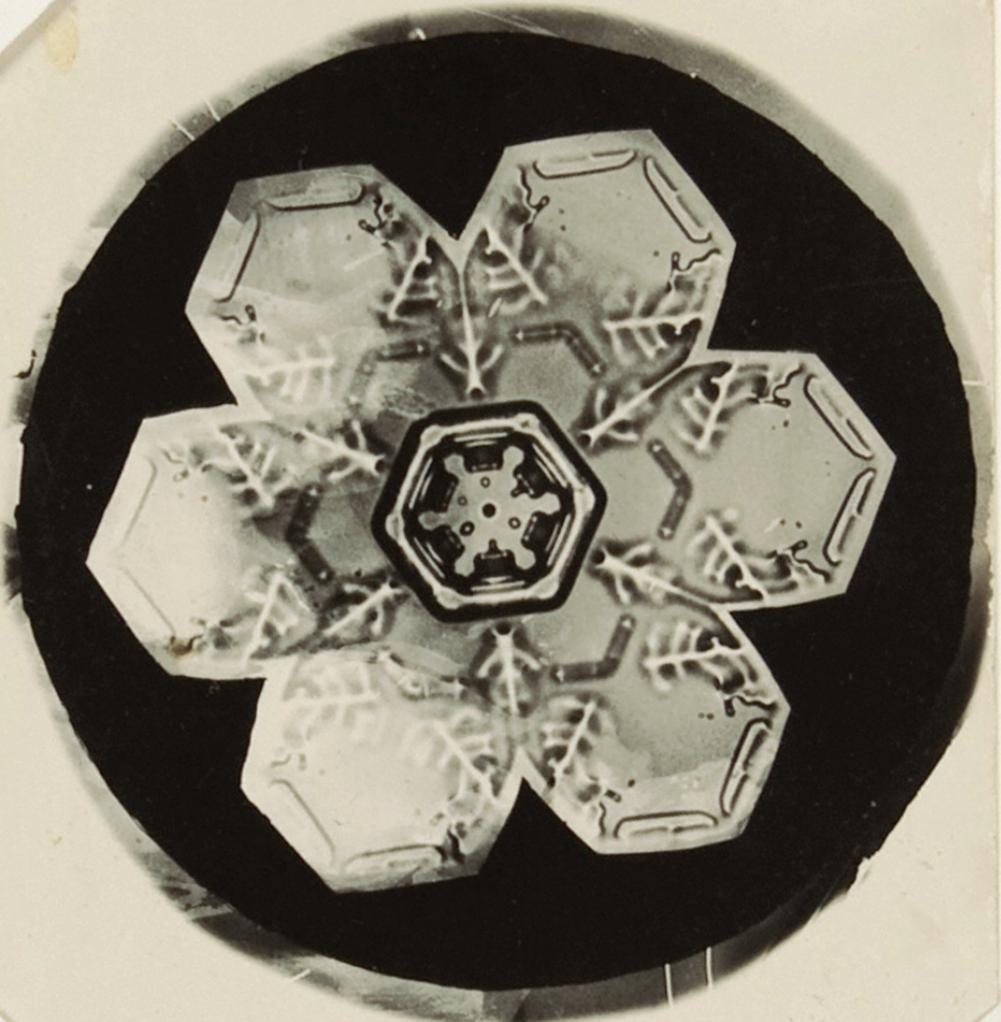
Inspired by the ghost of a young girl that is said to haunt Tulloch Castle in the Scottish Highlands...

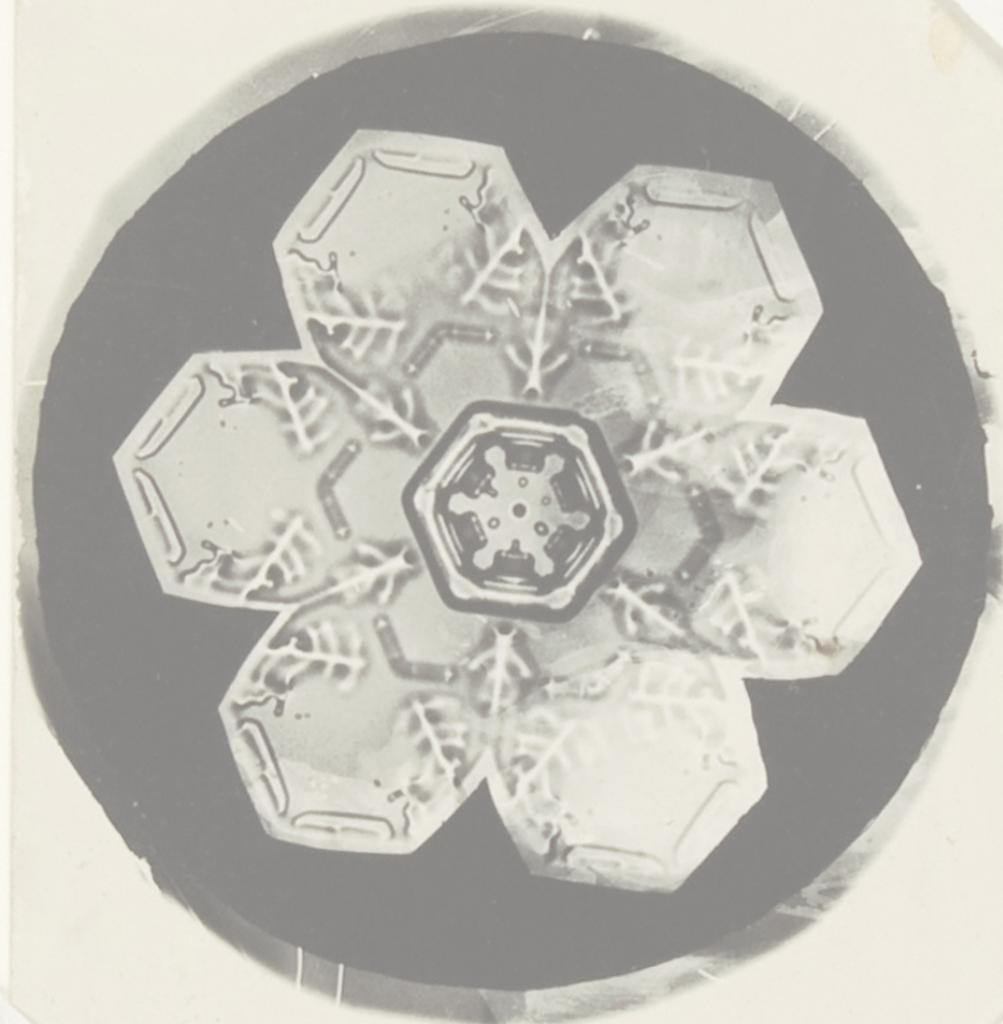
Inspirert av gjenferdet til en ung jente som visstnok hjemsoeker Tulloch Castle i det skotske høylandet...

## **3. VALS (WALTZ)**

*(comp. Benedicte Maurseth) / Lugumleik i hallingtakt (comp. Hans W. Brimi)*

Here we put together two tunes composed by two generations of important Norwegian traditional musicians: 'Vals' is a composition by the wonderful Hardanger fiddler Benedicte Maurseth (b. 1983) from Hardanger in the Western part of Norway. 'Lugumleik' is a 'halling' composed by Hans W. Brimi (1917-1998)





from Lom in Gudbrandsdalen, close to where Vegar resides. The halling is a quick and dramatic dance traditionally performed in rural Norway by young men and involves acrobatic, athletic competition between the dancers.

Her har vi satt sammen to flotte låter komponert av to sentrale norske spellemenn fra hver sin generasjon og tradisjon: Benedicte Maurseth (f. 1983) fra Eidfjord i Hardanger, har lagd 'Vals', og 'Lugumleik' er en kjent låt av mesteren Hans W. Brimi (1917-1998) fra Lom i Gudbrandsdalen, rett i nærheten av Vågå hvor Vegar bor.

#### 4. GJENDINES BÅDNLÅT (GJENDINE'S LULLABY) / RI TEAS IS FUACHD (IN HEAT AND COLD)

(comp. Nuala Kennedy PRS/MCPS)

The melody of 'Gjendine's Lullaby' is very well known throughout Norway. Gjendine Slålien was a young milk-maid who lived in the mountain range of Jotunheimen when she sang this lullaby to the great Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg

in 1891. Nuala put lyrics to the tune which were influenced by a stark Scottish Gàidhlig poem 'Sean Èipheiteach ann an Tir Airsnealach' (An Ancient Egyptian in a Weary Land) written by Ùisdean Laing (1889-1974) of South Uist.

Throughout the poem the writer repeats the refrain 'Chan eil an dàn dhomh ach am bàs' ('There's nothing in store for me now but death...'). The last four lines of the poem are used as the chorus of the song.

Gjendine Slålien var ei ung budeie i Jotunheimen da hun ble introdusert for Edvard Grieg i 1891. Siden har denne bånsullen for alltid vært knyttet til henne. Nuala har laget ny tekst til sangen, inspirert av det skotsk-gæliske diktet 'Seann Èipheiteach ann an Tir Airsnealach' (En oldtids-egypten i et ødeland), skrevet av Ùisdean Laing (1889-1974) fra South Uist i Hebridene på vestkysten av Skottland. Gjennom hele diktet repeteres refrengen 'Chan eil an dàn dhomh ach am bàs' (Det eneste som venter meg nå, er døden), og det avsluttes med de linjene som Nuala gjentar som et omkved i sangen:

**Rann/Chorus:**

Ri teas is fuachd,  
Bho dheas gu tuath,  
Se sin ar duais:  
Am Bás  
Le'm bi a' bhuaidh  
'Nar càs

In heat and cold,  
From south to north,  
That's our reward:  
Death  
Who triumphs  
In our plight.

Raise a voice unto the sky-  
No answer lies within the rain  
A battle fought on truth and lie,  
No victory to curb the pain.

Nursed us to a withered state;  
Fire and ash a poisoned prize.  
A brother's curse, a sister's fate  
A lonesome child, a thin disguise.

A breath across the raging sea  
Salt and silver can't reclaim;  
A broken oath of fealty-  
A blackened cloak, a dance of shame.

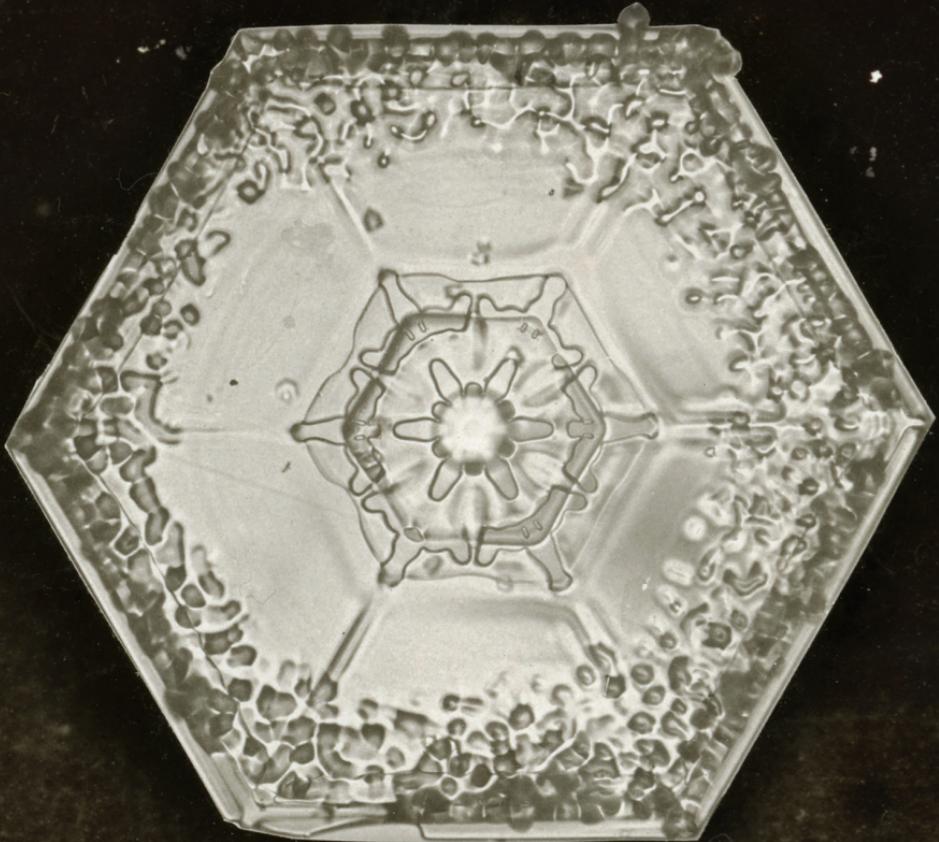
## 5. THE BUTTERFLY / GUDMUNDANSSEN

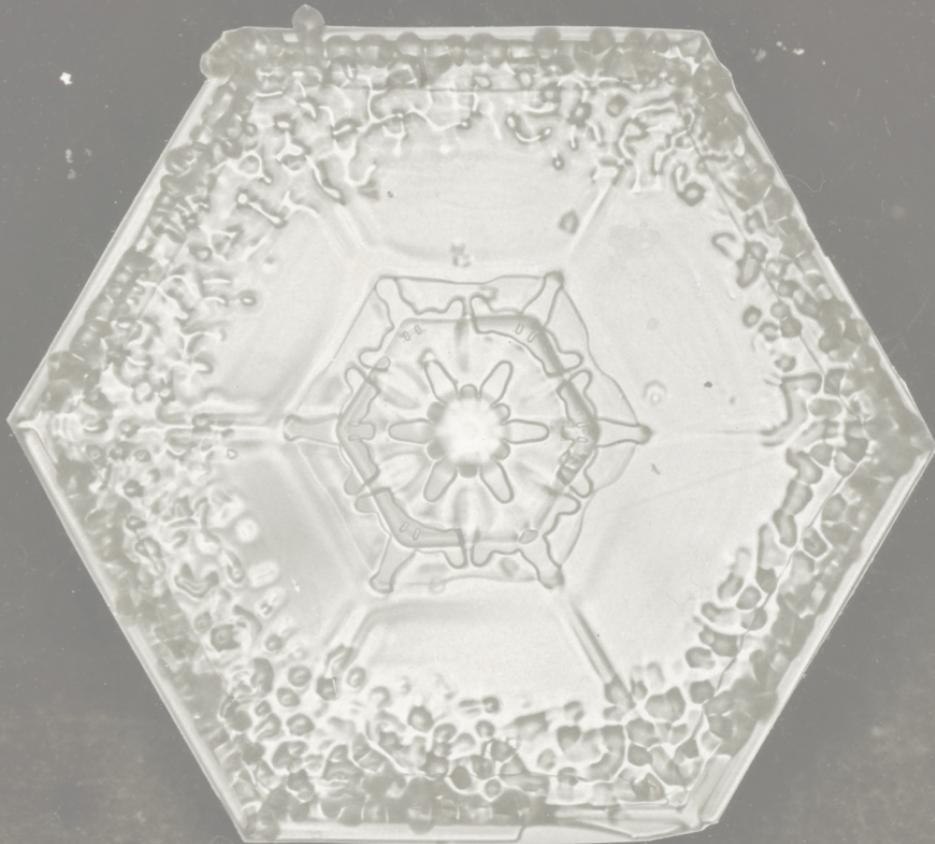
'The Butterfly' is a well-known traditional Irish slip jig (in 9/8 rhythm) whose melodic origins date back at least as far as the eighteenth century according to an interesting article by Paul de Grae (Irish Music Magazine, May 2000). The well-loved version played here is associated with the late fiddler Tommy Potts. The slip jig is one of the four most common Irish stepdances; the others being the reel, the jig and the hornpipe. It is danced in soft shoes.

'Gudmunddansen' is a 'hopsar', an older version of the Norwegian couple-dance polka. Vegar learned this traditional melody from a field-recording of the brothers Trygve and Ivar Fuglestad from Bjerkeim in Rogaland, Southern Norway.

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'The Butterfly' (Sommerfuglen) er en velkjent tradisjonell irsk 'slip jig' i 9/8-takt, og denne melodien kan spores tilbake til 1700-tallet, i følge Paul de Grae (Irish Music Magazine, mai 2000). Versjonen vi spiller er basert på en form





etter den avdøde felespilleren Tommy Potts. Slip jig danses med myke sko, og er en av de fire mest kjente irske steppdansene; de andre tre er ril, jig og hornpipe. 'Gudmunddansen' er en tradisjonell hopsar Vegar har lært etter opptak av brødrene Trygve og Ivar Fuglestad fra Bjerkreim i Rogaland.

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## 6. A FACE FOR SCUBA

(comp. Nuala Kennedy PRS/MCPS)

This playful tune was initially written for 'Enthralled', an album of original duets recorded by Nuala with the late great Canadian fiddler/composer Oliver Schroer. Tragically Oliver passed away in 2008 however the album was posthumously released on Borealis Records. Subsequently nominated for two Juno (national Canadian music) awards, Snowflake Trio performed 'Enthralled' live in Glasgow as part of Celtic Connections International Festival, 2012.

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Opprinnelig skrevet for 'Enthralled', en duo-utgivelse med Nuala og den kanadiske felespilleren og komponisten Oliver Schroer

(1956-2008). Dessverre døde Oliver før plata ble utgitt i 2008 på Borealis Records. Albumet ble nominert i to kategorier til Canadian Music Awards 2012. Snowflake Trio spilte en hel konsert med materiale fra denne utgivelsen på festivalen Celtic Connections i 2012.

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## 7. CEOL SIDHE (FAIRY MUSIC) / AMERIKA-VISE (EMIGRANT SONG)

This poem was composed in 1916 by Meath soldier-poet Francis Ledwidge (1887-1917) while he was in France. Nuala visited Francis Ledwidge's cottage on a school trip as a young girl and recalled the words to this poem after hearing Vegar and Frode play the beautiful Norwegian melody used here. The melody is adapted from a traditional song associated with Mari Furuberget (1874-1947) from Åsnes Finnskog, the area where Frode grew up. The original text is a typical Norwegian emigrant song, about leaving Norway in hopes of finding a new life in America.

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Dette diktet ble skrevet i Frankrike i 1916 av irske

Francis Ledwidge (1887-1917) mens han tjente som soldat i 1. verdenskrig. En ung Nuala var på skoletur til stua som Francis Ledwidge vokste opp i, og teksten 'Ceol Sidhē' dukket på nyt opp da hun hørte Vegar og Frode spille den norske emigrant-visa vi bruker her. Melodien er etter Mari Furuberget (1874-1947) fra Åsnes Finnskog, nære Våler i Solør, hvor Frode vokste opp. Originalteksten begynner med 'Jeg skriver til min piga...', og handler om å forlate alt for å søke et bedre liv i Amerika.

When May is here, and every morn  
Is dappled with pied bells,  
And dewdrops glance along the thorn  
And wings flash in the dells,  
I take my pipe and play a tune  
Of dreams, a (whispered) melody,  
For feet that dance beneath the moon  
In fairy jollity.  
  
And when the pastoral hills are grey  
And the dim stars are spread,  
A scamper fills the grass like play  
Of feet where fairies tread.  
And many a little whispering thing

Is calling in the Shee.  
The dewy bells of evening ring,  
And all is melody.

## 8. Å, JEG VET EN SETER

Georg, the third brother in the family of Fuglestad from Bjerkreim, played this tune on the Hardanger fiddle. Norwegians may recognise it as a variation of the children's song 'Å, jeg vet en seter', with lyrics by Margrethe Munthe (1860-1931). She was a teacher, children's writer, songwriter and playwright, and she often put lyrics to well-known folk melodies. This song is about the life of a shepherdess and all of the goats she takes care of.

Georg, den tredje av Fuglestad-brødrene fra Bjerkreim, spilte denne tradisjonelle reinlenderen på hardingfele. Nordmenn flest vil nok gjenkjenne melodien som en moll-variant av Margrethe Munthes 'Å, jeg vet en seter'. Munthe (1860-1931) var lærer, Norges første barnelitteraturforfatterinne, dramatiker, og hun skrev mange barnesanger til tradisjonelle folketoner.

## 9. ÚR CNOC CHÉIN MHIC CÁINTE (THE FAIR HILL OF KILLIN) / DEN BORTKOMNE SAUEN (THE LOST SHEEP)

This poem was written by celebrated Louth hedgeMASTER-poet Peadar Ó Dóirnín in the eighteenth century but the exact origins of its melody are disputed. The hill or fort of Cian Mac Cáinte, hero of the tale 'The Death of the Sons of Tuireann', lies about two miles north-west of Dundalk. We combine two verses of the poem here, melodically floating between major and minor keys with a Norwegian folk lament called 'Den bortkomne sau'en' (The Lost Sheep), whose story is based on the biblical parable of the same name. The Norwegian tune is from Setesdal, after Eivind Sigurdson Berg.

Her skal vi til Nualas hjemtrakter: Teksten til denne sangen er skrevet av Peadar Ó Dóirnín, kjent 1700-tallspoet fra Louth. Cian Mac Cáinte er en figur fra før-kristen irsk mytologi, og han skal være begravd på høyden Killin, rett utenfor Dundalk, Nualas hjemsted. Tonen denne teksten

tradisjonelt synges på har et ukjent opphav. Vi kombinerer to vers av denne sangen med to instrumentalvers av salmetonen 'Den bortkomne sau'en' etter Eivind Sigurdson Berg fra Setesdal.

A phlúr na maighdean is úire gné  
Thug clú le scéimh ón Ádhámhchláinn,  
A chúl na bpéarlá, a rún na héigse,  
Dhúblíos féile is fálte;  
A ghnús mar ghréin i dtús gach lae ghil  
Mhúchadh léan le gáire,  
Sé mo chumha ghear nach mé 's tú a shiúr, linn fén  
Sa dún sin Chéin Mhic Cáinte.

Fairest of all maidens your fresh appearance  
Brings honour to all the beautiful children of Adam  
O girl with the beautiful hair, darling of the poets,  
Who doubles generosity and welcome;  
Your face, like the sun at the beginning of a  
bright day

quenches sorrow with laughter,  
It's my sad lament that you and I are not alone  
together  
In the fort of Cian Mac Cáinte.

A shuaircbeann tséimh na gcuachfholt péarlach,  
Gluais liom fén ar ball beag,

Tráth is buailte cléir is tuataí ina néal 'na suan  
faoi éadaí bána;  
Ó thuaidh go mbéam i bhfad uathu araon,  
Teacht nua-chruth gréine amárach,  
Gan ghuais le chéile in uaigneas aerach  
San uaimh sin Chéin mhic Cáinte.

Gentle happy woman of the curling pearly hair,  
Come away with me soon,  
While clergy and people are fast asleep under  
white bedclothes;  
Let's be off to the north and far away from them all  
When the sun's new form rises tomorrow.  
We'll be far from danger in happy solitude  
In the hollow of Cian Mac Cáinte.

#### THANKS:

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Institute.

All music and lyrics are traditional unless otherwise indicated.

All music arranged by Nuala Kennedy, Vegar Vårdal and Frode Haltli.

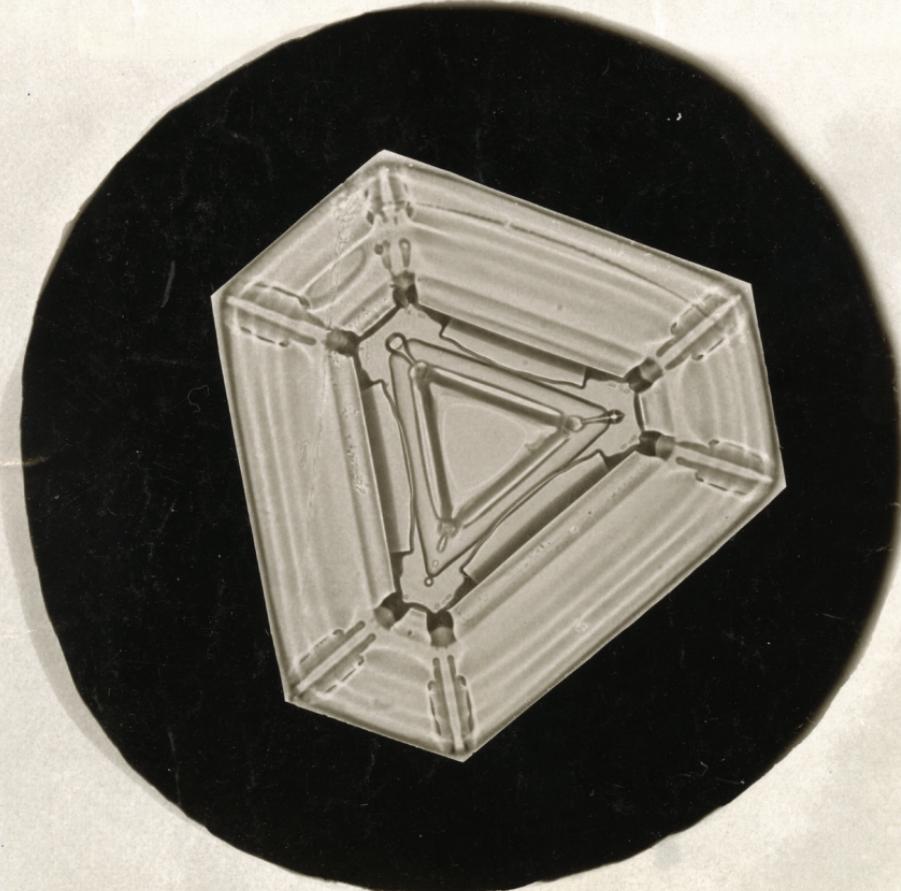
Recorded, Mixed and Mastered by Fridtjof Lindeman with Snowflake Trio.

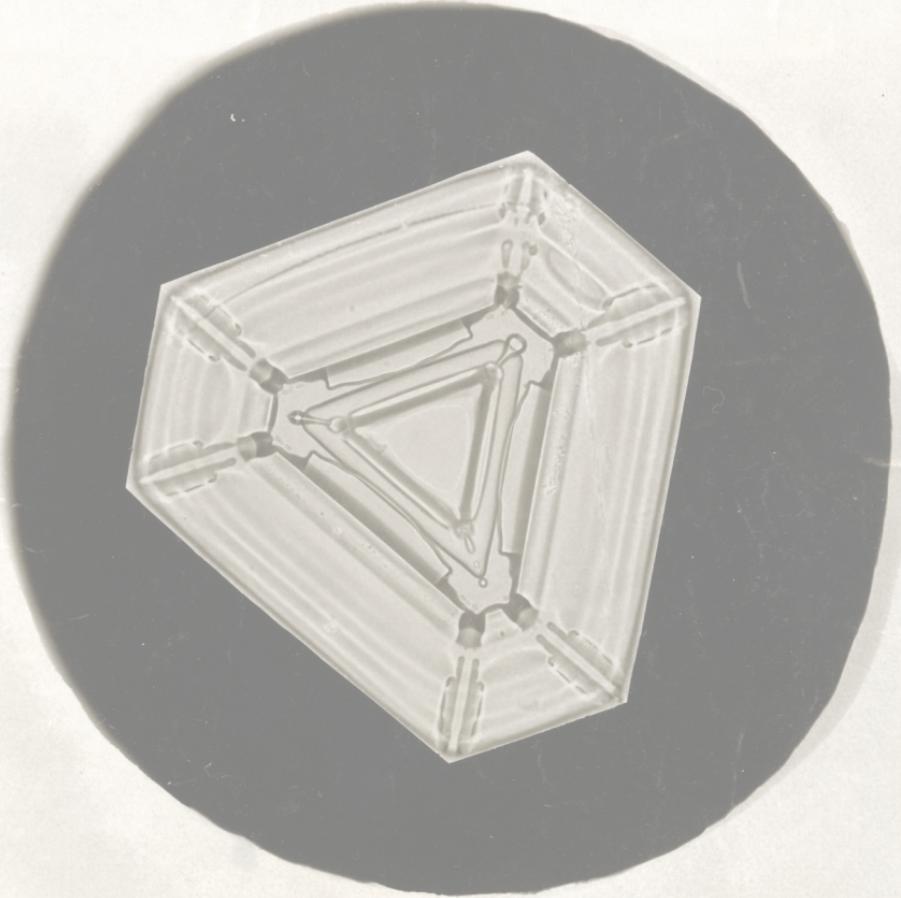
Micro photographs of snow crystals by 'Snowflake' Bentley, circa 1890.

Images courtesy of Smithsonian Institution Archives. Group Portrait by Louis Decarlo.

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**SNOWFLAKE TRIO**

Frode Haltli, Nuala Kennedy, Vegar Vårdal.

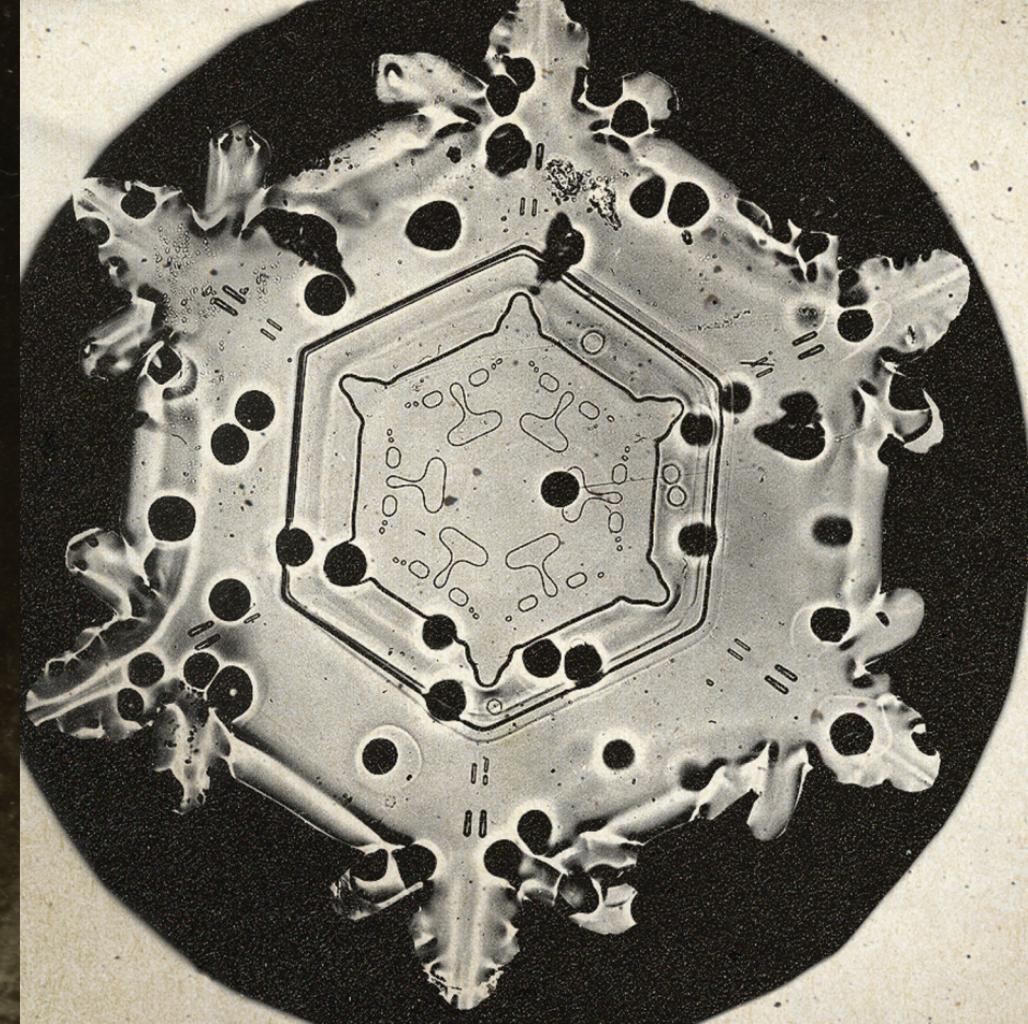
## BAND MEMBERS

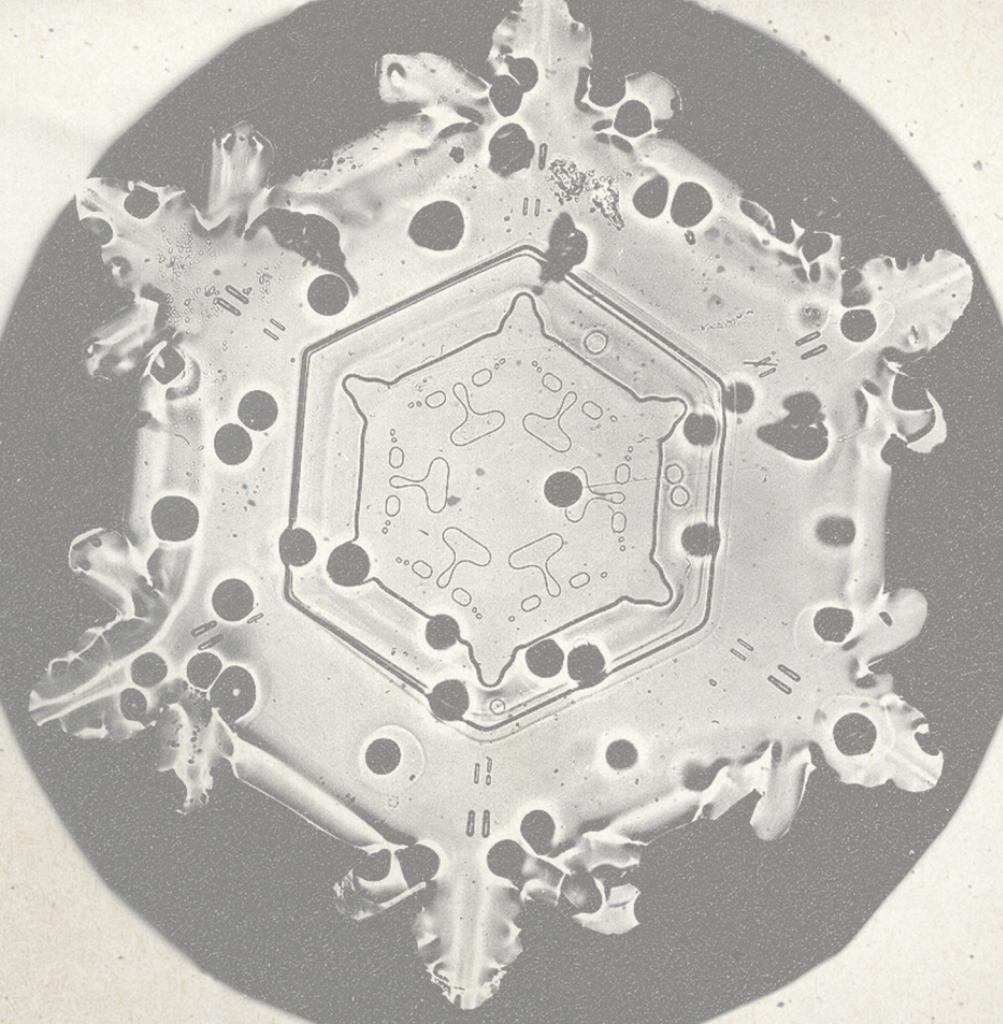
### Frode Haltli (b. 1975, Norway)

Frode began playing the accordion at the age of seven. In his early years he won numerous national contests. Haltli studied at the Norwegian State Academy of Music, then at the Royal Danish Music Conservatory in Copenhagen, graduating in 2000. In 2001 the Norwegian Concert Institute named him Young Soloist of the Year. Directing his career into explorations of new music, but also interested in experimenting with traditional music and improvisation, he became associated with like-minded musicians such as the trio POING, also sax player Trygve Seim on the 2008 release 'Yeraz' on ECM. Haltli has established links with several composers who have written especially for him, and worked with traditional musicians such as the trio RUSK, Raghild Furebotten, Emilia Amper and Gjermund Larsen. He has released several solo albums. [www.frodehaltli.com](http://www.frodehaltli.com)

### Frode Haltli (f. 1975)

Frode begynte å spille trekkspill som 7-åring. Han vant de neste årene en rekke nasjonale konkurranser. Haltli studerte ved Norges musikkhøgskole, videre ved Det Kgl Danske Musikkonservatorium hvor han ble uteksaminert fra Solistikklassen i 2000. I 2001 ble han kåret til Rikskonsertenes 'Årets unge solist'. Han har vært solist med orkestre over hele verden, og opptrådt med samme selvfolgelighet på samtidsfestivaler i Warsawa, Witten og Huddersfield som på internasjonale kammermusikk-, jazz- og folkemusikkfestivaler. Mange komponister har skrevet spesielt for Haltli, og han har samarbeidet med folkemusikere som trioen RUSK med Vegar og Unni Løvliid, Raghild Furebotten, Gjermund Larsen og Emilia Amper. Frode Haltli har utgitt en rekke soloalbum, blant annet på det velrenomerte tyske plateselskapet ECM. [www.frodehaltli.com](http://www.frodehaltli.com)





## BAND MEMBERS

### Vegar Vårdal (b. 1975 Norway)

Vegar has an energy and a musical language that can tackle folk music seriously, making room for improvisation, playfulness, rhythm and dialogue. Vegar enjoys working in multiple genres, but always with folk music as a base. This has resulted in a variety of collaborations which have spread their musicality across Europe and North America. Vegar is both a folk musician and a folk dancer, and has made his home deep in Gudbrandsdalen, Vågå in the mountains of Northern Norway. He plays both hardanger fiddle and violin. He graduated from the Norwegian State Academy of Music in Oslo and the dance program at NTNU in Trondheim. In 2017 he released his first solo album: pure Norwegian fiddle traditions from his childhood. He has won the national folkdance competition, and as a fiddle player he is rated in the highest league of folk musicians in Norway.

[www.kultivator.no](http://www.kultivator.no)

### Vegar Vårdal (f. 1975)

Vegar er en spellemann med energi og et bredt musikalsk spekter, med rom for improvisasjon, lekenhet, heftige rytmer og dialog med publikum. Det er viktig for Vegar å arbeide på tvers av sjangre, men alltid med en fot i folkemusikken. Vegar har turnert i ulike sammenhenger over hele Europa og Nord-Amerika. Han er rangert i A-klassen på Landskappleiken både som spellemann og danser, og har utdannelse fra Norges musikkhøgskole som musiker, og fra NTNU i Trondheim som danser. Nå har han Vågå i Gudbrandsdalen som sin base. I 2017 kom hans første soloalbum, 'Ukvessa slåtter', som inneholder tradisjonsmusikk han er oppvokst med. [www.kultivator.no](http://www.kultivator.no)

## BAND MEMBERS

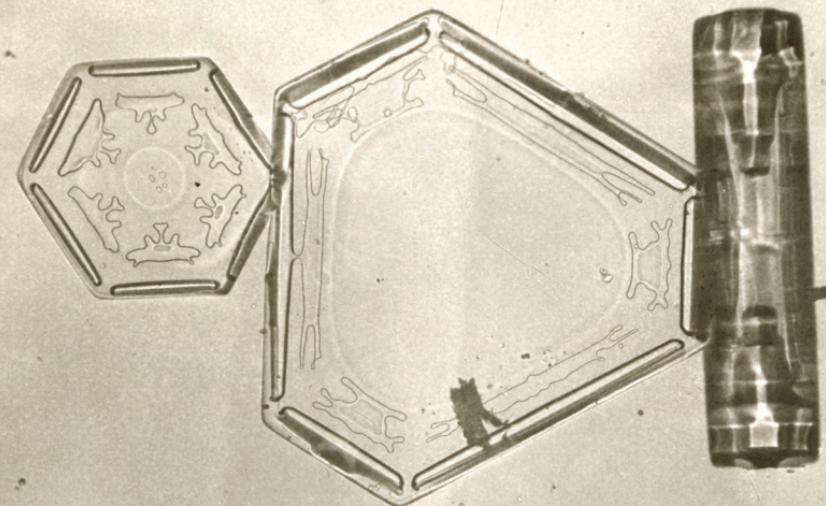
### Nuala Kennedy (*b.1977 Ireland*)

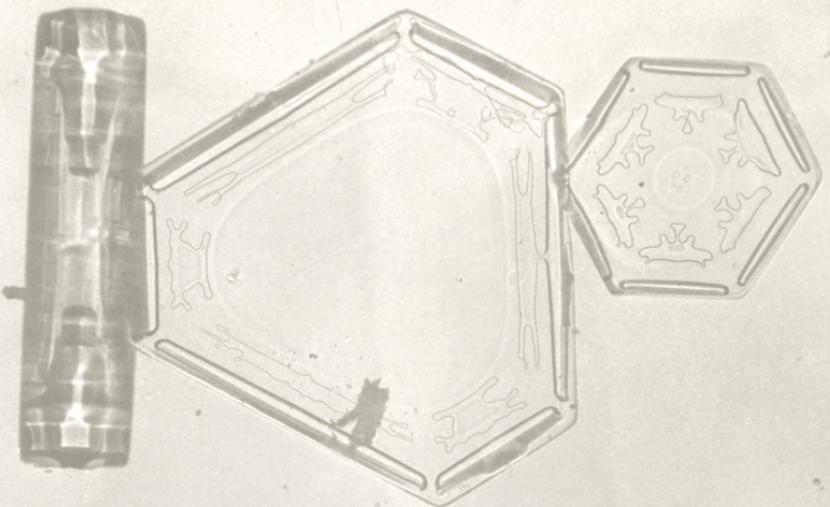
From Edinburgh to Hawaii, The Yukon to New South Wales, Venice Beach, California to Ennis, County Clare, Dundalk native Nuala Kennedy is a musical adventurer who is known worldwide as a superlative performer of Irish traditional music and song. She has graced the cover of Irish Music Magazine, Sing Out! and regularly appears on the main stage at international music festivals with her own band as well as in a variety of other line ups. The Irish Times described Nuala Kennedy as 'a flute player and composer of remarkable finesse, fearless of the unknown'.

[www.nualakennedy.com](http://www.nualakennedy.com)

### Nuala Kennedy (*f. 1977, Irland*)

Fra Edinburgh til Hawaii, fra Yukon i Canada til New South Wales i Australia, fra Venice Beach i California til irske Ennis i County Clare - Nuala Kennedy er en musikalsk eventyrer som har reist ut fra Dundalk, Irland og blitt viden kjent som en enestående formidler av tradisjonell irsk musikk og sang. Hun har vært på forsiden av Irish Music Magazine, Sing Out!, og opptråd jevnlig på de største scenene på internasjonale musikkfestivaler, enten med sitt eget band, eller i samspill med andre musikere. The Irish Times beskrev Nuala Kennedy som 'en uvanlig raffinert fløyttist og komponist, helt uredd for det ukjente'. [www.nualakennedy.com](http://www.nualakennedy.com)





For further information on Snowflake Trio including videos,  
sounds and images please visit

**[WWW.SNOWFLAKETRIO.COM](http://WWW.SNOWFLAKETRIO.COM)**

# SUN DOGS

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