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New Music

MAGGIE SANSONE

"Wind Drift: Celtic Grooves, Mystic Moods"

Kindred spirits: Martin Hayes, Brad Mehldau, Steve Reich

Show: With Al Petteway and Amy White on Saturday at Rams Head Tavern. Show starts at 8 p.m. 410-268-4545.

www.ramsheadtavern.com. \$20.

How does Maggie Sansone deliver on her latest album's promise of "celtic grooves, mystic moods"? Swiftly, elegantly, soulfully. Not that the renowned hammered dulcimer player deserves all the credit. Collaborating with several Washington musicians with similar tastes, Sansone sets into motion nimbly woven instrumentals — some ancient, some original, each charming in its own way.

The improvised "Evening Chai" points to Sansone's interest in Arabic and Persian traditions. But mostly she draws inspiration from Celtic sources,



es, assembling jigs, reels, step dances and ballads that are invigorating and entrancing by turns. Her bandmates — Al Petteway, Robin Bullock, Bobby Read and Matthew Bell — are wonderfully adept at enhancing the melodies and providing the rhythmic accents and propulsion.

Beginning with the reel-powered "North Sea Crossing," the lean arrangements acquire new textures and momentum, with each chorus adding something vibrant or alluring. "Willie's Old Trousers & the Tartan" is a vivid example of Sansone's flair for bringing traditional portraits to life. Of the original tunes, "Blue Mottetto," a stylistic departure with Italian roots, stands out, thanks partly to its curious construction. Saved for last is another original: "Early Dawn," a calm and sparkling coda.

— Mike Joyce