



press release

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*PRESS RELEASE*

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

*BEGINS*

**Ben the Hoose win 2006 Best Folk Album Tui for "The Little Cascade" in New Zealand Music Awards.**

Ben the Hoose are pleased to announce that their debut album *The Little Cascade* has won the New Zealand Music Award (Tui) for Best Folk Album of 2006. The award was presented at Auckland Folk Festival on Sunday 28th January, 2007.

The other finalists were Birmingham-born Bob Bickerton for *The Likes of Us* and evergreen Kiwi folksters The Warratahs with the quintet's seventh album *Keep On*.

The Best Folk Album award is part of the New Zealand Music Awards and it is the third year it has been presented at the Auckland Folk Festival. It's the third Music Awards Tui for McNeill who won the same award as a solo artist in 2005 with his album 'Turn the Diesels'.

Ben the Hoose is a duo featuring fiddler Kenny Ritch from Orkney, and award-winning songwriter and guitarist Bob McNeill from Glasgow. The duo formed in early 2005 when Ritch and McNeill discovered their shared passion for the music of the Highlands and a common desire to play it to New Zealand audiences. Their debut album *The Little Cascade* was released in October 2006. It's a collection of the passionate playing and inventive arrangements that have made Ben the Hoose such a live success. It features modern and traditional dance tunes from all over Scotland, two original songs by McNeill, and a haunting, New Zealand-inspired version of Robert Tannahill's *Gloomy Winter's noo awa*. The title track is a six-part reel written for Highland pipes by Pipe Major George S. McLennan during the First World War. McLennan, a prisoner of war in Germany at the time, is said to have composed the tune while unable to sleep because of a dripping tap.

Recording Industry Association of New Zealand CEO Campbell Smith says Ben the Hoose's win ably demonstrates the diversified strength of folk music in New Zealand. "The fact that an album of Scottish music can win New Zealand's top folk music accolade shows me the genre is subject to a wide range of influences which can only be good for the quality of music produced."

Ben the Hoose will tour *The Little Cascade* in March 2006 in New Zealand. Full details, press materials, detailed bios, tour schedule, and audio samples from *The Little Cascade* are available from the duo's website at [www.benthehoose.com](http://www.benthehoose.com).

The Auckland Folk Festival is in its 33rd year and its 16th at the Kumeu Showgrounds. Information about the event is available at [www.aucklandfolkfestival.co.nz](http://www.aucklandfolkfestival.co.nz).

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** The Tui for Best Folk Album is for albums released between 16 November 2005 and 15 November 2006. The Folk category was introduced to the



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awards in 1984. The winner will again be acknowledged as part of the main awards ceremony in October, 2007.

Previous winners of the Tui for Best Folk Album

- 2006 - Lorina Harding for *Clean Break*
- 2005 - Bob McNeill for his album *Turn the Diesels*
- 2004 - Brendyn Montgomery and Mike Considine for the album *Mountain Air*

*ENDS*