Planxty - After the Break (1979)

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01. The Good Ship Kangaroo - 4:32 02. East At Glendart/Brian O'Lynn/Pay The Reckoning (double jigs) - 3:43 03. You Rambling Boys Of Pleasure - 7:47 04. The Blackberry Blossom/Lucky In Love/The Dairy Maid (reels) - 3:11 05. The Rambling Siuler - 4:19 06. The Lady On The Island/The Gatehouse Maid/The Virginia/Callaghan's (reels) - 4:57 07. The Pursuit Of Farmer Michael Hayes - 6:10 08. Lord McDonald/The Chattering Magpie - 4:11 09. The Bonny Light Horseman - 4:30 10. Smeceno Horo (bulgarian dance tune in 9/16 time) - 4:30 Personnel: - Christy Moore - vocals, guitar, harmonium, bodhrán - Dónal Lunny - blarge, guitar - Andy Irvine - vocals, mandolin, mandola, hurdy gurdy & bouzouki - Liam O'Flynn uilleann pipes & whistle - Matt Molloy - flute & whistle

Planxty may have lacked the longevity of The Chieftains, but in their heyday they were indisputably the chiefs of Irish traditional music. Christy Moore, Donal Lunny, Andy Irvine, Liam O'Flynn and Matt Molloy--the line-up reads like an awards list for best contemporary Irish folk musicians. But if individually they have all brought a fresh perspective to traditional music, together they were able to invest the material with all the energy and intensity of a rock band. After the Break , from 1979, showcases the band on sparkling form. Most of the instrumentals were collected by piper O'Flynn and flautist Molloy, but it's the string duo of Donal Lunny, with his outsize bouzouki (called a "blarge", which stands for "bouzouki: large") and Andy Irvine who really make a difference. The final piece, a Bulgarian dance tune in 9/16 time collected by Irvine, is a marvel. All of Planxty's albums are well worth acquiring, but on After the Break this great band is in especially fine form. ---Mark Walker, amazon.com

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