

Nessa is a Celtic fusion group led by multi-instrumentalist/vocalist, Kelly McDermott, known for her virtuosic flute technique and beautiful, soulful voice. She is joined by co-founder/multi-instrumentalist Rob Crozier to research, arrange and perform the music of Nessa. As a group Nessa re-imagines the ballads and dances of the U.K. and Europe, uniquely blending elements of classical, folk, jazz, funk and world music to create rich, complex musical hybrids. The band moves audiences with funky reels, “barn burner” jigs, and deep, soulful renditions of the old ballads. Nessa has elements of global fusion a la Loreena McKennitt, the energy of bands like Solas and a depth and dimension similar to Brian Eno. Since Nessa’s eponymous CD in 2014 the group has performed for festivals, performance arts series, theaters, clubs, libraries, and listening rooms throughout the midwest and beyond. It is Kelly McDermott’s passion for ancient Celtic lore and legends of the U.K that feeds the musical vision of the group. As a collective it is the group’s variety of musical backgrounds that helps create such a compelling sound that is truly “fusion”.