

## TO HERE KNOWS WHEN - GREAT IRISH ALBUMS REVISITED

### *This Is* by The Tycho Brahe



The **Tycho Brahe** were formed by Carol Keogh, Donal O'Mahony and Diarmuid MacDiarmada.

Carol and Donal had been in **The Plague Monkeys** from the mid-90s to 1999, releasing two fine albums and a couple of EPs. Prior to The Plague Monkeys Carol, Donal and Diarmuid had been in short-lived **The Low Babies**.

The Tycho Brahe were named after the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Danish Astronomer. "I picked the name because I loved the way it looked on a page," says Carol. "Which is a ridiculous reason to pick a name for a band that people actually have to say out loud."

The band were formed in early 2002 and eventually went their separate ways in late 2004. In that time, I saw them play live loads of times in Dublin. I definitely saw them share stages with Jape, The Jimmy Cake, Joe Chester and David Kitt.

*This Is*, their debut album was released to great acclaim in 2002. The BBC declared it, "a self-assured, beautiful and understated album." The album's opening track is the gorgeous 'Halfmast'.

The songs explains how Carol felt in the period between the demise of The Plague Monkeys and the start of The Tycho Brahe. "Literally during that period, for about three years, I was "sailing at halfmast". I was in the doldrums and Donal came to me and asked if I wanted to start writing again and I said "yeah, let's do that". It was his suggestion to approach Diarmuid. That was a weird full circle because before The Plague Monkeys we were The Low Babies for a short period of time involving Diarmuid as well."

*This Is* was followed up by a double album *Loveline* in 2003, proclaimed as the first ever double studio album by any Irish band. "I think we made that up," laughs Carol.

During and after The Tycho Brahe, Carol was a member of **Autamata**. In 2014 Carol released the first album under her own name, Carol Keogh and the City Fathers' *Mongrel City*.

In 2016 as **The Natural History Museum** Carol and Dunk Murphy released *Attenborough* and a few years ago Carol - under the name **The WICC** - released the brilliant *The Wolf Chronicles Part 1*.

More recently she has contributed to the **Bring Your Own Hammer** musical project. A project in which historians and composers collaborate to create new and original song cycles based on historical sources.

A few months ago Carol started a newsletter on Substack titled: *Diary of a Fifty Something First-time Buyer*. It's an essential read. Carol's ruminations on the Arts in Ireland, the role of the Artist in society, remuneration for Artists and more have been thoroughly thought-provoking. "I feel like I've always been on the fringes of things," says Carol. "I'm probably more comfortable there to be honest."

*The Wolf Chronicles Part 1*, and The Tycho Brahe's *This Is* are both available on Bandcamp.



Carol Keogh revisits *This Is* by The Tycho Brahe To Here Knows When - Great Irish Albums

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