

MacAdam's Apple Music Review



Larry Kirwan



Fred Parcells



Chris Byrnes

Black 47

by Patricia Mac Bride

Black 47, the band who opened for the Pogues in their recent New York concert are an Irish American band who are redefining the music scene in New York.

The band composed and performed the music for Janet Noble's play, "Away Alone," which describes life for young Irish immigrants in the Bronx.

Black 47 play their own brand of Celtic rock, reminiscent of Horslips, only better. Frontman Larry

Kirwan sings and plays a mean guitar, incorporating traditional Irish jigs and reels, played by uilleann piper Chris Byrnes, into original compositions.

The sounds of the guitar, uilleann pipes and Kirwan's caustic vocals are perfectly complemented by Fred Parcells on trombone, a strange combination, but it works.

The original songs, written by Kirwan and arranged by the three, are based on such themes as emigration, as in the classic "Paddy's got a brand new reel," and

impressions of the United States, as in "Home of the Brave." Their covers of classic songs, such as "The Patriot Game" are unique.

The band are due to release an EP called "Home of the Brave," which will be released in late June, and they are recording tracks for an album due to be released in the summer.

Catch Black 47 at Flemings on 86th Street between 2nd and 3rd on Tuesdays, and at Paddy Reilly's, 28th Street and 2nd Avenue on Saturdays.