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Music & Arts

Celtic band Black 47 will mark their 25th anniversary by calling it quits

'It's bittersweet,' says leader Larry Kirwan; the band will play B.B. King's on St. Patrick's Day, the 25th time they've played the city on that date

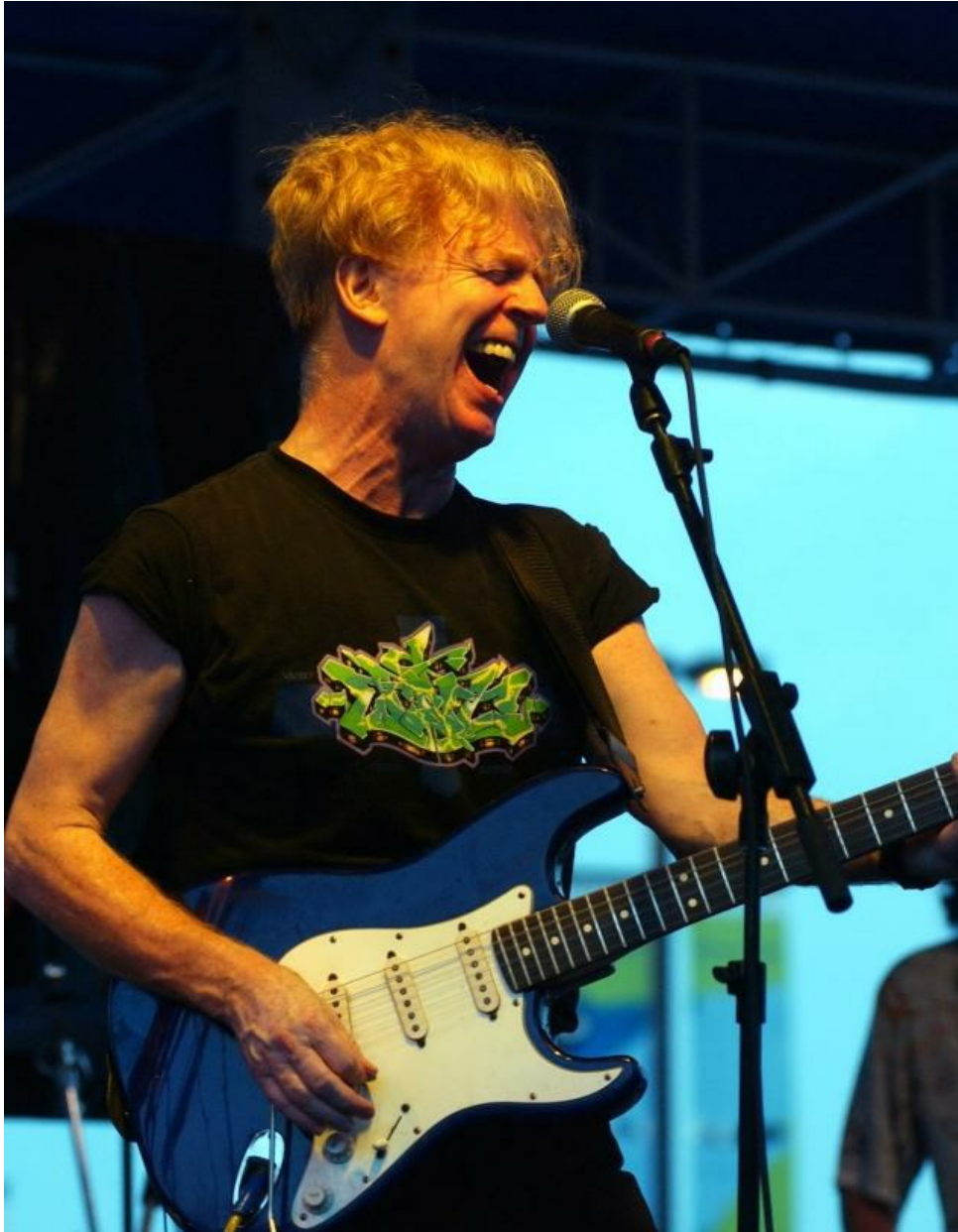
BY JIM FARBER / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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Lorde and Katy Perry won't be singing together soon. Perry offered Lorde a spot as an opener on her world



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Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is claiming he wouldn't know Kevin Spacey "if I ran over



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REBECCA MCALPIN

Lead singer Larry Kirwan of Black 47, who will be calling it quits in November. This St. Patrick's Day will mark the 25th and final time the band plays NYC on that day.

It's the last call for Black 47.

New York's best-loved Celtic band announced back in September that they'll stop playing after this November, right in time to mark their 25th anniversary. On Monday, they'll perform their final St. Patrick's Day show at B.B. King Blues Club & Grill on 42nd St. The gig marks the 25th time Black 47 has played the city on that date.

"It's bittersweet," bandleader Larry Kirwan says. "But it's better to make the decision yourself than to have it made for you."

Kirwan maintains there's no dark backstory to the breakup. "I'm a boxing fan and it's always hard to see a fighter stay on longer than they should," he says. "We all feel like this is a great time to go."

From the start, Black 47 made waves with an inventive approach to Celtic music, bringing in elements from jazz to art-song. The group also stood out for their politics — to the point of alienating some — like when they took a stand against the Iraq war at its rah-rah start on 2008's "Iraq" album. Some fans walked out of their shows.

"It doesn't sound like much now, but at the time even The New York Times was for the war," Kirwan says.

The group was connected deeply to New York. It's where they formed — and the city was often used as a character in their songs. "New York Town" in 2004 chronicled the city before, during and after 9/11.

"I set out to be a poet of the city, like David Johansen and the Ramones," Kirwan says. "I think people recognized we *were* New York. It wasn't put on for a record company or the media. It was real."

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See what all the stars were up to this week ...



Damon Dash takes stand in \$1 million civil case against him

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Michael Lohan's baby mama arrested for DUI, domestic battery

Michael Lohan says he's sticking by his fiancé Kate Major after another blowout fight that ended with her



Lindsay Lohan wears wedding dress for '2 Broke Girls' role

Here comes the bride... and it's Lindsay Lohan? The 27-year-old starlet was photographed donning a



Fallon parodies 'First Kiss' video with puppies and kittens

Only Jimmy Fallon could think of a way to make the viral "First Kiss" video cuter. The "Tonight Show" host



Celebrity wardrobe malfunctions

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The fur is flying after noted primatologist Jane Goodall leveled an accusation that Michael Jackson's famous



Billy Joel flubs lyrics to 'We Didn't Start the Fire'

Not even Billy Joel can remember all the words to "We Didn't Start the Fire." The 64-year-old musician



Jennifer Lopez 'objectifies' men in 'I Luh Ya Papi' video

Jennifer Lopez cast some serious male eye candy for her latest music video. The 44-year- singer premiered



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