



Black 47 playing Englewood



Ed Condran 2:14 p.m. EDT September 17, 2014



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Don't blame music fans for failing to take recording artists seriously when they announce swan song tours.

How many times has Cher announced that she's hitting the road for her final run?

She's at it again and she joked about it during recent shows.

However, take Larry Kirwan at face value. The singer-songwriter-playwright insists that Black 47 will splinter Nov. 15 and never record or play together again.

"That will make it 25 years to the day when we started this band," Kirwan said while calling from his Manhattan apartment.

"It would be good to finish on that exact date. A big reason to stop at this time is because we're sounding great. We just played a show in Buffalo and we really nailed it. So why not go out with a bang and move on to other things?"

Kirwan believes the Celtic-rock band has achieved everything that it could and he's probably correct. Black 47 had a pair of hits during the early 90s with 'Funky Ceili' and 'Maria's Wedding.' The band was one of the first rock acts to scream for gay rights with 'Danny Boy.' Black 47 came out against the Iraq War with 2008's 'Iraq.'

"We set out to change things," Kirwan said. "We're about social change."

And Black 47 will be making a permanent change. "But we have (time) to enjoy what this band has been all about for so many years. I'm about the present and the future. I don't go back."

When Kirwan was asked why he didn't reunite with Major Thinkers, his electronic-pop act from the early 80s, the host of XM's 'Celtic Crush' laughed.

"Every now and again, people ask about a Major Thinkers reunion," Kirwan said. "It's funny because when I listen to the music of the '80s, it has no appeal to me whatsoever. It seems as if it's lacking soul. I can't listen to Major Thinkers. I don't think I'll feel the same way about Black 47. It's different with this band. I'll take fond memories, especially when I think back to some of the shows we did during the summer."

Some of Kirwan's favorite shows were delivered in New Jersey. "There are so many memories I have of playing the Stone Pony and other venues in Jersey," Kirwan said. "It's just across the river from where I live and I'll fondly remember the fans from Jersey. They've always been so enthusiastic."

Fans will miss Black 47 when they hang it up. "Perhaps, but it's time," Kirwan said.

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"Bands shouldn't last forever."

And Kirwan insists that there will never be a Black 47 reunion.

"Absolutely not," Kirwan said. "Once Nov. 16 arrives, it's over for us but we still have some shows to do. We're going to make it count."

THE FINAL TOUR?

WHEN: 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20

WHERE: Bergen Performing Arts Center,
30 N. Van Brunt St., Englewood

COST: Tickets are \$25 and \$35

INFORMATION: Call 732-745-3000 or visit www.bergenpac.org

