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Final Tour

It's 'Last Call' for Irish rock band Black 47



It's a self-imposed last call for Black 47, an Irish rock band whose upcoming Londonderry show at the Tupelo Music Hall is part of its final tour dates.

The group has played more gigs at Shea Stadium than The Beatles, shut down the city of Hoboken, and appeared on late-night shows with Jay Leno, David Letterman, Conan O'Brien and Jimmy Fallon, but band mates have planned their own curtain call.

They released a final album, "Last Call," then hit the road to promote it. But they also picked a specific time to disband soon after. November of this year marks 25 years of its rollicking repertoire, so after 2,500 shows and 14 CDs, the New York City group will turn off the mics in mid-November.

But not before it plays a slate of fall dates, including Tupelo at 8 p.m. Friday. The last stop listed on the group's website is listed as taking place in New York City in about 23 days.

Led by Irish author, playwright and SiriusXM radio host, Larry Kirwan, Black 47 incorporates many social and political issues into its music, which first gained a following in New York City clubs.

Formed by Chris Byrne, an New York Police Department detective, and Kirwan, at the time a playwright, Black 47 took its name from the worst year of the Irish Potato Famine.

"We decided to go out when we're ahead and, as always, on our own terms," Kirwan said of the band's decision to end on a high note. "The band has never sounded better, so why not record some songs and explore new ground."



Black 47's latest album signals the final bow of the Irish rock band.

Who: Black 47

Where: Tupelo Music Hall, Londonderry

When: 8 p.m. Friday Tickets: \$25

Info: 603-437-5100, www.tupelohalllondonderry.com

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As a bonus for fans, Black 47 released "Rise Up," a collection of 15 of their political and historical songs. It represents a musical journey that began with a gig in the Bronx back in 1989.

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