

CLEVELAND IRISH CULTURAL FESTIVAL

July 18-20, 2014, Berea Fairgrounds
Fri. 5:00pm-11:00pm Rain or Shine!
Sat. 1pm-11:00pm Children Under 10 FREE!
Sun. 1pm-10:00pm Parking FREE!
Sun. Mass 11:30am

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LAUNCH MUSIC PLAYER

Feel free to listen to Irish Fest performers **past and present** in our music player. Note that several of the musicians featured in the player will not be performing at the 2014 festival. The bios listed below the player, however, do represent our current year's line-up. Enjoy!

PERFORMERS 2014

Select a Performer:

NEWSLETTER

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BLACK 47 NEW YORK, NY

They played more gigs at Shea Stadium than The Beatles, shut down the city of Hoboken, appeared multiple times on Leno, Letterman & O'Brien, starred in a movie with their fans Matt Dillon and Danny Glover, helped spring the Guilford Four and the Birmingham Six from British prisons, saved an Irish immigrant church from the wrecking ball.



Anything else? Oh yeah, their CD IRAQ was the most popular with troops serving in Iraq, their song The Big Fella was featured for 3 minutes on Sons of Anarchy, they've played over 2500 gigs from pubs to stadiums and released 14 CDs, their songs are used in hundreds of high school and college history and political science courses, and they intend disbanding on Nov. 8th, exactly 25 years after their first gig in The Bronx. Then again, Black 47 has always done it their way.

more >>>

GO

DERVISH

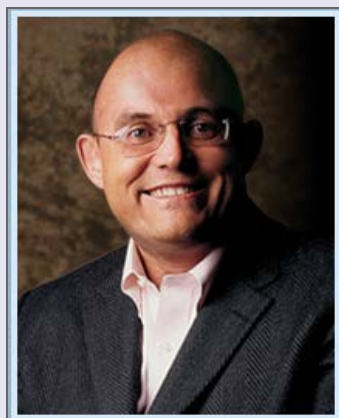


SLIGO, IRL

From the Great Wall of China to packed auditoriums in the Holy Land and more recently being the first Irish band to perform at the greatest music festival in the world, "Rock in Rio" in front of an estimated audience of two hundred and forty thousand people, Dervish have come a long way in seventeen years. Formed in 1989 by a group of five musicians, Liam Kelly, Shane Mitchell, Martin Mc Ginley, Brian Mc Donagh and Michael Holmes who came together to

record an album of local music which was released as The Boys of Sligo. Inspired by the project they decided to develop this informal gathering (which gathered weekly to play sessions in local pubs) into a working band under the name Dervish which was chosen as it related to any group of spiritual people who become enraptured by music.

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RONAN TYNAN

COUNTY KILKENNY, IRL

Ronan Tynan is truly a modern day "Renaissance Man." Faced with numerous challenges throughout his well documented life, he has persevered with enormous passion and determination. He attributes his success to his faith and the knowledge that the Man Above guides him through every door he opens. Introduced to international audiences as a member of the Irish Tenors, Tynan quickly became known for his unique voice and irresistible appeal. Following his mother's advice to always follow your dreams, Tynan decided to launch a solo career, and has achieved the fame and adoration that could have existed only in the farthest reaches of his dreams.

Tynan's singing offered the gentlest consolation at the funeral of President Ronald Reagan in the summer of 2004, when an international TV audience of more than 35 million heard him sing "Amazing Grace" and Schubert's "Ave Maria," at the personal invitation of Nancy Reagan. Ronan is also famous for his performances of "God Bless America" at Yankee Stadium during the seventh-inning stretch, which he says have been nothing short of unforgettable. In 2006 he started an affiliation with the Buffalo Sabres hockey team and has performed "God Bless America" at many of their games.

Ronan's ability to simultaneously console and inspire is well-documented. In the wake of 9/11, the men and women of the New York Police Department and New York Fire Department and their families have been able to count on Ronan Tynan's abiding concern and beautiful voice. Ronan has performed at benefits and memorial services for New York's Finest and Bravest, and his singing softened the sorrow of many in the wake of the tragedy.

Of course, there have been plenty of joyous moments in Ronan's career as well. In the spring of 2004, the Belmont Stakes got off to a rollicking start when Tynan—a passionate horseman himself—christened the race with a ringing rendition of "New York, New York." This is of particular interest marking the first time ever in Belmont's 30-year history that a singer was invited to perform live as they traditionally play the version recorded by Frank Sinatra. Tynan has performed for countless dignitaries worldwide including the wedding of New York's former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to Judith Nathan on the grounds of Gracie Mansion. His voice also brightened the 80th birthday celebration of former President George H.W. Bush in the summer of 2004 in Houston.

In the spring of 2005, Ronan released his self-titled debut album, which began a new era in his career. "I think it shows a greater versatility than any other album I've done," Tynan has said. "I wanted to sing a greater variety of music and spread my wings a bit, make a move out of the classic 'Irish tenor' vein." The album contains the heartfelt "Passing Through," which honors Ronan's mother, whose vibrant spirit has been taken away by the long night of Alzheimer's disease. Ronan debuted #2 on Billboard's Classical Crossover Chart, just behind Josh Groban, and was the 8th best-selling classical crossover album of 2005. It also reached #2 on the World

Album Chart and peaked at #9 on the Contemporary Christian Chart. His career has also been well-documented with appearances on Primetime Live, Good Morning America, the Hour of Power, 700 Club, Fox & Friends and many other high-profile television shows.

Ronan sang at the White House Governors' Ball at the invitation of President and Mrs. Bush in February, 2007, and in 2008 returned to the White House to sing at the St. Patrick's Day Reception attended by members of the U.S. and Irish governments. He performed during the Concert of Hope prior to the Papal Mass at Yankee Stadium in April, 2008. He is currently in the recording stages of two upcoming CD releases, one an all-Irish CD, and a second collection of songs performed at his concerts and requested by fans throughout the world. In 2007 due to popular demand, he released a DVD of his motivational speech: Hitting the High Notes, Living Life to the Fullest.

Though Ronan enjoyed singing as a boy, he did not seriously consider formal voice study until he was 33, when he was well into his residency as a physician. His quick success is a typical development in a life of extraordinary achievement. Born with lower limb disability that threatened to sideline him throughout his childhood, Tynan was still "as wild as a March hare" when he was a growing boy, riding horses and racing motorcycles. When he was twenty, his legs had to be amputated below the knee after an auto accident caused serious complications. Just weeks after the operation, he was climbing up the steps of his college dorm, and within a year, he was winning gold medals in the Paralympics as a multitalented athlete. Between 1981 and 1984, Tynan amassed eighteen gold medals and fourteen world records of which he still holds nine.

The determination instilled in Ronan by his parents, a diminutive couple with gigantic ambitions for their son, soon propelled him to conquer a whole new field. Tynan became the first disabled person ever admitted to the National College of Physical Education. He later became a full-fledged medical doctor, specializing in orthopedic sports injuries, with a degree from prestigious Trinity College.

Ronan won both the John McCormack Cup for Tenor Voice and the BBC talent show Go For It less than one year after beginning the study of voice. The following year, he won the International Operatic Singing Competition in Maumarde, France. He made his operatic debut as Pinkerton in Puccini's Madame Butterfly, and cut his teeth on the concert repertoire in performances of Verdi's Requiem, Mendelssohn's Elijah, Handel's Messiah, Rossini's Stabat Mater, and Puccini's Messa di Gloria. In 1998, Tynan joined Anthony Kearns and John McDermott (later Finbar Wright) as The Irish Tenors, an instant worldwide sensation. His autobiography Halfway Home was published in February of 2002.

Ronan is one of the most sought after motivational speakers in the U.S., presenting nearly 50 speeches annually for major international corporations and organizations.

The big Irishman has a special relationship with American audiences now. "America is powerful and intense, and it begs you to take it on," Tynan marvels. "If you do that and do it right, it will give you absolutely everything you want. The thing I love about America is that there are so many people who want you to do well. They will you to do well. They encourage you, and they rejoice in your success. That's a great virtue. I think Americans are fantastic people, amazing," he says. And while Tynan claims that America has given him so much more than he'll ever be able to give back, those who have attended his concerts, basking in the stirring beauty of his music and rolling with laughter at his self-effacing humor, may well just have to disagree.



STEPCREW

TORONTO, CA

The StepCrew is the new dance production featuring the world's top talents in Irish Stepdancing, Ottawa Valley Stepdancing, and Modern Tap. These six dynamic performers both excel in their respective traditional forms of dance and create brand new, modern fusions of all three styles. Backed by a five-piece band including Celtic vocals and joined by the fiddle playing of three champion musicians, The StepCrew simply "drips" energy.

Performers in the show include dancers and fiddlers from the likes of The Chieftains, Bowfire, Cherish The Ladies, and Seven Nations. As stated in The Boston Telegram, "The cast was outstanding. The group's energy dazzles."





SCYTHIAN

WASHINGTON, DC

Named after Ukrainian nomads, Scythian (sith-ee-yin) merges Irish, gypsy, and Americana with thunderous energy, technical zest, and soulful songwriting, beckoning crowds into a barn-dance rock concert experience.

Celebrating 10 years of getting people dancing all night, Scythian is releasing their new album, *Jump at the Sun*, this summer. Ed Helms's *The Bluegrass Situation* has given it early praise, calling "Paint This

Town" a "shine-fueled, fiddle-flying hoedown" and "Built These Walls" a "blue-collar ballad we can all get behind." Scythian will travel to Ireland with fans in October with shows in Dublin, Galway, and Killarney.

ScythianMusic.com | [@ScythianMusic](https://twitter.com/ScythianMusic)

Scythian is "what happens when rock star charisma meets Celtic dervish fiddling."
—*Music City Roots*

"[Scythian gives] no quarter in their quest to entertain and bring a joy to their music that gives it an irony-free, wide open feel of manic possibility. The playing is technically brilliant, but it is the energy that carries the day."
—*Camel City Dispatch (Winston-Salem, NC)*

"Scythian's enthusiasm is contagious, and shows seem to end with everyone dancing, jumping around or hoisting glasses."
—*The Washington Post*



HIGH KINGS

DUBLIN, IRL

For centuries, Ireland was ruled by High Kings. As their reign came to an end, their deeds and stories merged into the world of legend and myth and the High Kings of Ireland were no more except in story, music and song. Until now. Finbarr Clancy, Brian Dunphy, Martin Furey and Darren Holden, renowned vocalists and musicians, have come together to create the most exciting Irish ballad group to emerge since The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem electrified the worldwide folk revival of the 1960s.

Ireland's Folk Band of the year The High Kings, Brian Dunphy, Martin Furey, Darren Holden and Finbarr Clancy. Coming from accomplished Musical pedigrees, The High Kings grew up in households soaked in the Irish Musical tradition and each member of the band witnessed first hand the power of well crafted Irish music on an audience.

Since The High Kings started, they have sold out hundreds of shows, in Ireland and the US, made

numerous TV appearances, and achieved platinum status with both albums.

The High Kings showcase their incredible versatility and skills as multi-instrumentalists, playing 13 instruments between them bringing a rousing acoustic flavour to brand new songs as well as some old favourites. The High Kings are continuing to live up to their reputation as a phenomenal live band, serving up laughter, good times and even the odd sing along.



EILEEN IVERS & IMMIGRANT SOUL

NEW YORK, NY



A founding member of Cherish the Ladies, a nine Time All-Ireland Fiddle Champion, and the musical star of Riverdance, Eileen Ivers has played for Presidents and Royalty around the globe, and has also been a featured musician with the London Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony at The Kennedy Center, the Boston Pops, The Chieftains, Hall and Oates, Afrocelts, Patti Smith, Paula Cole, Al Di Meola, and Steve Gadd.

It is a rare and select grade of artists whose work is so boldly imaginative and clearly virtuosic that it alters the medium. Of Eileen Ivers, The Washington Post stated, "She suggests the future of the Celtic fiddle," and the Post was neither the first nor last to suggest that the task of exploring the traditions and progression of the Celtic fiddle is on Eileen Ivers' shoulders.

Called a "sensation" by Billboard magazine and "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin" by The New York Times, Ivers' recording credits include over 80 contemporary and traditional albums and numerous

movie scores.

The daughter of Irish immigrants, Ivers grew up in the Bronx. She won nine All-Ireland fiddle championships, a tenth on tenor banjo and over 30 championship medals, making her one of the most awarded persons in the history of the prestigious competition.

After graduating magna cum laude with a degree in Mathematics from Iona College, Eileen immersed herself in studying the different genres of music she had heard growing up in New York.

In 1999 Ivers established the touring production, Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul, featuring a signature mix of African and Latin percussion and bass, Irish instrumentalists, and soulful American vocals. The L.A. Times proclaims, "Ivers' presentation was music with the kind of life and spirit that come together when talented artists from different backgrounds find the linkages that connect all forms of music ...no wonder the audience loved every minute."

Eileen also regularly shares the stage with two of the world's most celebrated violinists, classical virtuoso Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and jazz great Regina Carter, in the critically acclaimed 'Fiddlers Three.'

ZETA Music, the world's leading electric stringed instrument maker, has recently introduced the Eileen Ivers Signature Series blue violin.



DAMIEN DEMPSEY

DUBLIN, IRL

Walk around Damien Dempsey's patch of Dublin's northside and the places and people are like ancient dolmens round his lyrics. Turn a corner near his family home and there still are the "factories, trains and houses" he sang about on Shots, albeit quieter now, and more subdued.

Tradesmen walk around mid-morning with rolled up tabloid newspapers under their arms. A generation lies

idle in a community struggling to re-establish its identity and sense of self.

For Dempsey, people and place are King. His voice is Dublin yet wholly distinctive, almost clichéd to say it, but he is part of a rich bloodline of Irish singers from Luke Kelly to Ronnie Drew, Christy Moore to Andy Irvine. Their kin outside Ireland are Springsteen and Guthrie, Dylan and Marley.

In Almighty Love, Dempsey's sense of place reaches out beyond Donaghmede and North Bull Island, where he first performed in public as a teenager, across the Irish Sea and further afield.

The locale is still in the lyrics. It's there in the hauntingly poetical Chris and Stevie, a tribute to male bonding and grief. You can hear it in Canadian Geese - large migratory birds whose flight path took them past Dempsey's boyhood window. It's there also in the references to railway tracks and waves, visible from the rooftops of Dempsey's childhood home. Those railway tracks took Dempsey and his boyhood friends out into their own imaginations and he hasn't forgotten.

Almighty Love goes on a journey of a different kind. Dempsey, at 37 years old, has already said so much about self and state that trying to plough over old ground wouldn't have been artistically challenging or fresh. So instead, he has given us an album of confidence and maturity, which has a more global sound to it and a broader scope. It is at once bigger and quieter, still rallying against injustice, yet with a more reflective and thoughtful tone, communicated more widely.

Some of the anger of earlier albums has been refocused. Now, he is singing for himself, attempting to put in context his experience as an Irishman who has seen something of the world and learned more about himself. It's not that Almighty Love is a radical departure. It's more an evolution on previous themes and concepts. The anthems are still there: Busting Outta Here, The Good and the Great, Community and Almighty Love.

His generosity of spirit, affiliation with those in need and the downtrodden, and recognition of their suffering, remains. It prevails even when that preoccupation may shine a spotlight on aspects of modern society that are uncomfortable to face. Dempsey faces them, and himself, and us. Toe-to-toe.

So how do you describe Damien Dempsey's music to someone who hasn't yet been exposed to it? Take some reggae, fuse it with traditional Irish music, add in rock and folk and put it all through a grounded working class worldly aware yet caring consciousness, and you're some bit of the way there.

Damien Dempsey is quite simply and unequivocally himself: Damo.

He'll draw on Orwell and Kavanagh, on Chomsky and Joyce, but you probably won't know that by listening to the album. It'll just make sense if you happen to go looking for it.

In Almighty Love there are overt references to Gandhi, Marie Colvin, Tony Benn and Rosa Parks. There are themes of injustice and longing and loss, of heartache and hope, despair and adventure, excitement and childhood.

This is an album from a travelled man, from a singer who is still rooted in the local but not bound by the locale, and not afraid to stretch his geographic and vocal boundaries. He is reaching out beyond the Dublin shoreline of his youth and diving into a new artistic sea.

His vocal range too has broadened its strokes. The punch is still there, but it's more personal and he's now more likely to show than shove.

In Chris and Stevie, the refrain "I'm missing you today" is maybe not one a 20-year-old Dempsey could have or would have sung. Now he is a man who knows it's good to cry. Men should cry more. It's okay for men to cry. Crying and singing. Crying and healing.

"I feel the hate in my own land against me for who I am," sings Dempsey in Born Without Hate. He is taking the discussion he started with an earlier song, Colony, and stretching the theme.

Back then, he sung about how some colonisers took what wasn't theirs. Now, he sings about how quickly the colonised forget what they didn't have.

Glorious revolutions can breed terrible evil and rage. Bob Marley understood that and London based poet and rapper Kate Tempest understands it too. She collaborates with rhythmic focus and fury on Born Without Hate, adding to the internationally grounded feel of the album.

Like all good songwriters, heartache is never far away. In Bustin Outta Here, Dempsey is breaking from a bad place. He's done with beating himself up. Others will do that for him. Now he wants to heal.

There isn't a preachy pose on this album. He doesn't have to force his point home. This album is as subtle as a Damien Dempsey album gets and yet it feels bigger. After listening, kids will still look to him as a Rocky-type figure and adults will still turn to him for his particular poeticism.

Of course, with any Damien Dempsey album, there's politics. Or at least in this case, there is political thought. People have come to expect Damien Dempsey to say something about today, about the world, about us.

On Moneymen, he rails against the banking bureaucrats who have mortgaged entire nations for decades to come. He says it as it is, but manages to do so in a way that sets it in a historical and social context, which is relevant, and above all, real.

Ultimately then this is an album of grounded hope, both personal and national.

Making Almighty Love was a long and careful process. Damien worked with long-term collaborator John Reynolds, who is an internationally recognised producer. This is their fifth album together, and theirs is an instinctive and homely artistic relationship, and it shows.

Of the 100 or so songs earmarked for the album, they chose nine originals and one cover – Andy Stewart's Fire in the Glen, which Damien was singing in the kitchen late one night and it stayed in the air and drifted into the studio.

Sinéad O'Connor, one of the greatest voices of her generation, adds backing vocals, but gives without taking. Her voice alongside Damien's makes sense in their mutual authenticity and authority. They both have something to say and they give each other the space to say it. Symbiotic is probably the technical term.

All that is mighty about Dempsey Dempsey is on this album. We hear the universality of the man and his concerns, are invited to connect with his accessibility, and can't help but be lured by his unique vocals and particular rhythms.

This is an artist who has grown up and is self-confident enough to do it his way.

The fist and the fragility: that's perhaps how you could best sum up the lyricism of Almighty Love. It's Dempsey singing from the heart and soul as he always does, but there's maturity reflected in the lyrics now as well as a resignation, a brave emotional openness and an easing of unease in his own skin.

The Story So Far:

Damien's debut album in 2000, 'They Don't Teach This Shit in School' set him apart as a unique and important voice, championed from an early stage in his career by Sinéad O'Connor and others. The follow-up, 'Seize the Day', released in 2003, marked the beginning of his relationship with producer John Reynolds, picking up many awards and leading to extensive international tours. Commercial and critical success continued with the release of the No. 1 album 'Shots' in 2005, backed by Brian Eno, and 'To Hell or Barbados' in 2007, which debuted at No.2 in the Irish charts.

Damien's fans include Brian Eno, Sinéad O'Connor, Bob Dylan and U2, (both of whom he has shared a bill with), and Morrissey, who invited him to support him on his US tour. Damien is an award-winning artist, having won several prestigious Irish Meteor Awards including Best Irish Male and Best Traditional Folk Award. His albums have topped the charts and gone Platinum, and he has been lauded by, among others, Rolling Stone, The Guardian, Billboard, MOJO and The Sunday Times.

Since the release of his last album, Damien's creativity has found other outlets also. One notable project was with Irish graffiti artist Maser, on a project entitled 'They Are Us'. This was sparked by Dempsey's lyrics, and involved the painting of his words on derelict buildings in Dublin. Sales of the limited edition prints raised funds for The Simon Community, which was a charity set up to help the homeless and disenfranchised in Dublin and elsewhere.

Dempsey's charitable work continued in December 2010, when he and Oscar winning songwriter Glen Hansard recorded and performed the Irish folk classic, 'The Auld Triangle'. Monies raised went towards the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) 'Keep The Lights On' Campaign.

Last year, Damien also made his acting debut in the Irish feature film 'Between The Canals'. His music is also proving very much in demand for soundtracks, with 'Sing All Your Cares Away' featured in the BAFTA Award winning film 'Tyrannosaur', while Damien contributes to two upcoming Irish films "Stalker" and "King of the Travellers".

Since his first live outings in the mid-1990s, Damien's gigs have seen him wow audiences across the globe, and his performances have taken on a spiritual and soulful quality. These outings have been captured on two recordings: Live at the Olympia and Live from Vicar Street. Most recently, when asked who was on his hit list of artists for the main stage of the Sydney Opera House, music director Fergus Linehan listed Damien among his targets for one of the most renowned stages in the world. Irish and UK audiences will get a chance to witness that live power once again later this year when he embarks on an extensive tour, while next year he takes his live act to the United States and Australia.



MALACHI CUSH

TYRONE, IRL

Having begun his singing career at the age of sixteen while competing for all-Ireland Scór glory, it is fair to say that as Malachi enters his tenth year in the music business he has never sounded better. Malachi now takes the stage as an accomplished performer with much success under his belt. His voice, carefully nurtured by experience, can easily melt even the coldest hearts.

Malachi has come a long way since his departure from BBC's Fame Academy in 2002. Having surpassed thousands of applicants to be accepted and then reaching the final five, the programme afforded Malachi an opportunity to show the world

what he could do. His debut album, 'Malachi' entered the UK top-twenty album chart along with the Irish album chart, earning a silver disc. One self-penned single 'Just Say you Love Me' achieved much success in the Far East holding the number one spot in Thailand for five weeks.

Malachi's achievements continued, both musically and otherwise. He began working with BBC and then UTV fulfilling presenting roles both on radio and television. Malachi's soothing voice and soft tones soon led him to be a hit on the airwaves. His popular Sunday morning show for the Northern Media Group led to his own daily radio show and being voted 'Most popular Irish radio Personality' in 2005 and again in 2008'.

Music remained at the heart of Malachi's success. He recorded another three albums, 'Celtic Heartbeat', 'New Day' and 'Timeless Traditions'. Malachi's appeal continued to expand and reach new audiences as his vocal talent became more evident with each release. His song writing skills also continued to bring Malachi respect in the music industry. 'Until We Meet Again', a co-written song with Don Mescall, was selected as one of four potential Ireland Eurovision songs in 2007 and was performed on RTE's 'The Late Late show'. The public vote placed it in the runner up position. 'Blessed be the One', a duet performed and released with Joanne Cash, composed by Malachi, went straight to number one in the American New Christian Music chart.

Malachi continues to perform and record music. His latest album 'Songs for the Soul' takes a slightly different direction than previous albums to mark a milestone in his career. This collection of sacred songs has served to inspire Malachi on his journey over the past ten years. With his beautiful voice and heartfelt singing there is no doubt that 'Songs for the Soul' and Malachi, will continue to inspire others.



JAMES KILBANE

ACHILL, IRL

James Kilbane is now a multi-platinum selling Christian, country gospel and Irish singer. James Kilbane was the runner up in Ireland's national talent television show You're A Star in 2003 / 2004. Since then he has established his career with his mix of gospel, Christian, country and folk music.

Since his success in You're a Star, Kilbane has gone on to record and release a number of well received albums including King of the Road, Close to You, Hymns of Praise, Divine Love, Life's Miracle, Heart to Heart, Glory and Grace, and Songs Of Ireland, as well as his Christmas album titled The Christmas Collection. In March 2012 he released his ninth album Gravel & Grace. Songs of Faith, Life & Hope. The album was launched at Lorain Correctional Institution, Grafton Prison in Grafton, Ohio, USA following an invitation extended from the institutions inmates to James to give a special concert at the prison that took place during St. Patrick's week 2012. The Gravel & Grace album includes many popular songs and previously released radio singles. Many of Kilbane's albums are Nashville and Irish collaborations. One of these projects was in 2008 he released on his fourth Gospel album Heart to Heart was a new anthem for the House of the Virgin Mary titled "Mary's House, Our Lady of Ephesus". Mary's House is located at Meryem Ana Evi, Ephesus, Turkey. In March 2013 James released his first compilation album in association with Gold Eagle Music and Veritas Publications in Dublin, Ireland who are the leading Irish Christian publishers and retail group for religious publications, media and goods. For the Year of Faith James is the voice of Veritas. The album was released to celebrate the Year of Faith and presents 20 tracks giving a flavour of 200 years of Irish Christian and faith based music that many have held dear in prayer and in their spiritual lives.

James Kilbane is not a conformist and has not always aligned his work or beliefs to the usual practices of the Irish music industry. Grand Ole Opry legend George Hamilton IV bestowed Kilbane with the title "The Lone Ranger of country music" after hearing his music and story. Kilbane has experienced most of his success through working in an independent manner through the label Gold Eagle Music. Independently he has been able to explore and develop alternative music ideas to great success. For a number of years Kilbane was mentored by the double Grammy award winning and music legend Steve Popovich Sr. of Cleveland International Records. Popovich took a keen interest in Kilbane's career and contributed a great deal of knowledge and advice to Kilbane's development and to several of his album releases. Over the years Kilbane has worked with other leading music, media and production personalities as Gavin Murphy, Bill Shanley, Maire Breathnach, Ciaran Byrne and James Blennerhasset.

In 2012 Kilbane was voted "Irish Gospel Singer of the Year" for his music and work. In June 2012 James and his country band were invited to perform a selection of his Country Gospel music as part of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in RDS Arena in Dublin, Ireland. Kilbane continues to contribute to other major religious events in Ireland which include major events at the international shrine of Knock. He has been involved in Irish cross border religious music events and projects. He continues to record and tour at home and abroad. He is currently working on three major projects that will be worked and released in 2013 and early 2014. Over the past four years James has also been a leading member of the cast in the hit Irish Summer stage show

"The Legend of Grainne Mhaol".

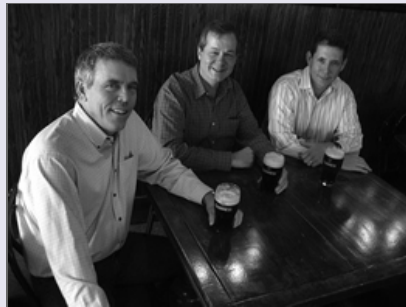


THE NEW BARLEYCORN

CLEVELAND, OH

Although they call Cleveland home, this International band's fans aren't limited to these parts. Irish music lovers across the US, Canada, and Ireland flock to see The New Barleycorn -- and for good reason! They are one of Cleveland's greatest treasures.

The New Barleycorn will be touring Ireland from September 24th - October 4th, 2012 and you're invited. [Click here](#) for more information.



GUARANTEED IRISH

PITTSBURGH, PA

Guaranteed Irish have been performing Irish ballads and dance music for over 20 years. Their name refers to an Irish marketing effort similar to 'Made in America' and reflects their respect and passion for the music. Paddy Folan, Bruce Foley and Jimmy Lamb combine button accordion, guitars, uilleann pipes, whistles and voices in their own distinctive and energetic way to make a sound that is true to the traditions of Irish music. Whether singing traditional ballads or interpreting modern folk/rock/pop songs, their vocal harmonies are tight

and spirited. With an easy, collaborative charm the lads are equally at home in a small session or on stage in a pub, concert hall or festival.

Guaranteed Irish play primarily in their hometown of Pittsburgh but have journeyed throughout the Eastern United States; were featured on seven Caribbean cruises and have had three memorable tours of Ireland - the latest in August 2008 with venues from Belfast to Clifden and packed houses wherever they played. They have opened large concerts for such notable acts as Paddy Reilly, Patrick Street and The Irish Rovers.

The group has recorded three very well-received CDs, reissued several times and aired on all the major Pittsburgh radio stations and frequently on Connemara Community Radio in Galway, Ireland. The boys also contributed four cuts to the Andy Stewart tribute CD; *It's All In The Song*.



BRIGID'S CROSS

CLEVELAND, OH

This family trio has traveled all over the U.S. and Ireland performing their unique blend of Celtic folk/rock music. Driving, creative fresh arrangements, high energy and timely humor have made Brigid's Cross a festival favorite!



LOST STATE OF FRANKLIN

CLEVELAND, OH



LSF is built on the songs, the vision and the history of Scott Franklin and Tyler Postma: Jazz, Country, Rockabilly, Beat Poetry, Big Band, Rock and Roll, Bluegrass, Heavy Metal.

After 2 years of touring America's rock clubs, coffee shops, honky tonks and festivals, Scott Franklin met the young Rob Muzick at Mike's barn. Rob was 20 years old and a perfect compliment to Scott's

compositions. Scott was in the process of returning south, to Nashville, but hung around to make a demo of his original music with Rob. The demo became more involved and Scott brought in more musicians, including Actress turned Vocalist: Tyler Postma. That demo became Quarter to Lonely and while Tyler began with the band as a vocalist, she learned washboard until her ambition led to the drum set (standing up) stagefront like the rest of the band.

Lost State of Franklin has performed multiple times in Europe and played over 500 American shows. Rob Muzick now tours with the upcoming star Matt Stilwell out of Nashville, Tennessee. Tyler has become one of the most followed female entertainers because of her unique style of stand-up drumming and her captivating voice. She has inspired countless young girls to become something beyond the normal expectations of society. The band has been nominated for numerous awards, such as Scene Magazine "Songwriter of the Year", Free Times "Americana Band of the Year", and #1 played band on the monthly tallies of college radio shows of every genre from Folk to Punk to Country to Americana.

The upright bass has always been an integral part of their style, sound and look. It's one of those things that sets LSF apart from similar bands. They have played with a dozen brilliantly talented Upright Bassists. Bassist Jeremy Cotrell has a long history with LSF (Well, as long as you could have with such a young band) and adds his personality to the group as well as the over 5 instruments he plays.

Neither Tyler nor Jeremy has ever attended music school or taken lessons. They learned out of sheer will and are up on that stage complimenting Scott's vision; that you will learn the things you hunger for.

Have you seen this band? You'll be inspired to act on your own passions.



DENNIS DOYLE

GLENDALE, CA

A Celtic harpist, singer and storyteller, Dennis Doyle has performed in Ireland, Japan, and throughout North America. A veteran performer at most major Irish, Celtic, and Folk festivals, he sings in English, Latin, and Irish-Gaelic with absolute virtuosity.



DONAL O'SHAUGHNESSY

CLEVELAND, OH

Donal O'Shaughnessy plies his vocal, instrumental, joke-telling and yarn-spinning talents all over the Northeast and Midwest including New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Maryland, North Carolina, Massachusetts and even in Canada, eh?

Donal O'Shaughnessy is a multi-talented performer. He is a self taught musician playing guitar, fiddle, keyboards, pipe organ, bodhran and mandolin. Although he is best known as a performer of Irish music and ballads, his repertoire includes hundreds of songs from pop, country, the swing era and many originals that have become favorites at his regular spots.



THE KILROYS

CLEVELAND, OH

The Kilroys have been playing traditional Irish music in the city of Cleveland and throughout the Midwest for the past 25 years. Instruments are accordion, fiddle, banjo, guitar, bouzouki, bagpipes, uilleann pipes. They are a group of veteran musicians who have played at some of the larger venues in town like The Odeon and The House of Blues as well as the smaller venues like restaurant/concert type environments where people can talk, eat, and listen to

good music.

The Kilroys are a group of 5 brothers and 2 sisters with ages ranging from 26-40. In the early years, their musical endeavors involved experimenting with drums and electric guitars incorporated into traditional Irish music. At the time, this was a fairly new concept, at least in the Cleveland area, and it was quite well received as very few bands did this. Over the past 10 years, though, the thirst for pure traditional music has sculpted the group's sound into what it is today – traditional Irish music which can be enjoyed and shared with all age groups, young and old.

The siblings get together regularly for "sessions" or performances, notably at The Harp, an Irish pub on the Cleveland's near west side. This family is the real deal. You could be sitting at Gus O'Connor's Pub in the Doolin, Ireland on the Atlantic coast or sitting at The Harp in Cleveland, OH on the "north coast" and if you closed your eyes you might not know the difference.



Dermot Henry



DERMOT HENRY

NEW YORK, NY

Though funny enough to do stand up, when Dermot Henry gets to singing, he proves to be more than just your average joker. A man of incredible talent, he remains a festival favorite, and we can't wait to have him back!



MARYS LANE

CLEVELAND, OH

Marys Lane is an Irish American folk-rock band based in Cleveland, Ohio.



They are influenced by traditional and modern sounds, bringing them together in unique ways with a compelling and motivating quality.

The name of our band is an actual road and homage to a special place on Achill Island (County Mayo, Ireland) where women by the name of Mary were

seen aplenty (which included Patrick's great-granny, also named Mary).

Band members are Michael Crawley (vocals/guitar/bagpipes), Paul Kirk (fiddle), Patrick Mulloy (vocals/guitar), Matthew Sofranko (bass/vocals), and Mark Whalen (drums).



FINTAN STANLEY

BOSTON, MA

Originally from Co. Louth, Fintan is recognized as one of the great box players in the world. Give a warm Cleveland welcome as Fintan is making his 1st festival appearance.



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