



*Shaskeen 1972: John Dooley; Benny O'Connor; Tom Cussen; P.J. Hernon*

The silver anniversary of Shaskeen – 25 years of music and song from one of the most popular and durable combinations for traditional music in the west of Ireland – is the singular achievement celebrated in this compilation. The band has gone from strength to strength over the years, and this fine selection features the best from the band's long recording career.

Shaskeen was first formed in London in the spring of 1970, where their earliest engagements were in Kentish Town at the Oxford Tavern. The members of that first band were Tom Cussen on banjo, Johnny Minogue on the accordion, Maureen Minogue on fiddle, Seán McDonagh playing flute, and Benny O'Connor on the drums.

## SIDE 2

- 1. POLKA:** The Tourmore (2:04)
- 2. SONG:** Shanagolden – John Dooley (3:15)
- 3. BARNDANCES:** The Ballroom Favourites (2:28)
- 4. REELS:** The Ash Plant; Flanagan's Boreen; The Monsignor's Blessing (3:23)
- 5. JIGS:** The Kinnegad Slashers; The Pipe on the Hob (3:41)
- 6. TIN WHISTLE SOLO:** Devaney's Goat; Dogs Among the Bushes – Eddie Moloney (2:22)
- 7. SONG:** The Cot in the Corner – Seán Keane (2:44)
- 8. REELS:** Jack Maguire's; Darby's Farewell to London; The Humours of Toomagh (2:43)
- 9. SONG:** Mulroy Bay – Kevin Rohan (3:34)
- 10. JIGS:** The Rambling Pitchfork; The Black Rogue; The Connachtman's Rambles; Dan Collins' (4:01)
- 11. REELS:** Crowley's; Lord McDonald's; The Cameronian (3:14)

**Photography:** Seán Walsh/Ray Shanley

**Sleeve Notes Edit:** Jackie Small

**Design:** Chris Day

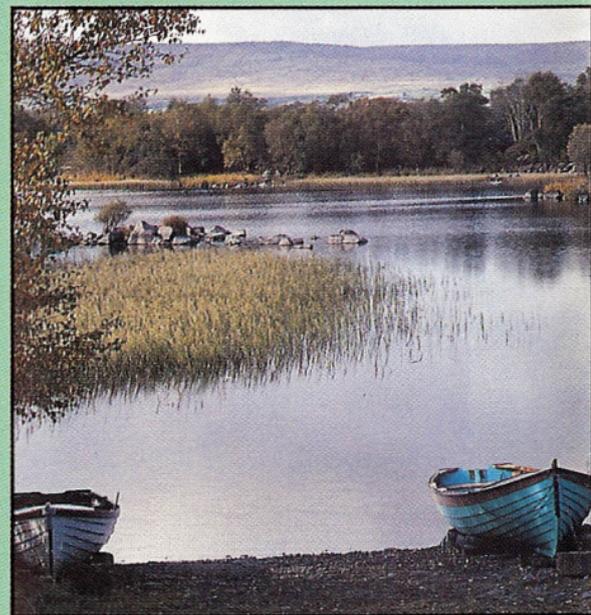
**Production:** Shaskeen

## SIDE 1

- 1. REELS:** The Maids of Castlebar; The Boys on the Hilltop; Come West Along the Road (3:19)
- 2. JIGS:** Gillian's Apples; Jackson's Mistake (3:33)
- 3. SONG:** Row Bullies Row – Pat Costello (3:22)
- 4. POLKAS:** Tripping to the Well; The Dark Girl; The Tulla (3:28)
- 5. MEDLEY:** The Banks of Lough Gowna; John Brennan's; The Sligo Reel (3:21)
- 6. SONG:** The May Morning Dew – Seán Conway (2:45)
- 7. REELS:** Green Groves of Erin; Boys of Ballisodare (2:10)
- 8. JIGS:** Banks of Newfoundland; Mysteries of Knock; Paidín O'Rafferty (3:21)
- 9. HORNPIPES:** Sandlark Hornpipe; Murphy's Hornpipe (3:12)
- 10. SONG/POLKAS:** Jimmy Brown the Newsboy – Mike Fahy (3:17)
- 11. REELS:** Shaskeen; Lady Ann Montgomery; Morrison's; Eileen Curran (4:05)

# Shaskeen

25TH SILVER JUBILEE COLLECTION



Traditional Irish Music & Song



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Shaskeen

25TH SILVER JUBILEE  
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**Side 1:** 1. Reels: (3:19); 2. Jigs: (3:33); 3. Song: (3:22); 4. Polkas: (3:28); 5. Medley: (3:21); 6. Song: (2:45); 7. Reels: (2:10); 8. Jigs: (3:21); 9. Hornpipes: (3:12); 10. Song: (3:17); 11. Reels: (4:05).

**Side 2:** 1. Polka: (2:04); 2. Song: (3:15); 3. Barndances: (2:28); 4. Reels: (3:23); 5. Jigs: (3:41); 6. Tin Whistle Solo: (2:22); 7. Song: (2:44); 8. Reels: (2:43); 9. Song: (3:34); 10.

11. Reels: (3:14)



Twenty-five years later, Tom Cussen and Benny O'Connor are still the backbone of Shaskeen. When they moved back to Ireland about a year after the foundation of the band, they put together the first line-up in Ireland, with P.J. Hernon on accordion and John Dooley on guitar and vocals. They played locally in the Galway area to begin with, but very soon their sphere of influence began to widen. About this time they began a long and fruitful association with Eddie Moloney, the great flute-player and fiddle-player from Ballinakill, in east Galway, who lived in Lower Salthill. Eddie – whose father had been a founding member of the famous Ballinakill Céilí Band - brought a wealth of knowledge about traditional music to the band, as well as a fine store of tunes from his own area, a wonderfully rich source of musicians and of music. It was Eddie who put together most of the selections of tunes that became the hallmark of Shaskeen in those early days and which remain firm favourites to this day.



*Eddie Moloney*

Another musician who was a great inspiration to the band in those early days was fiddle-player Paddy McMahon, from Woodford, in Co Galway. Two of his own compositions were featured on Shaskeen's early recordings.

When P.J. Hernon moved on to a solo career, he was succeeded in the band by Connie Murphy on accordion: she came from Hollymount in Co Mayo. In the mid-1970s the band was joined by Johnny Walsh, from Claremorris, Co Mayo, on accordion; and by Seán Conway, from Ennis, Co Clare, on vocals, guitar, and concert flute. Both these musicians featured with the band for a number of years and made fine contributions to recordings by Shaskeen. Seán now lives, and plays, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Shaskeen's personnel later in the 1970s included Mark Gregory, who contributed fiddle, guitar, and songs; and the great Northern musician, flute-player Gary Hastings, who played with the band for a period at that time.

The next line-up saw the addition of Mike Fahy on guitar and vocals, and Charlie Harris on accordion. They both contributed greatly to Shaskeen. Charlie brought to the band a wealth of new material from his own deep interest in the history of traditional music, especially the fascinating world of the earliest recordings made by Irish traditional musicians. That fine singer and flute-player from Caherlistrane, Co Galway, Seán Keane – member of one of

Galway's most renowned musical families – spent a very fruitful period with Shaskeen as did fellow Galwegian Kevin Rohan, a lively fiddle player and singer from Colemanstown near Athenry. In the 1990s the band was joined on flute by Éamon Cotter, who comes from Kilmaley, Co Clare; and on guitar and vocals by Pat Costello, a Tipperary man now living in Shannon. Pat's work with the band over recent years has included production and sound engineering for all of the recording projects by Shaskeen. On this compilation, piano accompaniments are provided by Carl Hession and Geraldine Cotter.

Shaskeen's energy is undimmed today, the vitality that has made them one of the most popular combinations in traditional music. As they celebrate their 25th anniversary with this unique collection, the band looks forward to new horizons and fresh achievements in the years ahead.



*Shaskeen's 1995 line-up*



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