



“There is no doubt that this group will have an impact on the future of traditional Irish music.”

-Kieran Hanrahan, Stockton's Wing

“A gloriously three dimensional debut - ★★★★★”

-The Irish Times

“Skipper’s Alley not only have the mastery of their instruments but the talent to devise arrangements that intrigue and delight in equal measure.”

-Folk Radio UK

“This is exactly the kind of release that reminds us what really touches people about great folk music - ★★★★★★”

-Celtic Music Radio

Skipper's Alley are a modern Irish folk band with an old-school approach. Their influences range from folk revival bands such as Planxty and The Bothy Band to rare, solo players like Tommie Potts and Séamus Ennis.

Once described as "a young Irish ensemble who look like a punk band and sound like The Chieftains" Skipper's Alley specialise in gritty, high-octane Irish dance tunes on Uilleann Pipes, Whistles, Fiddle, Bouzouki, Flute and Harp, with occasional detours into the dark, sombre melodies of the Irish song tradition.

Since forming in 2013 Skipper's Alley have garnered wide critical praise, appeared on national and international TV, and toured on four continents. Write-ups include The Irish Times (★★★★), The Living Tradition, Folk Radio UK, Folk World, and Celtic Music Radio (★★★★★). TV appearances include S4C's 'Lorient' as well as RTÉ's 'Fleadh!' and The Late Late Show. Festival appearances include Electric Picnic (Ireland), Festival Interceltique de Lorient (France), The Stan Rogers Folk Festival (Canada), Spring Fest (India) and The Dayton Ohio Irish Fest (USA).

In 2014, Skipper's Alley's released their self-titled debut album under the production of Trevor Hutchinson (Lúnasa, The Waterboys, Sharron Shannon). To date the record has received wide critical acclaim and sold out several repressings.

Skipper's Alley are currently touring regularly in North America and are hard at work on a second album.

MEMBERS

John Flynn is a folk musician (flute-player, guitarist, and singer) from Dublin working in education, theatre and international touring. Beyond Skipper's Alley, John has worked closely with acclaimed theatre company THEATREclub on 'It's Not Over' premiering at the Dublin Theatre Festival and 'The Ireland Trilogy' at The Abbey Theatre. John is also working on a new trio project called 'Once There Was A King'. John is an active teacher of his several instruments and has led a number of young Irish music ensembles in national and provincial championships.

Ultan O'Brien is a fiddle player and violist from County Clare working in performance, composition, and education. Ultan began learning the fiddle from a variety of musicians in Clare, mostly Denis Liddy and Joan Hanrahan. Ultan has since studied contemporary and classical music for violin in Dublin's Conservatory of Music and with Tamás Itzész in the Kodály Institute in Kecskemét, Hungary.

In 2017, Ultan received a traditional arts bursary award from the Arts Council of Ireland for work related to the viola in the traditional Irish music world. Alongside his work with Skipper's Alley, Ultan also performs and records with Aon Teanga, Un Çhengey, a project that aims to reunite the Scottish, Irish and Manx Gaels and a new trio project called Once There Was A King.

Patrick Cummins is a banjo player and multi-instrumentalist from Dublin. Although mostly self-taught, he cites early tutorship from Frank Perry and Kieran Hanrahan as steering him in the right direction, as well as musical sparring with Anto Hogan and Paul Cooper. In 2013, Patrick graduated with first-class honours from the University of Limerick's Irish Music & Dance course. Patrick is also involved with the 'Online Academy of Irish Music' as a banjo and mandolin tutor.

Caoimhín Ó Fearghail is a multi-instrumentalist who comes from An Rinn in the west Waterford Gaeltacht. He started to learn the tin-whistle and uilleann pipes at an early age and is self-taught on flute and guitar. He is greatly influenced by the many great traditional musicians and singers from his home area, as well as numerous others he has met all over the country and abroad.

He has featured on a number of albums in the last few years playing various instruments, as accompanist from often than not, including on *Lá ag Ól Uisce*, with his brother Seán and Tomás Ó Gealbháin. He is also featured playing pipes solo on *The Rolling Wave*, a compilation album issued by NPU (Na Píobairí Uilleann). He has performed frequently at home and abroad, solo, with the group Danú, and also as a member of the group Caladh Nua. He was the 2012 recipient of the TG4 Young Musician of the Year award (Gradam Ceoil TG4).

Joey Abarta has spent the last sixteen years touring North America, Europe, and Asia, teaching and performing music on the uilleann pipes, the Irish bagpipe. A Los Angeles native, he first received instruction on the pipes from Dubliner Pat D'Arcy, a founding member of the Southern California Uilleann Pipers Club.

His musical skills have been further honed by several visits to Ireland, a year-long stint working in Japan, and continuing relationships with master pipers. In August of 2009, Joey's accomplished playing won him an All-Ireland championship, placing second worldwide at the Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann. In the fall of 2014 Joey became the first American uilleann piper to win first prize at the An tOireachtas, one of the biggest competitions for traditional music in the world. In 2015 Joey was honored to be a recipient of a traditional arts apprenticeship from the Massachusetts Cultural Council meaning he was awarded a grant to teach his art to the next generation. Currently based in Boston, Joey divides his attention between performance, teaching, and recording. In addition to performing solo, he performs with Nathan Gourley of "Life is all Checkered" fame and had toured with Mick Moloney and the group The Green Fields of America; while at home, he organizes the meetings of the Boston Pipers Club,

teaches for Comhaltas' Boston Music School, and organizes various traditional music concerts and events.