

Realtam

“The new stars of Irish traditional music!”
- The Irish News

-- PRESS KIT --
www.realtamusic.com



Réalta

“Réalta carry on the Bothy Band tradition of taking tunes by the scruff of the neck and firing excitement through them like hot flames!” - Herald Scotland

Hailing from the Ulster city of Belfast, this award winning multi-instrumentalist group present an enchanting programme of Irish traditional dance music interspersed with the occasional air and song.

Performing on duelling uilleann pipes, whistles, bodhrán, guitar, bouzouki, banjo, double bass and vocals, their unique sound and masterful musicianship has secured Réalta's position as one of the most exciting acts on the Celtic music scene today.

For more information see:
www.realtamusic.com

    /RealtaMusic



Biography

Described by Irish Music Magazine as “a full bodied pipe and whistle extravaganza”, Réalta carry on the Bothy Band tradition of taking tunes by the scruff of the neck and firing excitement through them like hot flames!

Hailing from the Ulster city of Belfast, this award winning multi-instrumentalist group present an enchanting programme of dance music interspersed with the occasional air and song.

While Conor Lamb and Loïc Bléjean pursue the melody on uilleann pipes and whistles, guitarist and vocalist Deirdre Galway explores the harmony and rhythms within the tunes. All-Ireland champions Dermot Mulholland and Dermot Moynagh complete the line-up with dynamic accompaniments on double bass, bouzouki, banjo, bodhrán and voice making this one of the most exciting acts on the Irish music scene today.

The release of their second album *Clear Skies* has brought Réalta widespread critical acclaim, with the Irish Music Magazine summing things up by writing “Réalta have grown bigger, bolder and braver and this is one of the best CDs to have come out of Ireland this year!”. The band have toured extensively bringing their unique take on Irish music to audiences across the USA, Europe and as far afield as India and South Korea.

A performance by Réalta is joyous, energetic, foot-stomping, unforgettable and unmissable.



Quotes, Reviews & Testimonials

"With their high-energy mix of traditional Irish music, Réalta's pipes and strings transported thousands of dancing concertgoers from our hillside venue in Vermont's Green Mountains to the majestic green cliffs of coastal Ireland... a magical transatlantic journey for us all"

- Jody Fried, Executive Director of Catamount Arts Festival

"The new stars of Irish traditional music"

- Irish News

"A full bodied pipe and whistle extravaganza"

- Irish Music Magazine

"As a quintet, Réalta rocks!"

- Songlines

"Joyous, energetic and highly accomplished fantastic, foot-stomping triumph"

- Spiral Earth

"Clear Skies combines superb playing with infectious energy and great musicianship"

- Bright Young Folk

"Réalta have grown bigger, bolder and braver and this is one of the best CDs to have come out of Ireland this year!"

- Irish Music Magazine

"Duelling pipes and plaintive vocals make a winning sound"

- Irish Times

"Their atmospheric take on Paddy Ryan's Dream underlines their ability to play with measured imagination as well as fire"

- Herald Scotland

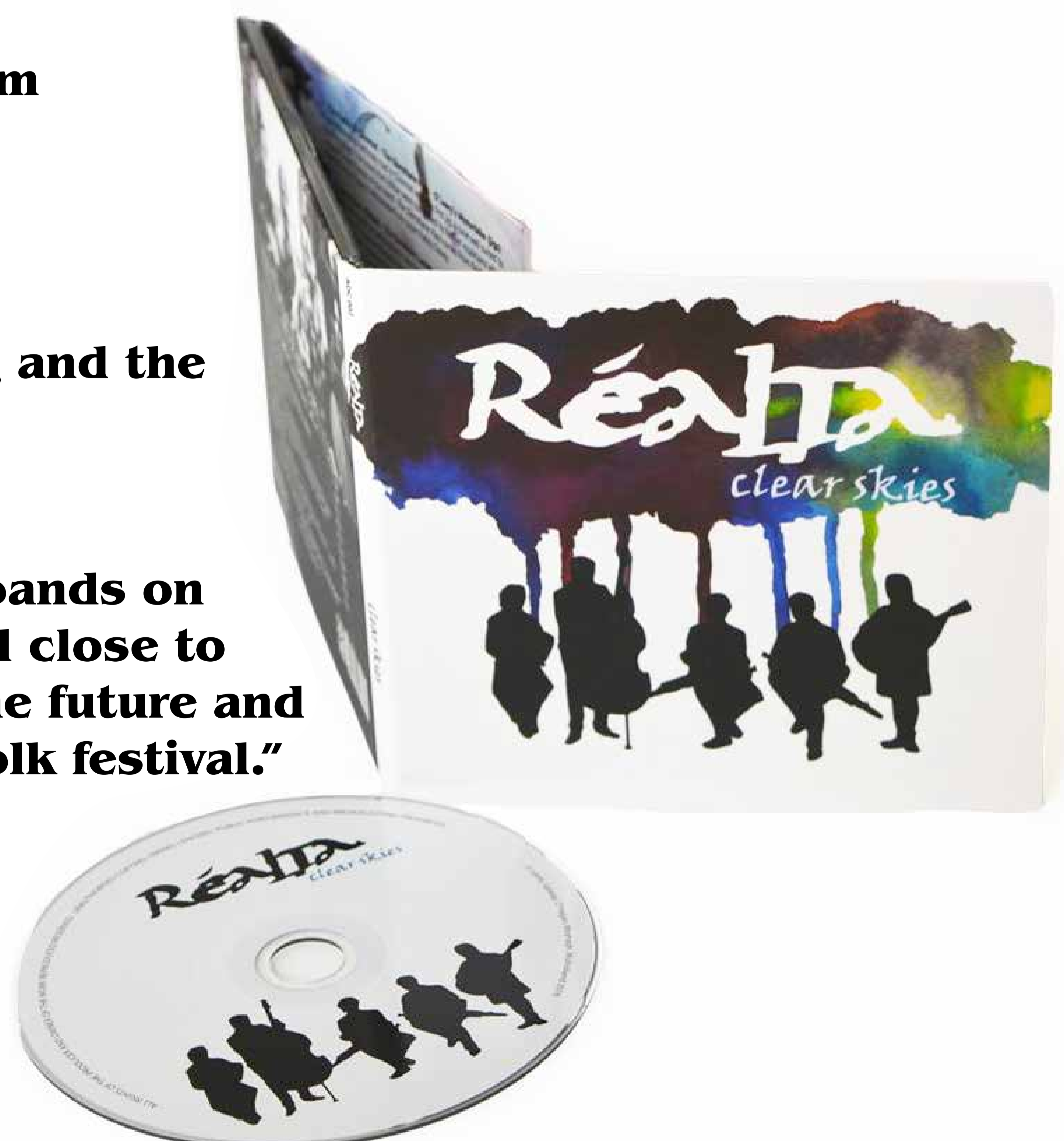
"Their approach is distinctive and invigorating and the results amazing!"

- fRoots

"In our opinion, Réalta is one of the top Irish bands on the scene today as they remain passionate and close to the tradition. We hope to have them back in the future and totally recommend this band for any Irish or folk festival."

- Brent Cassidy,

Artistic Director at Irish Festival of Oulu



Performance Highlights

◇ **American Tours, USA (March & August 2018)**

Various concerts throughout the United States performing at some of the country's most prestigious Celtic music venues and festivals including:

Milwaukee Irish Fest, Iowa Irish Fest, Catamount Arts Festival, Austin's St Patrick's Celebration and Evanston's Ceili At The Roundhouse

◇ **Irish Heartbeat Tour, Germany (March 2018)**

Performing throughout Germany on the 3 week Magentic Music annual tour

◇ **Irish Nights 2017, Switzerland (November 2017)**

Festival performance alongside Sharon Shannon

◇ **International Bagpipe Festival, Russia (October 2017)**

Headline performance in Moscow for the international festival

◇ **Tønder Festival, Denmark (August 2017)**

Performances at one of the world's largest folk festivals

◇ **Sark Folk Festival, Sark (July 2017)**

Headline performance on the remote island of Sark

◇ **Sori Festival, South Korea (October 2014 & 2016)**

Réalta were invited as the first ever Irish group to perform at the prestigious Sori festival and returned 2 years later to give workshops and feature in a documentary by the national TV channel KBS

◇ **Brittany Winter School, Brittany (May 2016)**

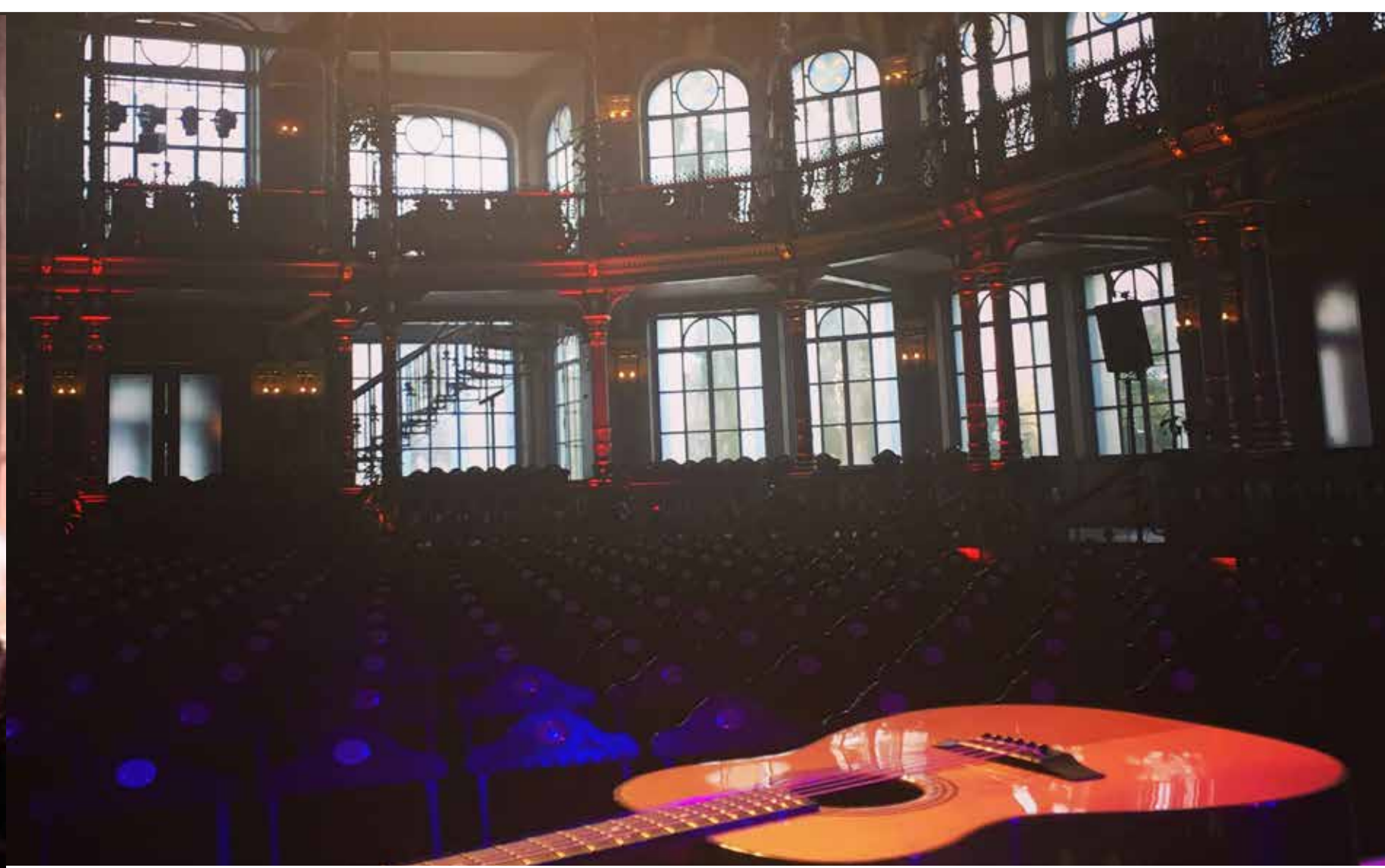
Delivered masterclasses during the week-long festival in Brittany which concluded with a headline performance by Réalta

◇ **Irish Festival of Oulu, Finland (October 2015)**

Performed as a headline act at Finland's prestigious Irish festival alongside artists such as John Doyle, Flook and The Chieftains

◇ **Lorient Festival Interceltique, Brittany (August 2015)**

Participated at the international festival giving performances and a presentation on the uilleann pipes



Band Members



CONOR LAMB
Uilleann Pipes / Whistles

Conor Lamb fell in love with the uilleann pipes and Irish traditional music when he first heard Liam O'Flynn perform at the Lorient Interceltic Festival... and he hasn't stopped playing since! Now regarded as one of the leading exponents of uilleann piping, Conor is a founding member of *Réalta* and the traditional trio *Music in the Glen*. He is a versatile musician who has performed onstage at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and has toured with several acts including Craobh Rua and Angelo Kelly. Closer to home Conor has collaborated with children's theatre company Cahoots NI and has helped set up the *Belfast Traditional Music Trail*. He has recorded at Abbey Road Studios for a Hollywood film soundtrack and can often be found performing for Irish dancers in the show Avalon Celtic Dance.

"Passion, empathy and respect" have been used to describe Conor's approach to piping. Always keen to share his music, Conor has given piping and whistle workshops across Europe including the Brittany Winter School, Lorient Interceltique Festival, Babiéca Folk Festival and the Belfast Summer School. He has a passion and skill for helping others develop their playing and is available to give uilleann piping and whistle workshops of all abilities. www.conorlambmusic.com

DEIRDRE GALWAY
Guitar / Vocals

Deirdre Galway began her musical life studying and competing on piano and clarinet, but since moving to Belfast accompanying traditional music on guitar and researching old songs has now become her passion. Deirdre is also an Irish speaker, with a first-class honours degree in Irish Language and Literature.

As a founding member of *Réalta* and *Music in the Glen*, Deirdre has released three critically acclaimed studio albums, performed live on BBC and RTÉ TV, and at festivals throughout the world including Celtic Connections (Glasgow), Sori (South Korea), Saarang (India), Tønder Festival (Denmark) and Milwaukee Irish Fest (USA).

Deirdre is an enthusiastic teacher and in addition to leading festival workshops and tutoring in schools, she is co-founder of the Belfast Traditional Music Trail, which aims to give people an introduction to Irish music and its vibrant place in her home city. She is a regular on the Belfast session scene and also performs with Live Music Now, a charity founded by Yehudi Menuhin to bring music into various community settings. As a sympathetic accompanist, Deirdre is in high demand and has recently performed with singers Gráinne Holland and Amy McAllister, uilleann piper Chris McMullan, and the dance show Avalon Celtic Dances.



LOÏC BLÉJEAN
Uilleann Pipes / Low Whistles

Loïc Bléjean is a virtuoso uilleann piper and low whistle player from Brittany, that ancient land in the north-west of modern France. He started playing the pipes in 1989, under the tuition of Alain Le Hégarat and then travelled extensively in Ireland, where he met many wonderful musicians. Since those early days he has developed an extraordinary versatility and adaptability which has enabled him collaborate and work with a wide variety of musicians. His playing is characterised by a crisp clean style, with wonderful clarity in the separation of the notes along with the ability to pull from the pipes the evocative, almost mournful and eerie sounds so loved by aficionados.

Loïc's ability to grasp and understand other genres has led to performances at the Globe Theatre in London as well as performances with the progressive rock band *Children in Paradise* and the exciting jazz band the *Boclé Brothers*, with whom he recorded the album 'Rock The Boat'. Loïc is a skilled reed maker and is able to present uilleann pipes maintenance and reed making workshops in addition to uilleann piping and low whistle performance lessons. www.loicblejean.com



Band Members



DERMOT MULHOLLAND

Bouzouki / Banjo / Double Bass / Vocals

Multi-instrumentalist Dermot Mulholland adds his talents to Réalta on banjo, bouzouki, double bass and vocals. He is a winner of several All-Ireland titles and is a founding member of the BBC Folk Award winning band *Ioscaid*. Beyond Réalta, Dermot is highly sought after for various performing, teaching and recording roles and has worked with artists and engineers including Dónal O'Connor, Sean Óg Graham, The Shamrock Tenors, Chris McMullan, The Mulholland Family and Celtic Legends. He has performed at some of the most prestigious festivals in the folk and traditional scene including Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, Cambridge Folk Festival and Tønder Festival.

When he is not in front of the microphone, Dermot will often be found at the other side of the mixing desk in his role as head audio and lighting engineer for the live music venue, An Coire. Here he also manages the events and has provided FOH and monitor sound for a multitude of acts, including Flook and Beoga.

Dermot has been repairing and maintaining instruments since he was a young lad and has honed the skills required to maintain and build instruments to a high standard. He has taught music since he was 15 in a range of settings, including at home, local music schools, festivals and at the Armagh Piper's Club - one of the most respected music schools in Ireland. His experience in teaching and playing is shown through his unique style and understanding of his instruments. Dermot is available to teach guitar, bouzouki, banjo, double bass, singing and Irish language.

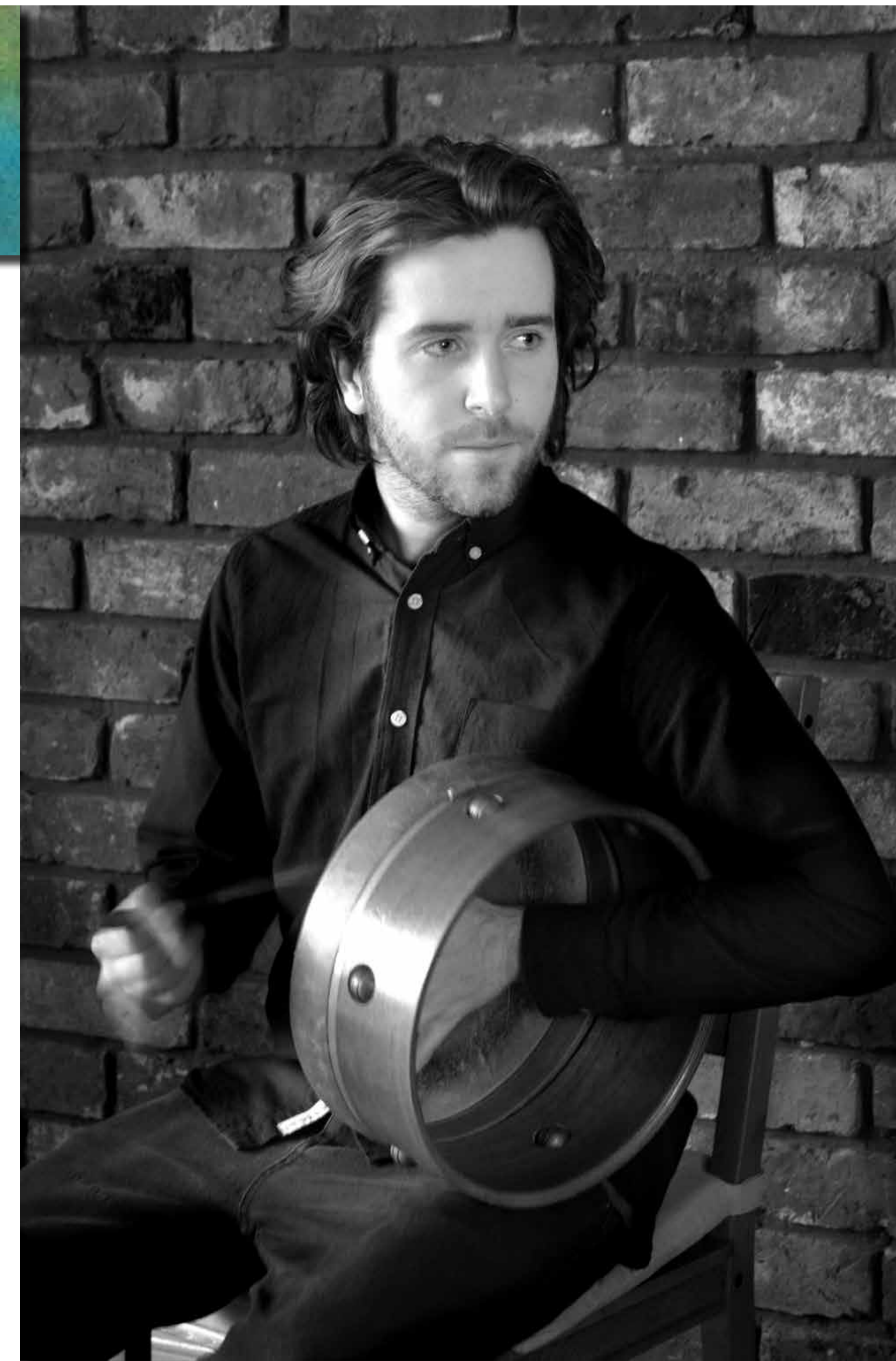
DERMOT MOYNAGH

Bodhrán / Percussion

Dermot Moynagh is one of the leading bodhrán players of his generation. His talents were highlighted when he won the prestigious All Ireland Fleadh-Cheoil championship at a young age and since then he has been in high demand as a live performer and session recording artist.

He has toured throughout Europe with a variety of bands including *Réalta*, The Rapparees, The Gráinne Holland Band and the contemporary rock and folk band *The Emerald Armada*. In the studio Dermot has featured as a guest artist on several albums including *Music in the Glen* (Lamb, Mulholland, Galway) and *Autumn Winds* (Niall Hanna).

Dermot is known for his unique style, and recounts learning bodhrán along to recordings of music as varied as Lúnasa, Bob Marley and The Prodigy. This contemporary approach to traditional music is helping him inspire younger generations. He regularly teaches bodhrán at the Andersonstown School of Traditional Music and he has travelled to Spain and France to teach at various workshops including the Babieca Folk Festival and the Cassel Festival de Musique Irlandaise.



Contact & Booking

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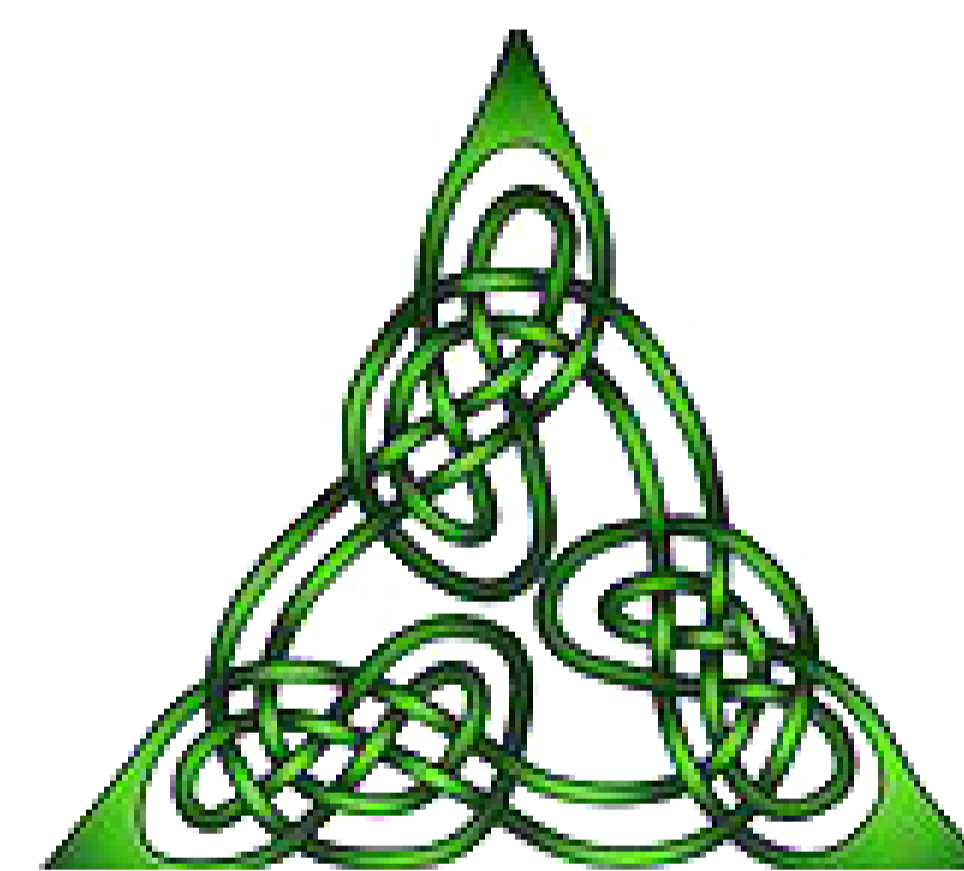
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Web Links

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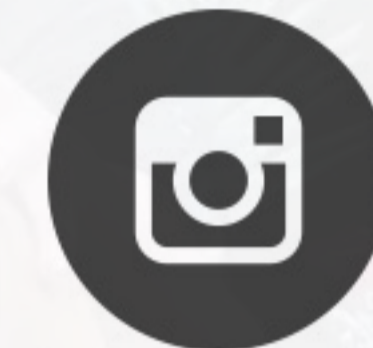


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www.realtamusic.bandcamp.com

Saltón de Meres (Video)



<https://youtu.be/QLbscMCsnls>

Paddy Ryan's Dream (Video)



https://youtu.be/msBp_DFrS-I