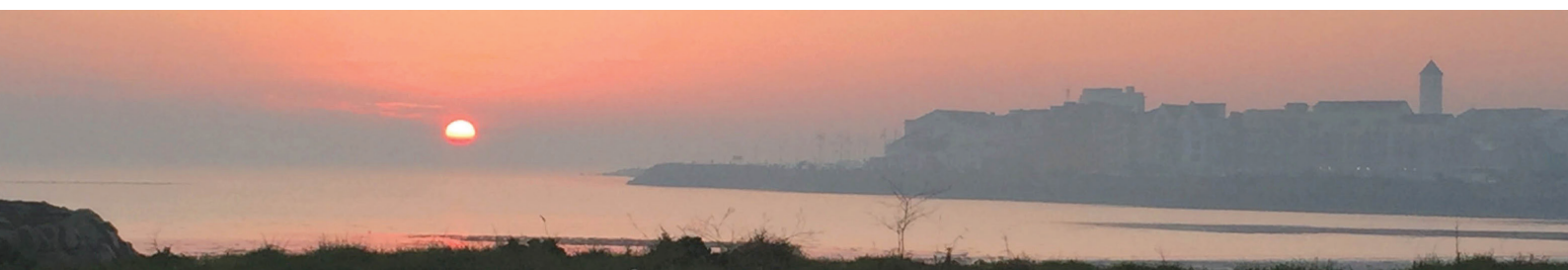




BACK WEST MUSIC



P R E S S P A C K

BackWest

ALSR Celtic Music Award for Best New Band 2019

BackWest are "The Full Irish!"

Awesome! ★★★★★ Amazing performance! ★★★★★
Super band! ★★★★★ Do not miss these folks... Terrific!

INDIVIDUALLY, they hold authenticity; collectively they showcase the powerful ensemble of Western styles. They have performed at International Festivals, performed on the biggest stages including 'Milwaukee Irish Festival' (USA), 'Lord of the Dance' and 'Riverdance' and they have featured on TV stations and radio programmes across the world. Having recently been awarded an ALSR Celtic Music Award for Best New Band 2019 and releasing their second album entitled 'Heritage Hall' in January 2019 there is no stopping them now.

Together, they are 'BackWest' –an award winning ensemble, filled to the brim with the music and soul of the west of Ireland, the powerhouse All-Ireland champions, a brother and sister duo reared in the heart of Galway city are at the core of the ensemble alongside their compadres from Headford and Ballinakill in Co. Galway, Tubbercurry and Sligo town, Co. Sligo and Chicago in the USA. Their stage show is a winning combination of traditional, sassy, modern, technically perfect and musically inspiring, delivered with tremendous and rampant energy.

Described by fRoots magazine as "The icing on the cake" with "razor sharp precision" and "state of the art performance" the highly regarded musical siblings, Maureen and Brendan Browne, on fiddle/vocals and accordion respectively, join virtuoso and world renowned accompanists - guitar/vocalist Fabian Joyce, guitar/vocalist Shane McGowan, guitar/vocalist Seamie O'Dowd, percussionist Yvonne Fahy and percussionist Steve Morrow but to name a few.

BackWest have set new standards with their own signature style. Deeply rooted in the traditional, they are 'an innovative, thrilling ensemble of high calibre and vastly experienced musicians,' (Irish Music Magazine). Described by Irish American News as "Some of the best Ireland has given us," their performances are polished and effortlessly professional, given the depths of their solo and collective musicianship and talents. The tunes are honed from vast individual repertoires, the music and songs absorbed from all regions of Ireland and beyond. Modern tunes sit comfortably with older compositions, the siblings bounce fiddle and accordion of each other with flourish; Fabian and Shane's rhythmical and musical connections to the music form part of the band's musical narrative which is skillfully inserted while their percussive team tops the performance with heartbeats that resonate the musical pulses to their audiences making a thrilling experience for all.

BackWest in concert is a showcase of imaginative, modern day Irish cultural expression, an explosion of tunes and song, vital to the world that is contemporary Irish and world music. Being truly passionate about their heritage and culture, BackWest are very well known to celebrate their Irish language on the global stage during their performances.

To date, BackWest have performed at many national and international festivals such as the Milwaukee Irish Festival (USA), Tyneside Irish Festival (UK), Temple Bar TradFest (Dublin), Celtic Connections (Glasgow), The Gathering Festival, Killarney, Galway Arts Festival, The Ballyshannon Folk Festival, Son Do Pazo Festival (Spain), Galway Arts Festival, Clifden Arts Festival, Clifden TradFest, Michigan Irish Music Initiative, Dundalk, Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Festival, Boston Irish Festival, Sláinte Asso Festival (France), but to name a few and are due stateside once again in summer 2020. In July 2019, BackWest had the privilege of directing a musical and cultural project in conjunction with Tourism Ireland, which was performed for the President of Ireland, An tUasal Michael D. Higgins as part of a **Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture** showcase in Frankfurt, Germany. The band was also chosen as Ambassador's to represent Galway in the Galway 2020 Showcase at Milwaukee Irish Fest 2019.

Since the release of their second album, Heritage Hall, BackWest has received major critical acclaim, being described by the national and international media as "Stunning...Gorgeous...Breathtaking...A fabulous piece of work... BackWest raises the bar higher and higher each time". Their critically acclaimed debut album, 'The Long Walk', was released on the BackWest music label in 2017 and described as top notch in terms of material, quality of playing and superb arrangements, proving their diversity in performance and synergy of style. Holding a five star review from Irish Music Magazine, BackWest have been aptly classified as "innovative" and "thrilling".

It is without question that they leave their audiences with the warmth of wanting more, leaving no listener disappointed.

"BackWest thrives on the bringing their audiences on a musical journey with them. It is about creating a connection, lifting one's spirit and allowing the music to speak through channels of sheer euphoria for both the listener and the performer. Past and present memories bond to create an atmosphere of laughter, joy and happiness. When this is created, BackWest have done what they came to do".

Maureen Browne



"Icing on the cake!"

fRoots

"Infectious"

RTE Lyric FM

"Powerful"

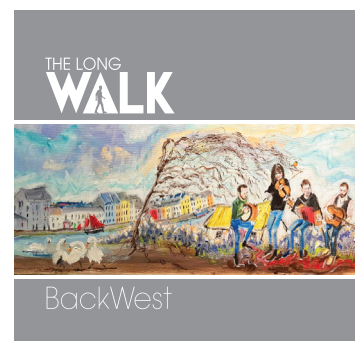
Irish Music Magazine

"Amazing, vibrant and energetic"

Clifden Arts Festival

"Iontach ar stáitse, ceol den scoth"

RnaG



Catalogue No: BWMCD001

Barcode No: 0797776528615

Album Release Date: 1st March 2017



Catalogue No: BWMCD002

Barcode No: 0793591073415

Album Release Date: 25th Jan 2019

Biographies

Maureen Browne

Maureen hails from one of the oldest areas of Galway City – The Claddagh – and has been playing the fiddle since the age of three. She began by learning a Suzuki method of playing; however, by the age of six, she had switched to classical music and was training in the Cork School of Music under the renowned violinist and tutor Mr. Adrian Petcu. Alongside the classical music, Maureen began to learn traditional fiddle at the age of four under the instruction of Matt Cranitch from Cork. She encountered master classes with the great Martin Hayes and Tommy Peoples and while participating in Fleadh Ceoil, was under the instruction of Brendan Larrisey. Maureen won her first All Ireland at the age of seven and from then, had decided that she would pursue her musical journey alongside training to become a teacher.

She became a member of Johnny (Ringo) Mc Donagh's band Arcady and prior to that was a member of his other band Full Steam Ahead. In 2011 she toured extensively with the Alan Kelly Gang and during this period had the honour of performing many times with the fabulous Scottish songstress Eddi Reader and Trashcan Sinatras' guitarist and songwriter John Douglas. In 2016 she was delighted to be asked to perform with the Máirtín O'Connor Band and the Contempo Quartet. In August 2016, she became a founding member of BackWest and since then has co-produced two of the band's highly critically acclaimed albums - The Long Walk and Heritage Hall released on the BackWest Music label in 2017 and 2019. In July 2019 she had the privilege of directing a musical and cultural project with BackWest in conjunction with Tourism Ireland which was performed for the President of Ireland, An tUasal Michael D. Higgins as part of a Galway 2020 European Capital showcase in Frankfurt, Germany.

She has performed at many National and International Festivals such as the Milwaukee Irish Festival (USA), Boston Irish Festival (USA), Copenhagen Irish Festival (Denmark), Templebar Tradfest (Dublin), The Gathering Festival (Killarney), the Celtic Colours International Festival (Nova Scotia), the Edmonton Folk Festival (Canada) and the National Folk Festival (Canberra Australia) but to name a few. She has shared many stages with world-renowned musicians from all musical genres and has also toured the world as a performer with Michael Flatley's 'Lord of the Dance'.

Maureen is also extremely passionate about the Irish language. She holds a Diplóma sa Ghaeilge from the National University of Ireland, Galway and an MA in Ethnomusicology from the University of Limerick.



Brendan Browne

Brendan also from The Claddagh in Galway City and has been playing the button accordion since he was a child. His interest in learning the button accordion came instantly after an inspiring bank holiday weekend master class in the Galway Arts Centre in Dominick Street with accordion virtuoso Máirtín O'Connor, a native of Galway city. Brendan's focus at that time was within the realm of competitions and he won his first All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil on the button accordion in 1992 following on with All Ireland titles on the single row melodeon and an t-Óireachtas championship.

Throughout Brendan's musical career he has had the pleasure of touring many European countries with various artists and line-ups to include the Riverdance 'Flying' Squad tour company.

Brendan's musical career continued to develop as he performed as a duet piece with his sister Maureen Browne alongside Johnny 'Ringo' McDonagh of Dé Dannan. He has made appearances with Irish Traditional Supergroup BackWest of which he is a founding member, at both National and International Festivals, to include St. Patrick's Day Festival (Eyre Square Galway City); Féile Traidphicnic, (An Spidéal, Gaillimh); Temple Bar Trad Fest, (Temple Bar, Dublin), The Gathering Traditional Festival (INEC Killarney, Co. Kerry), Ballyshannon Folk Festival (Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal); Siamsaíocht @ 6 (Gael Linn – Baile Átha Cliath); Clifden Traditional Music Festival (Clifden, Co. Galway); Celtic Connections (Glasgow, Scotland), Asso Sláinte Festival d'Artois-Gohelle (France), Festival Intercéltico O Son do Pazo, (Spain), Tyneside Irish Festival (Newcastle, UK) and toured the United States East Coast and Mid-West regions performing at the worlds' largest Irish Music Festival at Milwaukee Irish Fest, Gaelic Park Irish Festival, (Gaelic Park Chicago), Boston Irish Festival (Irish Cultural Centre Canton MA), New York City and New Jersey not to mention Sydney Australia where he has performed in local venues.

During the summer of 2019 Brendan had the privilege of performing with BackWest for the President of Ireland, An tUasal Michael D. Higgins as part of Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture showcase in conjunction with Tourism Ireland hosted by the Consulate General of Ireland, Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

He has recorded on many local, national and International radio and television stations such as RTÉ, TG4 and BBC Scotland and UK. He features on Enda Scahill's debut album 'Pick it Up' and subsequently recorded and co-produced BackWest's debut album entitled 'The Long Walk' which was released in May 2017. His most recent recording and co-production with BackWest is their current album 'Heritage Hall' released in January 2019 where the band were awarded ASLR Celtic Radio Award 2019 for 'Best New Band' category. The Band featured on the Front Cover of Irish Music Magazine in May 2019.

Brendan plays Bertrand Gaillard button accordions.



"An ensemble of
great precision
and expressive
versatility"

The IrishEcho
NEW YORK



Fabian Joyce

Fabian Joyce hails from Headford in Co. Galway, a fertile ground for music of all genres. He grew up surrounded by this music from an early age, listening to the songs of his father and uncle and joining in sessions at the family pub, which was a haven for traditional musicians in the area.

Since beginning to play guitar and banjo as a teenager, Fabian has traveled the world and played at many sessions, concerts and festivals all over Europe, Scandinavia and Australia. With this experience he has honed his own musically unique style of guitar playing, and is as at home with gentle finger picking behind songs as with his energetic driving of reels and jigs. This versatility has seen him perform with the legendary Bothy Band piper Paddy Keenan, as well as singer Pauline Scanlon, Dave Munnely and The Kane Sisters, Liz & Yvonne to name but a few.

For the past ten years, Fabian has anchored the Friday night sessions at the legendary Matt Molloy's, a renowned music house in Westport and he is currently embarking on a post graduate MA in Music Therapy at the University of Limerick.



Steve Morrow USA / Canada

Steve Morrow is a multi-instrumentalist currently hailing from the Chicagoland area. Steve started his musical journey at an early age on the piano and has learned a number of different instruments and musical styles along the way. Inspired by the deep pulse of traditional Irish music 10 years ago, he took up the bodhrán and immersed himself into the rich Chicago session culture. Steve has traveled to Ireland several times to study the drum with top artists and teachers.

With his background in multiple genres and instruments, Steve expertly blends modern and traditional rhythms into tasteful grooves and driving backbeats on the drum, enthraling audiences with his infectious energy and vibrant style. Steve has performed at International Festivals, including the Milwaukee Irish Festival with BackWest and the Pittsburgh Irish Festival as a member of the Steam Trio. He has enjoyed sharing the stage with many incredible bands and musicians, including John Williams, Dennis Cahill, Katie Grennan, David Curley, and Áthas.



Shane McGowan

Shane hails from Tubbercurry in Co. Sligo and began playing music at an early age, learning the tin whistle and flute. Originating from a family steeped within the tradition and son of renowned Sligo flute player Harry McGowan, he is a superbly talented and highly accomplished musician. Although a late starter on the guitar at age 17, he quickly became in high demand and his musical abilities are endless. Putting his flare to any musical genre is what Shane does best. He has performed with many well known artists and bands within the tradition such as Matt Molloy, Máirtín O'Connor, John Carty, David Munnely, Séamie O'Dowd, The Alan Kelly Gang and Lúnasa but to name a few.

He has numerous studio recordings to his credit and has recorded with artists such as Colm O'Donnell, Harry Bradley, Declan Payne, David Munnely, Seamus O'Donnell, Oisín McAuley, Peter Browne, Declan Folan, Alan Kelly, Junior Davey and Harry McGowan.

Having played live with Ragus and At the Racket, Shane has also performed on albums including 'Farewell to Evening Dances', Colm O'Donnell, 'Skin and Bow', Declan Folan, 'Sound of Coleman Country', Coleman Heritage Centre and 'Famine Album', L & G Studios. He has performed at many National and International Festivals both in Europe, Canada and the United States of America.



Yvonne Fahy Europe / Australia / Asia

Yvonne Fahy hails from Ballinakill in Co. Galway. Reared and nurtured within an extremely talented and well-known musical family, she became a multi-instrumentalist from an early age and has won many All-Ireland Champion titles. She has been involved in many multi-genre projects and is well known for her compositional style and arrangements. Yvonne's original compositions include tracks on her album 'Pulse of the Earth' along with all newly composed music on her new solo album 'Diversity' launched in 2019; the sound track to the BBC commissioned programme entitled '1798 Rebellion' and the iTunes country chart topping song entitled 'The One for Me'. She is breathtaking to watch on stage as she intrigues the audience with a stage presence that not many possess. She is also a member of the chart topping Trad Rock group 'Furry Village' and regularly tours with the 'Máirín Fahy Band'.



Lead Instrumentalists:

Guitar/Vocalists:

Percussionists:

Maureen Browne and Brendan Browne

Fabian Joyce and Shane McGowan

Yvonne Fahy and Steve Morrow



[Click here for video](#)





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