

**IONA...is in no uncertain terms
the best traditional Celtic band working today.**

- Ray Dorsey, Chaos Realm

www.ionamusic.com



**“...the Best Celtic Music America has to Offer”
- Steve Winick, Dirty Linen Magazine**

IONA has been at the forefront of the Celtic Music revival since the band's inception in 1986. Founded by Barbara Tresidder Ryan and Bernard Argent, IONA has evolved over the past 20 years into what is probably the most comprehensive pan Celtic band in the world. IONA's mission: to present the rich musical elements of all the Celtic cultures — Scottish, Irish, Welsh, Manx, Cornish, Breton, Asturian and Galician, blending them into a tapestry that resolves in the New World, as evidenced in Appalachian, Cape Breton and Cajun cultures.

“This is the real stuff as far as Celtic goes, and these are authentic, versed musicians...The members of IONA look to be story tellers, song collectors (and) explorers. A trip to IONA is a fascinating journey.” Music Monthly Regional Review of Branching Out by Kyf Brewer

IONA has researched its material extensively, traveling to all the Celtic lands to excavate the traditions and learn from those from whom the music originated. Barbara Tresidder Ryan (lead vocals, bouzouki, bodhrán, guitars, “pieds”), named Barbara Allen after the folk song, grew up in a Cornish/Scottish family that sang and played traditional music all her life; Bernard Argent (flute, whistles, percussion, vocals), a native Briton, brought his deep knowledge and love of the music to the band's core. They are joined by Chuck Lawhorn (bass guitars, whistles, vocals), descended from an old Virginia family that traces its roots back to Wales, and Jim Queen (fiddle/banjo/vocals), whose Scotch-Irish background has informed his playing through 30 years with the Air Force Band.

“The instrumental combinations are well thought through, and changes within sets are unobtrusive. They are careful with their source material and will command the respect of enthusiasts for the tradition. IONA are going to be compared with young and talented innovators like Anam, as well as long established masters like Ossian or the House Band.”
Mike O'Connor, Cornish World

IONA, endorsed by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and MD State Arts Council Touring Programs, tours extensively, performing primarily at art centers and festivals, receiving accolades as they go:

“Without a doubt, this was one of our best events of the programming series this year. The musical talents of IONA, coupled with your ability to connect with the audience was certainly instrumental in translating the essence of the Celtic culture(s). I have since received innumerable favorable responses from students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the local community...I was very impressed by the professionalism and energy of the band members.” Paulett D. McIntosh, Director of Intercultural Development, Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, MD

A Celebration of Twenty was awarded the WAMMIE for
Best Traditional Folk Recording of 2006
by the Washington Area Music Association.

The Band



BARBARA TRESIDDER RYAN's vocals have been described as "smooth and sweet as dark honey" and are IONA's mainstay. After studying voice for 10 years, Barbara has been a vocal coach ever since. She has accompanied herself on guitar since she was 12, and enjoys experimenting with different tunings as well as the Celtic bouzouki. In 1983 she acquired her first bodhrán and is a skilled and effective percussionist. Barbara has performed throughout the British Isles and Brittany, has sung for Voice Of America broadcasts, and for the National Geographic Explorer Special. She and Bernard have gained international recognition as the founders of the Potomac Celtic Festival. They also organize the Winter Concerts at the Old Brogue.

Barbara Ryan's singing in the various Celtic languages is beautiful, earthy and impeccable. Joanne Gagnon, Celtic Beat Magazine

BERNARD ARGENT is IONA's charming historian and yarn spinner. Having studied music through his youth and at university in England, where he played trumpet in several orchestras, Bernard ventured into folk realms as a blues guitarist. Inspired by the renaissance of Celtic music in the '70's, he took up the tin whistle, then wooden flute, which have become as much a trademark of IONA's sound as Barbara's vocals. Bernard also backs the group on doumbek and occasionally on guitar, as well as with vocal harmonies. He and Barbara travel extensively through the Celtic lands, collecting material for their repertoire and his scholarly interjections.





Jim Queen comes to IONA as a veteran of 30 years performing with the Air Force Band. Master of many instruments, his primary contributions are fiddle and vocals, although he brings a touch of banjo and guitar to the mix as well. Having performed all over the world and in just about every state, for presidents, heads of state and luminaries in every field, Jim continues to entertain as a soloist and teaches in Accokeek, MD. He has played just about every fiddle/violin style in the book, from Mozart to mariachi, but his fascination with Irish and old timey make him the perfect foil for this band of Celtic eclectics!

CHUCK LAWHORN not only owns just about every bass guitar conceived by mankind, but plays them all expertly. Says Chuck, “My approach to the bass has been as both a support and melody instrument that just happens to have a lower range than most.” He also dabbles in whistle and mandolin playing, and sings a mean tenor harmony with the group, although he describes himself as mostly “responsible for low notes and low humor”. Born in Washington, D.C., Chuck grew up in Maryland, where he started playing bass in 1967, and where he lives still. Over the past three decades as a bass guitarist, he spent 13 years traveling all over the country in different dance and show bands, including the seminal Fabulous Potato Heads. *“I really like the way Chuck Lawhorn’s bass drives the proceedings, putting some real [testosterone] into the mix.”* Ray Dorsey, Chaos Realm review of Branching Out.



Marsha Searle dancing with IONA

Venues

A sampling of the hundreds of venues in which IONA has performed.

Acoustic Music Guild, Mannahawkin, NJ
Annual Festival of the Arts, Richmond, VA
Aros Centre, Portree, Isle of Skye, Scotland
Arts Under the Dome, Gulfport, MS
Avalon Theatre, Easton, MD
Ben Nevis Inn, Fort William, Scotland
Big Grey Concerts, Long Island, NY
Biltmore Mansion, Asheville, NC
Blue Ridge Arts Council, Front Royal, VA
Bodles Opera House, Chester, NY
Blackstone River Theater, Cumberland, RI
Black Rock Performing Arts Center,
Germantown, MD
Caffé Lena, Saratoga Springs, NY
Carrboro Art Center, Carrboro, NC
Celebration of Celts Festival, Hudson Valley, NY
Celtic Classic, Bethlehem, PA
Celtic Women International Conference,
New Orleans, LA & Milwaukee, WI
Chataqua Festival, Wytheville, VA
Cincinnati Celtic Festival, Cincinnati, OH
Colonial Crossroads River Festival,
Morrisville, PA
Country Roads Folk Festival, Kearneysville, WV
CT Highland Games, Goshen, CT
Delaplane Arts Center, Frederick, MD
Festival in the Park, Roanoke, VA
Fiddle & Bow Folk Club, Winston-Salem, NC
First Night, Williamsburg, VA
First Night, Doylestown, PA
First Night, Winchester, VA
First Night, Haddonfield, NJ
Folk Music Society of Huntington,
Long Island, NY
Fredericksburg Welsh Festival, Fredericksburg, VA
Gathering of the Celts Festival, Toronto, Canada
Gatlinburg Scottish Festival, Gatlinburg, TN
Glasgowlands Scottish Festival, Blandford, MA
Glen Allen Arts Center, Glen Allen, VA
Glenfarg Folk Club, Perth, Scotland
Godfrey Daniels, Bethlehem, PA
Hunter Mountain International Celtic Fair,
Hunter, NY
Ice House, Bethlehem, PA
Institute of Musical Traditions, Takoma Park, MD
Jack of the Wood Brew Pub, Asheville, NC
Jammin' Java, Vienna, VA
Knott Auditorium, Mt. St. Mary's University,
Emmitsburg, MD
Ligonier Highland Games, Ligonier, PA
Lincoln Theater, Marion, VA
Longs Peak Scots-Irish Festival, Estes Park, CO
Longwood Gardens, Kennet Square, PA
Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, Children's Museum,
Gulfport, MS
Lyric Theater, Blacksburg, VA
Maine Highland Games, Brunswick, ME
Minstrel Coffee House, Morristown, NJ
Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts, Little Falls, NY
Nashua Public Library, Nashua, NH
Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, Reston, VA
O'Flaherty's Irish Channel Pub, New Orleans, LA
Olde World Concert Series, Raleigh, NC
Paramount Center for the Arts, Bristol, TN
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
Pipers Guild, Derby, England
Potomac Celtic Festival, Leesburg, VA
Queens Central Library, Jamaica, NY
Rhode Island Highland Games, Westerly, RI
Rhythm & Roots Festival, Bristol, VA/TN
Rotch Jones Duff House Museum, New Bedford, MA
Saline Celtic Festival, Saline, MI
Scottish Festival & Celtic Gathering, Bridgeport, WV
Seattle Scottish Highland Games, Enumclaw, WA
Sedalia Celtic Festival, Big Island, VA
Sellersville Theatre, Sellersville, PA
South East Florida Scottish Festival, Plantation, FL
Strathmore Hall, Rockville, MD
Sycamore Shoals Celtic Festival, Elizabethton, TN
The White Hall, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Thomas Nelson College, Tidewater, VA
Three Little Bakers Dinner Theater, Wilmington, DE
Tidewater Friends of Folk Music, Norfolk, VA
Virginia Highlands Festival, Abingdon, VA
Warren Ohio Celtic Fest, Warren OH
Warwick Valley Winery, Warwick, NY
Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, Minneapolis, MN
Western MA Highland Games, Greenfield, MA
Williamsburg Scottish Games and Celtic Celebration,
Williamsburg, VA
Wise Pro-Arts, Wise, VA

Discography

IONA's twelve recordings, are considered outstanding without exception by professionals in the industry:



IONA's latest! **Signature** celebrates our more than 30 years performing pan-Celtic song and dance.

"Signature has some sterling pleasures within its grooves and Iona's cultural criss-crossing remains disarmingly effective three decades on."

John O'Regan - The Living Tradition

IONA's 25th anniversary CD. **Silver** is a pan-Celtic tour de force with 11 tracks blending 32 songs and dances from 13 different traditions, in 5 different languages!

"There is hope in the world and in the world of Celtic music that Iona keeps the vision fresh, diverse, and on target, on this their Silver anniversary." Art Ketchen - Celtic Beat Magazine.



Mid-Winter Light is an EP of Celtic seasonal music, from Ireland, Scotland, Cornwall, the Isle of Man and even England! The first IONA album to include fiddler Jim Queen and dancer Kathleen Larrick.

"Just delightful. ... These tunes are inviting and create vision. I could even smell cinnamon buns cooking and oranges drying. Congratulations!"

Louise Dunphy - Host/Producer, Celtic Crossings WMUA 91.1 FM

A Celebration of Twenty - IONA's 20th anniversary double CD featured a disc of all new material and a "best of" disc with fifteen tracks from the previous five albums.

"Seminal celtic groups such as Altan, The Battlefield Band and others have a well-deserved reputation. I believe Iona should be mentioned alongside these distinguished groups as they are on a par with the best."

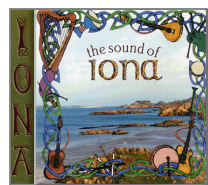
Kevin McCarthy's Celtic & Folk Music CD Reviews



"Branching Out is one of the most sensational recordings of Pan-Celtic tunes ever! The arrangement of the melodies ... demonstrates incredible artistry." Joanne Gagnon, Celtic Beat Magazine

"As always, Ryan, Mitchell, Argent & Smiley demonstrate both passion and finesse in the ensemble and solo settings...they have no difficulty making "Birken Tree" stand tall."

Mike Joyce, Washington Post



"In total, [The Sound of IONA] contains about an hour of the best Celtic music America has to offer." Steve Winick, Dirty Linen Magazine

"Nutmeg & Ginger [is] a delightfully laid back concoction personifying the season of mists & mellow fruitfulness."

John O'Regan - Radio Limerick, Ireland



[Holding Our Own has] "...a winning combination of verve and soulfulness" and "a brooding beauty that casts a haunting spell."

Mike Joyce - Washington Post

"I have listened to your Cd's and was completely blown away, absolutely brilliant and you can be sure I will give the CD's plenty of "Airplay" on my Radio show. Probably the best Celtic music group I have heard in America. And I was also lucky enough to see you in concert, very professional, you make it look easy, CONGRATULATIONS."

Barry Gaffney, DJ, Boston, MA



...and DVD: Live! at the 333

IONA's first full length concert video. Recorded live at the 333 Coffeehouse in Annapolis, MD. 73 minutes of music & dance. Includes English subtitles!