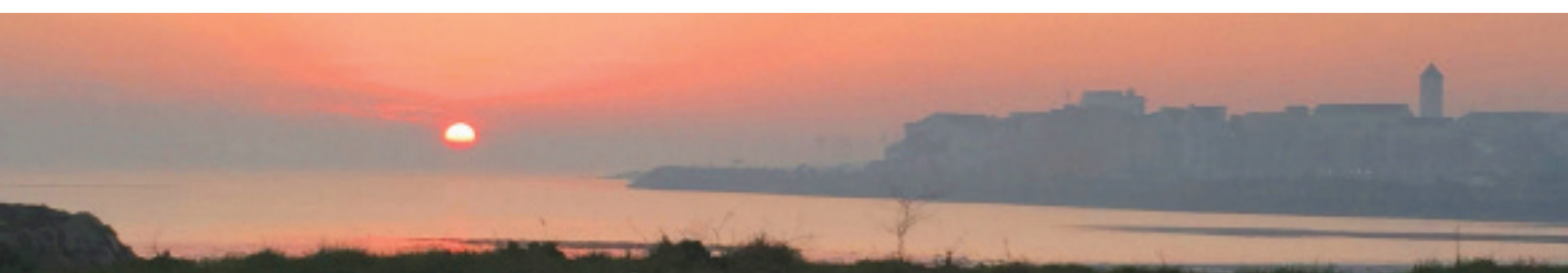




BACK
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P R E S S P A C K

BackWest

ALSR Celtic Music Award for Best New Band 2019 BackWest are "The Full Irish!"

INDIVIDUALLY, they hold authenticity; collectively they showcase the powerful ensemble of Western styles. They have performed at International Festivals, danced on the biggest stages including 'Lord of the Dance' and they have featured on TV stations and radio programmes across the world. Having just 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 four piece of young exponents, filled to the brim with the music and soul of the west of Ireland, three members reared in the heart of Galway city alongside their compadre from Headford in Co. Galway. 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 Lord of the Dance Peter Vickers on hand and foot percussion accompanied by virtuoso guitar/vocalist Fabian Joyce.

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 on each other with flourish, Peter's dancing is theatrical while Fabian's rhythmical and musical connection to the music form part of the band's musical narrative which is skillfully inserted and thrilling for their audiences. BackWest in concert is a showcase of imaginative, modern day Irish cultural expression, an explosion of tunes, song and dance, vital to the world that is contemporary Irish and world music.

To date BackWest has performed at many national and international festivals such as the Temple Bar Trad Fest (Dublin), Celtic Connections (Glasgow), The Gathering Festival, Killarney, Galway Arts Festival, The Ballyshannon Folk Festival, Son Do Pazo Festival (Spain), Clifden Arts Festival, Clifden TradFest, Michigan Irish Festival Initiative, 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 2019 with their new album entitled 'Heritage Hall'. Since the release of their second album, Heritage Hall has been 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



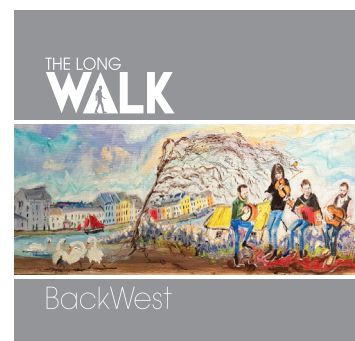
"Icing on the cake!"
fRoots

"Infectious"
RTE Lyric FM

"Powerful"
Irish Music Magazine

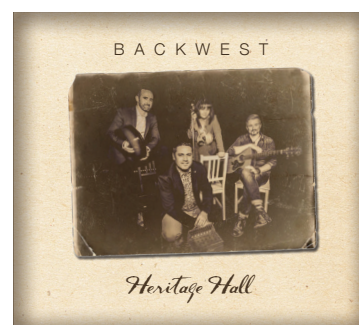
"Amazing, vibrant
and energetic"
Clifden Arts Festival

"Iontach ar stáitse,
ceol den scoth"
RnaG



Catalogue No: BWMCD001
Barcode No: 0797776528615
Album Release Date: 1st March 2017

NEW ALBUM



Catalogue No: BWMCD002
Barcode No: 0793591073415
Album Release Date: 25th Jan 2019



Biographies

Maureen Browne

Described as a 'child prodigy' trained at the Cork School of Music under the instruction of Mr. Adrian Petcu. In her late teens she became a member of Johnny (Ringo) Mc Donagh's band Arcady. She toured extensively with the Alan Kelly Gang and performed with the fabulous Scottish songstress Eddi Reader and Trashcan Sinatras' guitarist and songwriter John Douglas. In 2016 she performed with the Máirtín O'Connor Band and the Contempo Quartet. She has performed at many National and International Festivals such as the Milwaukee Irish Festival (USA), the Celtic Colours International Festival (Novia 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 various musical genres and has also toured the world as a performer with Michael Flatley's 'Lord of the Dance'.



Brendan Browne

A member of the Riverdance 'Flying' Squad band in his late teens has performed as a musician from an early age. Starring in Séamus Ó Scolaí's translation of Vincent Woods's 'At the Black Pig's Dyke, Ag Cláí na Muice Duibhe' (under the direction of Maelíosa Stafford) which was acclaimed as a 'tour de force' by reviewer Brendán Delap in the Irish Times, his musical career continued to develop as he performed as a duet piece with his sister Maureen, alongside Johnny 'Ringo' McDonagh of Dé Dannan/Arcady. He was a member of Full Steam Ahead where he also worked and performed with PJ McDonald and Jim McKee. He has made appearances at many festivals in Ireland and abroad as far as the Gaelic Club in Sydney, Australia and to include most recently, BackWest's U.S.A. Maiden Voyage Tour performances at Gaelic Park Irish Festival in Chicago, The Boston Irish Festival, Irish Cultural Centre, Canton, MA, The Ballyshannon Folk Festival, Donegal, The Tyneside Irish Festival, Newcastle, UK; TradFest 2019 in Dublin and Celtic Connections, Glasgow 2019. He has recorded on many local, national and International radio and television stations such as RTÉ, TG4, BBC Northern Ireland and BBC ALBA Scotland and UK.



Peter Vickers

Peter began his dancing career at an early age and hit the stage when he joined Ceol Charri Productions' 'To Dance On The Moon' and 'Spirit Of Ireland'. Following this he was asked to join Michael Flatley's 'Lord Of The Dance', with whom he toured extensively, entertaining crowds of up to 80,000 people in countries such as Italy, Germany, Switzerland, France, South Africa, Mexico, Singapore and Taiwan. In his late teens he developed a love for the bodhrán and has been influenced and encouraged by his musical colleagues down through the years. He grasps audiences with his percussive beats while stimulating them visually through the realm of Irish dance. Peter has danced for Irish Presidents, Mary McAleese and Michael D. Higgins at various corporate functions and at Áras an Uachtaráin. He has also shared stages with many fantastic musicians in the Irish Music World such as Sharon Shannon and Frankie Gavin.

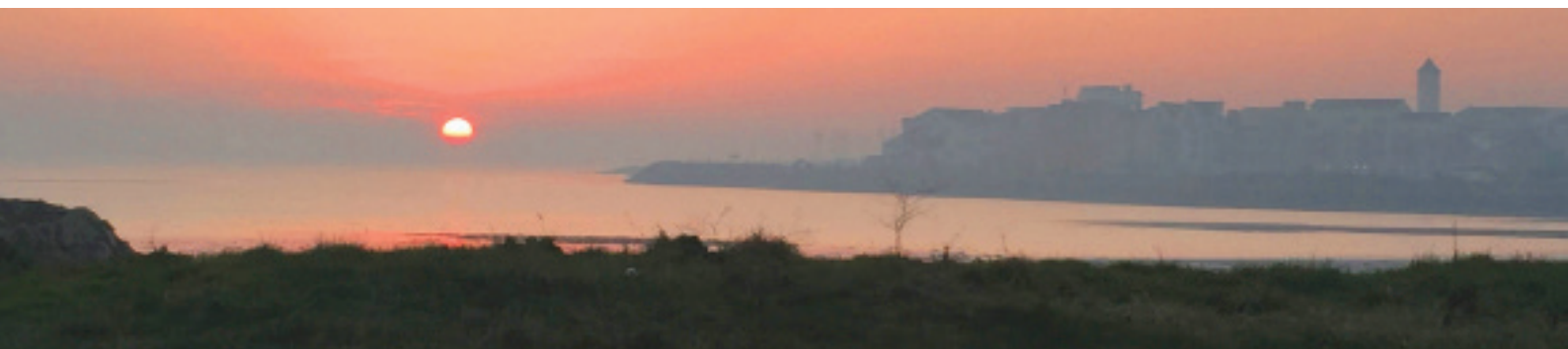


Fabian Joyce

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.







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