

Realta

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

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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

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“Infectious energy
and great
musicianship”
- B.Y. Folk

“The new stars of Irish
trad music”
- Irish News

“Duelling pipes and
plaintive vocals make a
winning sound”
- Irish Times



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 story, air and song.

While Conor Lamb and Aaron O’Hagan 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, voice and bodhrán, making this one of the most exciting acts on the Irish music scene today.

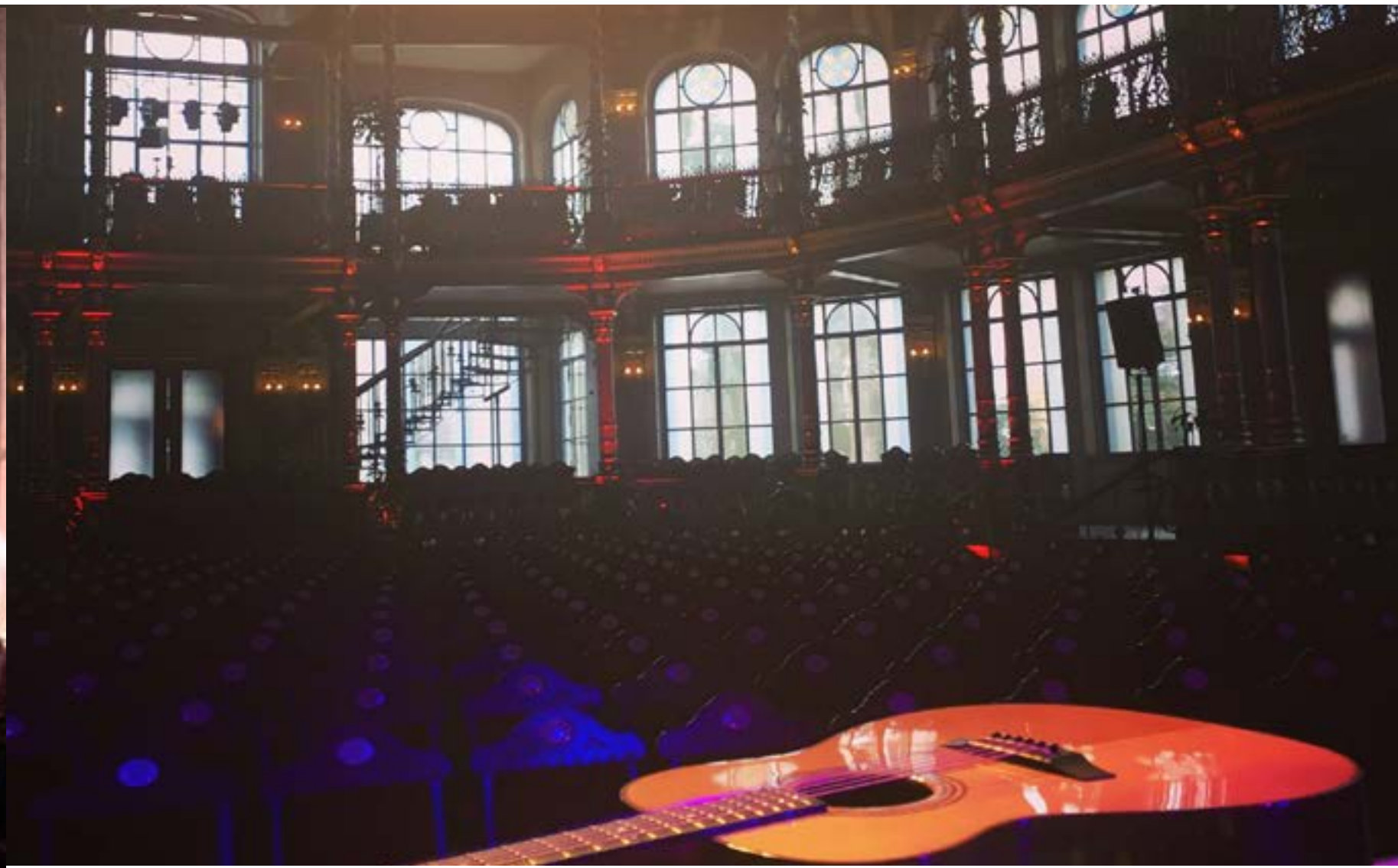
The release of their second album, *Clear Skies*, has brought Réalta widespread critical acclaim, with the Irish Music Magazine summing things up by writing “Réalta have grown bigger, bolder and braver and this is one of the best CDs to have come out of Ireland this year!”. The band have toured extensively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

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



Performance Highlights

- ◇ **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
- ◇ **Tøndor Festival, Denmark (August 2017)**
Mainstage performances at one of the largest folk festivals in the world
- ◇ **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 in South Korea in 2014. The success of these performances led to Réalta returning 2 years later to perform again at the festival, to give workshops for school children and to feature in a documentary by the national Korean 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 2013 & 2015)**
Selected to perform with the Irish delegation at the international festival. As part of the festival the band presented a 2 hour lecture and workshop on the uilleann pipes to an audience of 450 people
- ◇ **Irish Folk Festival Tour, Germany (November 2012 & 2014)**
Month-long tours of Germany alongside other artists including Altan, The Outside Track and Goitse
- ◇ **Saarang World Music Festival, India (January 2014)**
Multiple performances at one of India's largest cultural festivals



Quotes & Reviews

"The new stars of Irish trad music"

- *Irish News*

"A full bodied pipe and whistle extravaganza"

- *Irish Music Magazine*

"As a quintet, Réalta rocks!"

- *Songlines*

"Excellent purveyors of Irish music"

- *Folk Words*

"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*

"Réalta - an exciting new name in Irish music - their approach is distinctive and invigorating and the results amazing!"

- *fRoots*

"Youthful, energetic, stellar music, from one of Ireland's finest bands!"

- *Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh (Altan)*

"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, Irish Festival of Oulu)



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 several traditional groups including Réalta, Madagán and Music in the Glen. He is a versatile musician who has performed onstage at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London for the critically acclaimed production of Taming of the Shrew 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" are the words used by Living Tradition to describe Conor's latest album with the trio Music in the Glen, and they are apt words 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, Babieca 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. After achieving distinction at Grade 8, she began experimenting with jazz, rock and Irish traditional music. Accompanying on DADGAD guitar and researching old songs, Irish music is now her passion. Deirdre is also an Irish speaker, with a first-class honours degree in Irish Language and Literature.

Deirdre is a founding member of the Irish traditional bands Réalta, Madagán and Music in the Glen. With these projects she has released three critically acclaimed studio albums, performed live on BBC and RTÉ TV, and at venues and festivals throughout the world including Celtic Connections (Glasgow), Sori (South Korea), Saarang (India) and Tønder Festival (Denmark).

Teaching has always been a passion. As well as leading festival workshops and tutoring in schools, Deirdre 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.



AARON O'HAGAN

Uilleann Pipes / Whistles

Aaron O'Hagan is a highly respected musician and instrument maker, specialising in uilleann pipes and the traditional wooden flute. Born in Belfast, his first introduction to traditional Irish music was through his grandfather James, learning his first notes on the tin whistle. With much encouragement and support from family this was the start of a new path for life.

Aaron progressed onto the flute and pipes, learning from local musicians Brendan Mulholland and Patrick O'Hare. In the pursuit of quality instruments and the right sound, Aaron began to utilise his inherent love for the creative process and was motivated to embark on the journey into reed making and later into pipe and flute making. He plays his own instruments and has been teaching uilleann pipes and flute in Belfast for several years, teaching at the Glengormly School of Traditional Music and at workshops for Na Piobairi Uilleann and The Belfast Traditional Music Summer School. Aaron has toured extensively and performed on TV and radio over the past ten years with the traditional bands Réalta and Craobh Rua and the Irish dance shows Rhythm of the Dance and Danceperados of Ireland.

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 to name but a few. On stage, he has performed at some of the most prestigious festivals in the folk and traditional scene and some highlights include: 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, Beoga (Trad); Monsters of Metal (Heavy Metal); and Gareth Dunlop (Singer Songwriter).

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 privately, 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 and is available to teach guitar, bouzouki, banjo, double bass, singing and Irish language.

DERMOT MOYNAGH

Bodhrán / Percussion

Dermot Moynagh is one of the most influential and 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.



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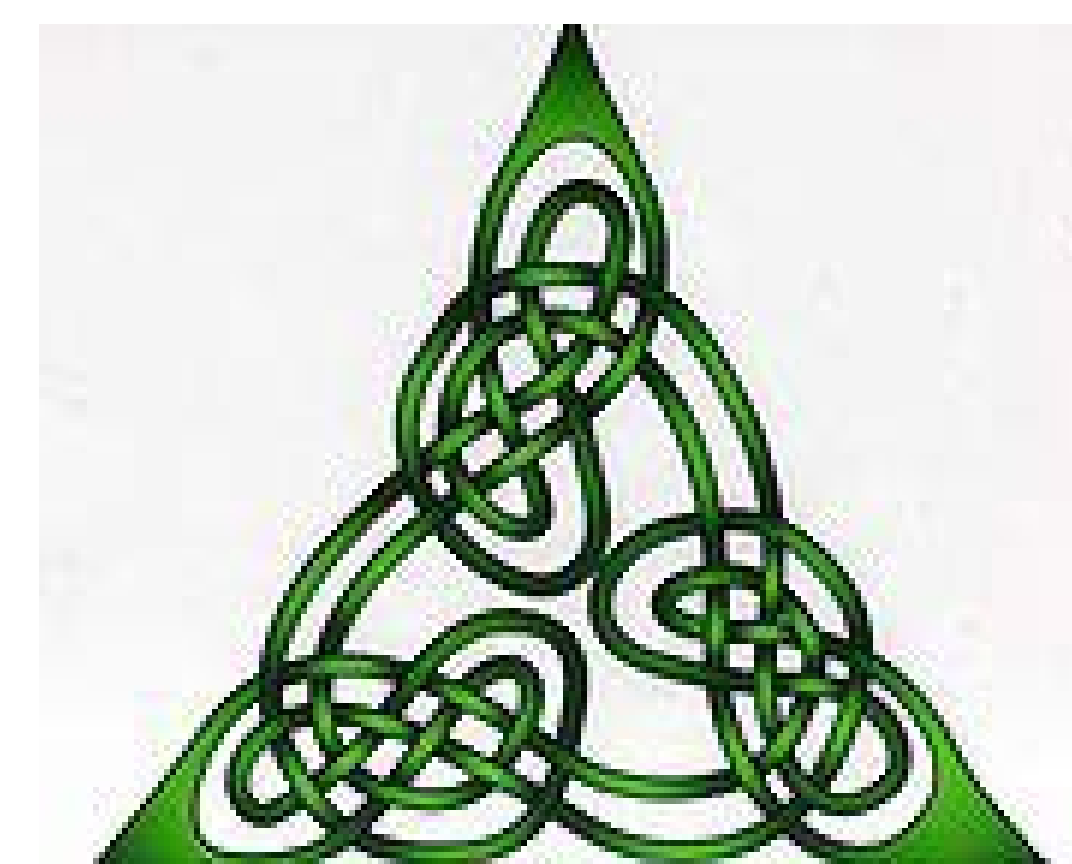
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Web Links

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www.instagram.com/realtamusic

Bandcamp

www.realtamusic.bandcamp.com

Saltón de Meres (Video)



<https://youtu.be/QLbscMCsnls>

Paddy Ryan's Dream (Video)



https://youtu.be/msBp_DFrS-I