



The Boys of the Lough

Brendan Begley (Kerry) *Button Accordion, Melodeon, Vocals*
Dave Richardson (Northumberland) *Concertina, Mandoline, Cittern, Accordion*
Malcolm Stitt (Highlands) *Guitar*
Cathal McConnell (Fermanagh) *Flute, Whistles, Vocals*
Kevin Henderson (Shetland) *Fiddle*

The first of the full-time professional Celtic ensembles to arise on the international scene, **Boys of the Lough** now occupy a unique position of respect in the world of traditional music. They have completed 64 tours of North America and celebrated 39 years as a band. The Boys have established a reputation for technical brilliance and integrity in their performance of Irish and Scottish music. A ready wit and sense of fun enliven their onstage performance while their original arrangements and dynamic interactions between the two major strands of the Celtic tradition keep the music always bright and fresh.

Since the first tour in 1967, the Boys have traveled extensively in their mission to gain traditional music a wider audience and respect. The music of the Boys of the Lough ranges widely through the instrumental and vocal traditions of Ireland, Scotland, Shetland and North America. The Boys make complex melodies and difficult instrumentals look easy, contrasting them with evocative slow airs and beautifully structured songs, some in the Irish language. A major strength of the Boys of the Lough is their inherent musical diversity, from the distinctly individual traditions in Ireland, Scotland, Shetland and Northumberland. The Boys have established a reputation for technical brilliance and integrity combined with a ready wit and sense of fun. The music ranges widely through traditional melodies of Ireland and encompasses fiddle music of Shetland, Scotland and North America. Compelling dance rhythms, which give the music such life, will lift your audience to their feet; the evocative slow airs and beautifully structured songs — some in the Irish language — will have them coming back for more.

“One of the finest bands in Celtic Traditional Music...” **The New York Times**

“The most rhythmically bracing of the traditional music bands” **Time Magazine**

“Legends.” **Boston Globe**

“Traditional heroes — played a moving set, putting people on their feet and making them dance the night away.” **Irish World**

Boys of the Lough

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