

Rose Corner Studio Sessions



WE ARE NOT ROBOTS 2020

Recorded at Rose Corner Studios in Autumn 2020


The band Na Ciotogi decided to go ahead with an Autumn tour in Bavaria in the year of Corona 2020. The gigs had been reduced from a total of 12 to 7 to comply with hygiene regulations. We were able to hold 4 of these 7 gigs before the second lockdown was brought in and 3 gigs had to be cancelled. We decided to use the time on our hands to record this album at Michael Schott's studio in Roseneck. We would like to thank Michael from the bottom of our heart for his fantastic work. I told him Tony and Dan felt totally at home in his studio, the greatest compliment you'll hear from an Irishman! For anybody who is interested in the recording equipment used check out Michael's studio webpage <https://en.rosecornerstudio.com/>

For the year that was Our friend Paddy O'Neill from The Moy couldn't join us. Playing on these recordings are the following musicians.

Tony McCarty from Cork and now living in Brittany sings and plays flute, tin whistles, mackazouki and bodhran on this album. The "mackazouki" is an old Suzuki guitar Tony got from his dad Timmy who bought it from Crowley's music shop in Cork city. As a child Tony never really learned to play the guitar but in later years played bouzouki. Two years ago he had the guitar converted to a tenor guitar tuned to GDAE with a double D string. Tony began playing bodhran at the age of six.

Dan O'Callaghan comes from West Cork and lives near the village of Kilnamarytra. Dan began playing tin whistle at school at the age of about 5. His mother came from a family with a strong fiddling background and his father came from a family with an accordion background so initially he had a choice of learning either fiddle or accordion. Dan never really took to the accordion or fiddle but in the year of 1982 he started to learn uilleann pipes. He sings and plays uilleann pipes and low whistles on these recordings.





Na Ciotogi began in 2002 with two families. Timmy and Tony McCarthy on the one side and David McMahon and his cousin on the other side. Luke was with the band for two years but got a full time position as musician with The Furey Brothers and Davey Arthur in 2004 and could no longer play with us. The family tradition continued with Timmy and Tony until 2017. The last year Timmy was on tour with us. David's son Seán kept the tradition going in 2018 when he played not only a guest slot but joined the band for the whole evening. Other musicians that have played with the band over the years include Peter Corbett, Yvon Riou, Ted O'Reilly and Eoin O'Riabhaigh.

Seán McMahon was born the year Na Ciotogi started in 2002 and according to his Mum was dancing around her tummy for the whole of the concert and was born about a week later. At the age of three he saw and heard the fiddle up close and personal when his father's friend Peter Corbett called to the family home to practice for a gig. "I will never forget the look on his face. He was totally besotted with the sound of the fiddle and immediately announced that he was going to learn the fiddle! We waited until he was 5 1/2 before starting him with lessons. For the two years before he started, he asked every single month if he was big enough to start!" Seán is still in love with the fiddle and is a fantastic addition to the sound of Na Ciotogi.

David McMahon started quite late with playing music. His grandmother on his father's side introduced him to the mouth organ and tin whistle at the age of about six but he never got lessons or found an outlet to play music. It wasn't until he left Ireland in 1994 to go to Bavaria that he found an outlet. It was in an Irish pub called The Old Dubliner in Regensburg where David met Bavarians playing traditional Irish music and got bitten by the bug! One year later in 1995 he met Timmy "the brit" at a set dance workshop in Landshut for the first time and in 1999 bought a C#/D box from O'Neill's music shop in Capel Street Dublin. David sings and plays box, mouth organ, concertina and spoons.

We have had a fantastic musical journey over the past 18 years and are delighted with the recordings we have here on this album Rose Corner Studio Sessions. We hope you enjoy listening to them as much as we enjoyed playing them! We look forward to playing live for you sometime in the near future!



1. Johnny Leary's Set Sweeney's / Tuar Mór / Neilí 'n Fuacht (Polkas)

The first track on the album was chosen in dedication to the memory of Timmy "the brit" McCarthy (24.05.1945 - 12.09.2018), Tony's father and friend and our dear friend. Timmy would always start every show we ever played with what he called Johnny Leary's polkas. Most of the time musicians don't have names for tunes so they call them after the person who gave them the tune. Timmy honoured Johnny O'Leary every time he played these polkas. Here's to their spirits!

2. John McHugh's / East at Glendart / The Lark in the Morning (Jigs)

This jig set begins with a lovely tune named after it's composer. David got a new instrument in December 2019 for his 50th birthday. He begins with the new concertina and is joined by his son Seán on fiddle. Tony joins in on flute and Dan on uilleann pipes. The beauty of playing in a studio is that you can add extra layers so Tony overdubbed his Mackazouki and bodhran sounds to the live recorded sound. There is great energy in this set.

3. Nil 'Na Lá (Song)

Dan sings this Gaelic song beautifully which, he has from the Ó Súilleabháin brothers of Chúil Aodha. They would often sing this song in Creadon's bar The Top of Coom on the Cork / Kerry border. It tells the story of a farmer who goes to market to sell potatoes and ends up going to the pub where he takes a fancy to the landlady and her daughter and has no intention of going home early. He ends up going home drunk in the early morning with no shoes or stockings! It's often the tradition in this area to sing songs in the Gaelic language as the area on the Cork side of the border is an Irish speaking region - An Ghaeltacht. The region to the west of this pub in Kerry, however, is English speaking therefore the one verse in the English language. A sad fact of life is that only 6 or 7 % of the Irish population speak Gaelic as a native tongue. Dan is the only one in our band who speaks Gaelic fluently.



4. Joe Banes / The Gypsy Princess (Barn Dances)

Here are two beautiful Barn Dances that we have from the playing of Cormac Begley and Jack Talty and their excellent CD of concertina music entitled Na Fir Bolg. Seán initially learnt the two tunes and passed them onto David who then passed them onto Tony. Normally it's the other way around! Just a funny story about Seán who was in Ireland for a school exchange in 2019. Seán's uncle Michael took him to a concert in the Cobblestone with Cormac and Liam O'Connor and when they got there discovered that the gig was sold out! They posted a photo on social media with two sad faces standing in front of the venue. Seán's other uncle living in Brisbane Australia saw the post and phoned Liam who he knew. Liam came out and brought the two in to front row seats! Thanks Liam and Cormac!

5. Blue Bonnet / Last Learnt Polka / Terry 'Cuz Teehan's (Polkas)

Here is a new set of polkas we put together for the tour in 2020. Timmy's friend and dance master Dan O'Connell often put words to tunes so Timmy sang the ditty I Have a Bonnet Trimmed with Blue when Dan was in hospital shortly before he passed away. Dan had another 10 for Timmy! The second polka was the last polka we got from Timmy in 2017 while we were on tour in Brittany. The last of the polkas is from the playing of Donal Murphy who played every year at Timmy's Cork and Kerry weekend.

6. Skibbereen (Song)

This is a beautiful old song written about the Great Famine (An Gorta Mor) in Ireland between 1845 and 1850. The famine was a tragedy that should never have been allowed to happen and today still has a huge effect on the soul, mind and spirit of the Irish.

7. Stenson's 1 & 2

These reels come from the Sligo musician John Stenson and are timeless classics as tunes go. Stenson's 1 & 2 (Reels)

8. Sí Beag, Sí Mór (Air)

This old air comes from the blind harpist Turlough O'Coralon born in 1670 in Nobber, Co. Meath. It's his first composition and celebrates the legendary battle of Moytura.



9. Johnny Leary's 4 Part Slide aka Scatterry Island (Slides)

This was another favourite of Timmy's and we would finish up a gig with this great slide that Timmy would call Johnny Leary's 4 part slide. When we were recording this I could see Timmy dancing around the studio. The same happens on stage when we are playing slides or polkas. His presence is still very much with us.

10. Brian Boru / Brian Boru's March (Song & March)

This fantastic song comes from the hand of Tony's friend Johnny "the hair" Walsh from Cork. Tony and Johnny have been great friends for a long number of years. It's followed with Brian Boru's March. Brian was the last High King of Ireland and fell at The Battle of Clontarf against the vikings and the King of Lenster in 1014. Mathgamain mac Cennétig or Mahon McKennedy was Brian's brother and defeated the viking Ivar of Limerick in 967 at the battle of Sulcoit. Allies of Ivar from the clan Dál gCais later captured Mathgamain and had him killed. Brian was out for revenge and despite winning The Battle of Clontarf, lost his own life.

11. An Bonnán Buí (Dán as Gaeilge)

Dan's nephew Tadhg Corkery who is a teacher of Irish and plays GAA football for the Cork team kindly reads a poem here in Gaelic called An Bonnán Buí. The poem is written by Cathal Buí Mac Giolla Ghunna, born c.1680. The poem is a lament to the death of a shy bird called the yellow bittern who got frozen in a lake and died of thirst. Cathal was fond of drinking and so had a fear of dying from the thirst!

13. The Yellow Bittern - An Bonnán Buí (Lament)

Our CD finishes with the beautiful slow air or lament An Bonnán Buí. Dan does a fantastic job in one take and the sound of his pipes here is absolutely fantastic.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped or supported us with this project from the bottom of our hearts





Recorded in The Rose Corner Studio October 2020

Musicians:

Tony McCarthy Flute, Tin Whistle, Mackazouki, Bodhran Vocals.
David McMahon C#/D Button Accordion, Concertina, Vocals.
Dan O'Callaghan Uilleann Pipes, Low Whistle, Vocals
Sean McMahon Fiddle.

Recording:

Michael Schott

CD Mixing and Mastering

Michael Schott
David McMahon

Photography, assistance

Sasan Akbari www.digipixel.art
Christian Ertl
Michael Schatz

Graphic Design and Layout

David McMahon

We hope you have enjoyed listening to this CD of a wonderful time in Rose Corner Studio as much as we enjoyed playing there. We look forward to the next years of fun, diversion and devilment! Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us over the years.

Na Ciotogi.

<https://na-ciotogi.de> trad@na-ciotogi.de
<https://en.rosecornerstudio.com/>

