

The Barra MacNeils Live!

In Concert and In Session: The Complete Live Barra MacNeils Experience!

Throughout 2007 and 2008, the Sydney Mines, Cape Breton Island based family group, the Barra MacNeils, celebrated over 20 years in an outstanding recording and touring career. This was accented with a two CD special 20th Anniversary package covering the span of their entire career to that point, as well as live concerts reflecting the musical course of their career, from humble family beginnings to world wide acclaim. The concert touring in support of that project took the group to theatre and festival stages coast to coast across Canada, had them jetting across America from festival stage to theatre stage and beyond, as well as sending them to Ireland and Scotland for prestigious events across the Atlantic.

Now, in 2009 and soon enough moving into 2010, the group has released two new live recordings intended to represent both sides of what the Barra MacNeils bring to stages the world over. The two live CD's, **In Concert** and **In Session**, together cover the instrumental and vocal material the group performs in concerts regularly while also touching on lesser known material from their more formative years and more informal musical gatherings.

As a group, the six MacNeil siblings are widely regarded as one of the greatest live concert acts in the Celtic world. Hailing from Sydney Mines, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, the family group is deeply rooted in Celtic music, culture, dance, language and history. Their numerous critically acclaimed recordings have included their own original songs as well as tried and true standards, both instrumental and vocal. These two new live recordings are no exception and are a must have for any fan of their live shows.

In Concert was recorded live over two consecutive nights at sold out concerts in Truro, Nova Scotia at the Marigold Cultural Centre. It features a sampling of the Barra MacNeils' popular theatre and festival main stage show material; from the high energy of **Clumsy Lover Set** right into some **Stepdance with Lucy** down to the longing of **A Thousand Miles** and the stellar beauty of **Caledonia** sung by Lucy, the CD touches on all the energies and emotions of the Barra MacNeils live concert experience. Other highlights include: the rousing anthem-like **Coal Town Road**, the fun-filled sing along spirit of **Don't Call Me Early** and **Nancy-O** to the ripping intense instrumental prowess displayed on **Dougie Mac** and **The Longest Day** and perhaps where it all comes together on the free and easy **Haven't Got a Care**.

In Session was recorded over a marathon afternoon and evening pub session at Bunkers in Sydney, Nova Scotia. The by invitation only event was attended by close friends, immediate and extended family members as well as select fans and media. People can be heard singing and clapping along, raising a glass of good cheer while keeping their energy up for dancing with a sampling of the pub's food menu. It was a magical event as the MacNeils gathered in a circle in the middle of the room around the upright piano, stand up bass and microphones; playing what seemed to be effortlessly for hours on end. Only some of the highlights could be captured by the recording crew (who had to set up in the dining room downstairs) and translated to this CD release but some special moments are certainly represented. Causeway Crossing is as stirring a representation of the Barra MacNeils roots and beginnings as could ever be heard or found. The song tells of the cost of progress and the toll the ever-growing economic demands of a modern world take on the smaller communities and a vanishing more traditional way of life. It was indeed, "built for going away". The weight of the **Causeway Crossing**, however, is deftly lifted with the easy spirit of **Dancing We Would Go** and the beauty and innocence of **Aimless Love** and **Every Time**. The instrumental selections are outstanding; including: **Highland Village Day**, **That 70's Set**, the appropriate **Welcome to Bunkers** and the relentless fifteen minute plus energy of **So You Think You Can Stepdance**. Turn this CD up, close your eyes and you are there!

The Barra MacNeils live concert experience brings so much more to the stage than most live acts ever can. Multiple lead vocalists, beautiful sibling harmonies, top drawer instrumental prowess on a wide variety of acoustic, stringed, percussion and wind instruments blended with dancing, storytelling, Gaelic songs and a journey through an ancient culture; it is family entertainment at its highest level.

Steeped in Cape Breton tradition with strong Celtic roots and musical artistry, this diverse and talented family group continues to wow audiences around the world with their captivating vocals, harmonies and extraordinary musicianship.

Multi-award winners, the Barra MacNeils have released no less than 14 recordings including: **In Concert** (2009), **In Session** (2009), **20th Anniversary Collection** (2007), **Christmas Album II** (2006), **All At Once** (2005), **Racket In the Attic** (2002), **Christmas Album** (1999), **Until Now** (1997), **The Question** (1995), **The Traditional Album** (1994), **Closer to Paradise** (1993 - Certified Gold in Canada), **Timeframe** (1990), **Rock in the Stream** (1989), **The Barra MacNeils** (1986). In 2001, they released a DVD titled **Cape Breton Christmas** incorporating music from their live Christmas Concert Special (as seen on television), plus a visit to Cape Breton, interviews with the Barra MacNeils home at Christmas and music videos.

Canada's Celtic ambassadors, the Barra MacNeils continue to perform to sold out audiences throughout Canada, the United States, the Caribbean, the United Kingdom and Europe. From headlining major festivals, concerts, special guest appearances (Rita MacNeils CTV Christmas Special, performing with The Chieftains) television specials, film and television placement (Men with Brooms Soundtrack; Racket In The Attic) and their annual Christmas tour, they have set the course with a solid foundation for success. The Barra MacNeils one-hour Christmas Television Special (2000) continues to be broadcast on Country Music Television (CMT) and on the Public Broadcasting Services (PBS) network in the United States. December 2007 saw the broadcast of a new Christmas Special which will no doubt also become part of the holiday season for years to come.

The Barra MacNeils will continue to do what they love to do best, and that is playing their music for the fans. This incredibly talented family group will tour Canada, the US and Europe to spread their distinctive brand of Celtic flavour around the world. All confirmed 2009/2010 live concert dates are listed on the Tour page of their website with more dates being added all the time.

The Barra MacNeils Are:

- » **Kyle MacNeil:** vocals, guitar, violin, mandolin
- » **Lucy MacNeil:** vocals, bodhran, Celtic harp, fiddle, step dancing
- » **Sheumas MacNeil:** keyboards, piano, bodhran, fiddle, bouzouki, vocals
- » **Stewart MacNeil:** vocals, accordion, tin whistle, flute, bouzouki, guitar, step dancing
- » **Boyd MacNeil:** mandolin, fiddle, guitar, banjo, percussion, step dancing
- » **Ryan MacNeil:** keyboards, percussion, uillian pipes, tin whistle, bodhran, step dancing
- » **Jamie Gatti:** bass

Awards & Achievements

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| 2009 | In Concert and In Session CD's released |
| 2009 | 20th Anniversary Touring |
| 2007 | 20th Anniversary Collection CD released Christmas Together Holiday TV Special |
| 2006 | Christmas Album II CD released |
| 2005 | All At Once CD released Celtic Fusion Award Nomination (Best Folk/Traditional Group) |
| 2002 | Racket In The Attic, Men with Brooms soundtrack |
| 2001 | ECMA Award - Group of the Year (Racket in the Attic) ECMA Nomination - Album of the Year Juno Nomination - Roots/ Traditional Group of the Year |
| 1998 | ECMA Nomination - Entertainer of the Year |
| 1997 | ECMA Nomination - Group of the Year (The Question) |
| 1996 | ECMA Award - Pop Recording of the Year (The Question) ECMA Nomination - Entertainer of the Year |
| 1995 | ECMA Award - Roots/ Traditional Group of the Year (Closer to Paradise) ECMA Nomination - Album of the Year ECMA Nomination - Pop Recording of the Year ECMA Nomination - Video of the Year (Darling Be Home Soon) ECMA Nomination - Instrumental Recording of the Year (The Traditional Album) |
| 1994 | ECMA Nomination - Video of the Year (<i>My Heart's In the Highlands</i>) |
| 1992 | ECMA Award - Album of the Year (Timeframe) ECMA Nomination - Video of the Year (Flow Time) |
| 1991 | ECMA Award - Roots/Traditional Group of the Year (Timeframe) |
| 1990 | Timeframe CD released |
| 1989 | Rock in the Stream CD released |
| 1986 | The Barra MacNeils CD released |
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Discography

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| 2009 | In Concert Barra Music Co. Ltd. |
| 2009 | In Session Barra Music Co. Ltd. |
| 2007 | 20th Anniversary Collection Album (double CD) Barra Music Co. Ltd. |
| 2005 | All At Once Barra Music Co. Ltd./ Shoreline Produced by Declan O'Doherty/Jamie Foulds/Barra MacNeils |
| 2000 | Racket in the Attic Barra Music Co. Ltd, Produced by Danny Greenspoon |
| 2001 | Cape Breton Christmas DVD Barra Music Co. Ltd |
| 1999 | Christmas Album Barra Music Co. Ltd Produced by Declan O'Doherty (All Hands Productions) |
| 1997 | Until Now Barra Music Co. Ltd, Celtic Aire Produced by Celtic Aire |
| 1995 | The Question Polygram Records/ Universal Music Produced by Nick Griffiths |
| 1994 | The Traditional Album Polygram Records/ Universal Music Canada Produced by Barra MacNeils |
| 1993 | Closer to Paradise Polygram Records/ Universal Music Canada Produced by Wally Wilson/ Kenny Greenburg |
| 1990 | Timeframe Barra Music Co. Ltd Produced by Chad Irschick |
| 1989 | Rock In The Stream Barra Music Co. Ltd Produced by Barra MacNeils/ Fred Lavery |
| 1986 | The Barra MacNeils Barra Music Co. Ltd Produced by Tony Quinn |