

John Whelan with Flynn Cohen & Liz Simmons

Although John grew up near London in Dunstable, England, he was raised on the fiddle and pipe music of Ireland. Dunstable has a large Irish community, and his father, Denis, was from Ireland's County Wexford. "Ours was a very traditional household," John says.

John has numerous recordings to his credit with his first **PRIDE OF WEXFORD** completed at the age of 14, and already a seasoned winner of numerous accordion championships. John moved to the United States in 1980 and soon was performing with *Riverdance* fiddler Eileen Ivers in one of the most celebrated Irish duos of the decade, and released his solo album **FROM THE HEART**. John's work continued with subsequent recording work on the Narada recording label with the releases of **CELTIC ODYSSEY** (1993) and **CELTIC LEGACY** (1995), two of Narada's best-selling releases. In 1996 John signed with Narada and released his next two albums **CELTIC REFLECTIONS** and **CELTIC CROSSROADS**, featuring a wonderful lineup of American musicians along with Celtic luminaries that blended together for a wonderful collection of tunes.

In late 1997 John formed the **JOHN WHELAN BAND**. In 1998, the band enjoyed a milestone year, thrilling audiences at such major American music events as the Philadelphia Folk Festival, Washington Irish Folk Festival, as well as throughout Europe and later that year he released his next album **FLIRTING WITH THE EDGE**.

Named **Traditionalist of the Year** by Irish Echo magazine in 1998, John won high praise from Celtic music authority Earle Hitchner, who wrote "As an instrumentalist, composer, producer, and arranger who brings both passion and playfulness to his music while respecting the tradition it's rooted in. John Whelan has richly earned the Irish Echo's highest honor for traditional music in 1998."

In 1999 John released **COME TO DANCE** and in 2001 his release of **CELTIC FIRE** joined the previous album serving notice to genre purists that the seven time All Ireland Accordion Champion was as instrumentally agile as ever.

John will be backed by the flawless guitar playing of **Flynn Cohen**, a native of Shaker Heights, Ohio. Flynn is an acoustic guitarist who performs primarily as an accompanist for traditional fiddle music. He has a BA in Music from Dartington College of Arts in Devon, England and an MA in Music Composition from Mills College in California.

He performs with the band Annalivia, Irish accordion legend John Whelan, progressive fiddle band Halali, and acclaimed dance band The Sevens, in addition to duo performances with fellow trad guitar player Matt Heaton and old-time fiddler Matt Brown. He's also worked with many top artists like Cathie Ryan, Aoife Clancy, Lissa Schneckenburger, Laura Cortese, Joe Derrane & Frank Farrell and many others. www.myspace.com/flynncohen

Liz Simmons grew up in a musical family, and she loves to sing traditional ballads and folk songs, as well as contemporary folk, Old Time and Bluegrass. She has performed with John Whelan, North Cregg, The Sevens, Karan Casey, Aoife Clancy, and The Chagrin River Band. She is currently part of the N. Mass./S. New Hampshire based band Annalivia. She released her first solo album in 2006, entitled "The Whole World Round". Annalivia has their first album available on their MySpace page: www.myspace.com/annaliviamusic.

www.johnwhelanmusic.com