

POGEY

Biography

Hailing from Halifax, Nova Scotia, POGHEY combine original Celtic/Rock tunes with stellar instrumentals. The group performs with genuine spontaneous and spectacular energy. They have the audience the minute they hit the stage.

POGEY's fourth CD is their most ambitious project to date. This self-titled project was recorded at Common Ground Studios in Halifax Nova Scotia with producer/engineer Christopher Mitchell (Meatloaf, The Rankin Family, Bruce Guthro of Runrig and more). Mitchell's creative vision and POGHEY's fresh original material helped to spawn an exciting new sound for the group.

In 1997, lead singer / guitarist Ray Mattie moved his young family to Barrie, Ontario (just north of Toronto) to break into a new music market. The idea was to start an original band with a Celtic/Folk based sound. Unfortunately, after three years of festival performances and several TV features, Mattie was never able to find the quality, like-minded musicians to help make this band a reality. To do this, he needed to return home to Nova Scotia. In the fall of 2000, upon his arrival, a referral had Mattie calling bassist and vocalist Jonny Grant. Grant agreed to join immediately and 20 minutes later POGHEY was born.

As of early 2004 POGHEY had solidified a core line up. Warren Robert (lead guitar, vocals) and Zach Smith (drums, vocals) became permanent members as touring Canada and the US continued. In the spring of 2007 with higher profile shows in hand, POGHEY added Colin Grant (fiddle) and Darren McMullen (mandolin, bouzouki, banjo, tin whistle, vocals).

After a showcase at Canada's 2008 East Coast Music Awards, POGHEY was recruited to perform the Kansas City, Pittsburgh and Great American Irish Festivals. The band is no slouch in their small home town of Antigonish Nova Scotia either – averaging 8000 at the annual "Canada Day POGHEY Party" held at Oland Stadium as the only band on the bill. Other highlights include headlining at International Tall Ships Festival and performing the official 2006 Juno Awards after party; both held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

"We could all use some POGHEY! A wealth of talent!
Tom Murphy CBC-TV, The National

"A Celtic force...in a matter of a few bars they own the audience and bring the room to life" Lance Chilton Host of "Live at the Rehearsal Hall" Bravo! TV

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