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REAL GOOD MUSIC NEWSLETTER FALL 2013

Hello to all! Since it's nearing the end of summer for most of you (except here in Arizona where we won't see the end of the 90s & 100s until mid-October or so) it is also the time of year that I like to send along the updates for our roster as well as music business and a variety of related subjects. For many presenters you are already planning your summer & fall/winter 2014 and spring 2015 programs. We still have a few needs for 2013, but are also looking ahead to 2014/2015 as well! For fans, friends, radio and press folks this is also an issue that will give you some shows to look forward to in your areas. We try to have something for everyone, and this year in particular there has been quite a bit of exciting news for the roster to tell you about! I hope everyone enjoys it!

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Please check out our websites' section for **News**, it is right upfront on the home page with easy links to the latest.

There is plenty to read about in the News section, but to spotlight a few; **Runa** won both Judges and Fans vote for Best Song for the IMA's (Independent Music Awards) for Best Song "Amhran Mhuighinse"- *Somewhere Down the Road* in World Traditional Category, as well as Best Female Vocalist in the Irish Music Awards! **Slide** was nominated for Top traditional group in a Pub, Festival or concert Category!

Runa also has a way cool video clip of the band performing the National Anthem at a Phillies baseball game in Philadelphia this summer and a new music video of "The Holy Ground" shot at the Grand Canyon releasing in September.

Brand new CDs out this year for **FullSet** (Notes After Dark), **Manran** (The Test), **Goitse** (Transformed), **Runa** (Somewhere Along the Road), **Phil MacLennan Smillie** of Tannahill Weavers (Sound of Taransay), and **Slide**.

New members welcomed aboard to various bands this year; *Maggie Estes*-fiddle (Runa), *Martino Vacca*-pipes (Fullset), *Dave Scott*-pipes (Manran).

Goitse has a cool new **Video** on our site "**The Burst Togs**" and also has some big surprises for their summer/fall 2014 touring set to coincide with a new CD release. (Contact me direct for those plans).

Moya Brennan as part of Clannad is getting a major award and career recognition early next year....we need to be mum about this until the official announcement.....but it is a goodie!

First Tour

This summer and fall 2013 **Manran** from Scotland is out on their very first tours of the US. They are expected to impress!! The band has been gaining a huge following overseas and performing for all of the major festivals in Europe, as well as charting high up on the BBC Record Charts. Indeed it was quite an endeavor for RGM to snag some dates away from their UK agent who has been keeping them very busy across the pond. But we did!

Major festivals this August in the Midwest and East include **Milwaukee** Irish, and **Peoria** Irish Festivals, and the **Capital District** Highland Games, and this September **KVMR Celtic Festival** in Grass Valley, CA, as well as four **CO-Bill** shows in **Arizona** this September in Yuma, Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff. This bill will be with fellow Scots, **Tannahill Weavers**. This will feature long time and traditional "Tannies", inducted in 2011 into the *Scot's Traditional Hall of Fame*, and the new lads with their Celtic-Rock element in a very traditional based style.....and one killer group encore that will have all ten members of the two bands on stage, including three pipers of amazing ability. *Worth a fly out to AZ to see some of these shows!*

First tour of the West for Runa....They did a first time out to our neck of the woods, and either sold out or came close to that at all of the shows they performed for. With stops at California World Music Festival in CA, and Northern Arizona Celtic Festival in Flagstaff, and shows at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, CalTech Folk Society in Pasadena, and with our good friends for the Monterey Celtic Society and San Diego at AMSD it was a blast for the band and for the audiences.

New On Board RGM

This fall **Real Good Music** has signed two new artists; **Grainne Holland from Belfast, N. Ireland** and **The Outside Track from Canada, Ireland & Scotland**.

We are very proud to welcome these two brilliant artists aboard!

GRAINNE HOLLAND released her first album "**Teanga na nGael**" in 2011 and has performed at festivals and events in Ireland and Europe since then, as well as performing at *Celtic Connections* to superb reviews. She just finished her first tour in Germany this summer. Most of her songs are in Gaelic language with charming stories in English to accompany the songs, as well as other songs in English. She tours 2 different formats of band, a quintet, or up to seven members. Most tours are with **Feilimi O'Conner** guitar, **Brendan Mulholland** on flute, a bodhran player and a bouzouki and Grainne. The other format adds saxophone, pipes and fiddle to the mix.

Her sets are quite lively songs, ballads and tunes and are a wonderful blend for most any venue or festival! Her voice is strong and unique with a charm and richness that captivates right from the start. Not to mention a lovely stage presence!

It's been about time for RGM to have a talented Belfast girl touring for us in North America.....

She has also worked as an **Irish Language TV producer** and on Irish language programmes for TG4 and BBC Northern Ireland and has co-produced a 6-part music and arts series for BBC. Grainne also can do workshops and teaching of the Irish language and her band does workshops. She is currently gathering material for a new album to be released next year to coincide with her first tours to the US and Canada. She is open to tour Summer/Fall 2014 and Spring 2015. By the way, the folks with Milwaukee Irish Fest saw her at Celtic Connections and she is already slated to appear there in August 2014. Most of her info will be up on the agency website soon, but check out her own website at www.grainneholland.com in the meantime.

THE OUTSIDE TRACK is made up of members from Canada, Ireland and Scotland and features a marriage of Celtic music, song and dance encompassing styles from Cape Breton, Ireland and Scotland. They have performed for major festivals and events all over Canada, the US, and Europe to great acclaim. New on board the band is **Aoife Scott**-vocals/whistle/bodhran, one of the many members of the legendary Black Family, her mother is Frances and Aunt is Mary. You will also recognize **Mairi Rankin**-fiddle/dance/vocals from Cape Breton...another famous family from our side of the pond! RGM has worked with Mairi years ago with the very popular band Beolach. Add to the mix **Ailie Robertson**-harp from Edinburgh a multi-award winner in many impressive categories and **Fiona Black**-Accordion, a Highland girl educated in music in Limerick and adding many different styles of playing the piano accordion, and mix in the one male member, **Cillian O'Dalaigh** from Limerick on guitar/step dance/vocals and you have the makings of a powerhouse band!

Winner of Best Group in both the **Live Ireland** and **TIR** awards and recently awarded the "Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik" for Folk Music.....the prize of the **German Record Critics' Association** is an independent association of 145 music critics and journalists from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The band's album "Flash Company" won the folk category!

We are also busy getting The Outside Track onto our www.rgmbooking.com website, but for the meantime please check out www.theoutsidetrack.com site and also we will have a link to a short promo video up on our News section at our site soon. Our first tours in the US will be aimed at starting late July, through August up to September 14, 2014 and then open Oct to late Nov, and Dec.

We will be working on dates for 2015 as well.

I would like to mention that RGM will be exclusive just for the US. The band has an agent for Canada and their info is listed on the band website.

Changes

Along with new bands coming aboard, that usually means we have had some changes as well.

Kila and **Celtic Spring** are not with RGM anymore.

No hard feeling in either case. Kila has been busy in Europe, but the tours just did not jive for the US and Canadian bookings for us. Just the ways of things sometimes! But the band did have a wonderful time for shows at Kansas City Irish Festival, Edmonton Folk Fest, and for a tour in the Northwest. We would love to have them back again if something comes our way.

Celtic Spring has been a long while with RGM, and toured a ton, and is one of the nicest bunches of folks an agent could ever ask for. Young kids with their parents, coming aboard right after their top five final for **America's Got Talent** (the first year NBC did that program). But young kids get older, get married, go to University, move to other cities, and have all of the changes that they are supposed to have. They are still deeply into their music, and are open to tour as a band on occasions....so if ever anyone has an opening do let me know. I expect that some day some of the members will have a new project going we might work with as well.

(The Men and Women of RGM)

As I was thinking about what to talk about in this Newsletter I began reflecting about the balance and make-up of the roster. I am always concerned about a certain balance of styles to our artists and the overall feel to the bands. I felt particularly happy with the current collection of artists. That led me to think about the guys and girls thing.

We have, for maybe the first time since we went full time as an agency in 1999, a unique blend in that aspect.

I considered our Scottish bands; Old Blind Dogs, Manran, and Tannahill Weavers.....all "Man" bands, and the many different ages of the members. Then Ireland; Slide and Teada, also an all male line up! To balance that we have Girsas, all young college age girls from the US, and also two female featured artists, Moya Brennan from Ireland and Grainne Holland from N. Ireland.

Beyond that we have full band oriented artists that use a mixture of Men and Women, with Shannon Lambert-Ryan fronting Runa on vocals, Aine McGeeney fronting Goitse on vocals and fiddle, Teresa Hogan also out front on vocals and fiddle for FullSet, and Su Hart on vocals and dance for Baka Beyond. All of these last bands mix things up and some have more female members some less.....

But there is a unique, and really not planned balance to the whole company! Even when you compare the percussionists, Fraser Stone from Old Blind Dogs and Cheryl Prashker from Runa it seems a unique balance.....both do a very similar hand player modified drum kit with African Djembie drums, cymbals, etc (by the way I just have to get a co-bill with the two of them sometime and have a duel of drummers). Baka uses a percussion unit or full kit, Manran a full kit.

Our Christmas programs tour with invited guests, and have had a cool mix of both male and female guests.

I have no idea where I am going with all of this, other than I do try to consciously have a good mix of music, some up tempo, some Celtic-Rock, a bit of very traditional and another a mix of traditionally based fusion styles, and to some extent music that runs from musicians that started careers quite a few years back to ones that are brand spanking new. I do like to produce a roster that is teamwork oriented, rather than competitive, and enough different styles that they don't run over each other when looking to be booked.

I have always liked to have some flex in the roster to create some interesting co-bills, ones like what we are doing with Manran and Tannahill Weavers this fall in Arizona, or have done in places like Beaver Island with Goitse and Runa last year.....and I like the fact that many presenters will book several of our bands at the same fest, or over a years' time period. Balance! I guess that is the point I am making.....we try for a balance, and I believe that we probably have the best ever now for this 2013/2014-15 seasons.

(Dynasties and Harps)

On another odd diversion.....it also occurred to me that we have a roster that has close personal connections in quite a few different ways together....*also nothing deliberate planned in this!*

One connection is the **De Barra Brothers**....quite a musical family, and connected to three of our bands; **Eamonn** De Barra in Slide, **Cormac** De Barra in Moya Brennan, and **Fionan** De Barra in Runa.....*nothing planned*.....but there they are. Also, Cormac plays **Harp**, Moya plays **Harp**, and now the new band on roster, The Outside Track, we also have Ailie Robertson on **Harp**, and the band has members that are part of the **Black** and **Rankin** families! We do the Irish Christmas tour every year, and Grainne Hambly also does **Harp** for that tour. I have never had so many harpists on roster, or so many members connected in other ways as well. **David Curley** is in Slide, *and* in Runa! Eamonn De Barra will tour now and then in Moya Brennan's projects! **Goitse** has had David Curley fill in on banjo for a tour! **FullSet** and **The Outside Track** folks are doing some shows together, **Teresa Horgan** from FullSet is filling in for one of their members on a tour in Europe in January. Shannon from Runa did a guest slot with Irish Christmas at **National Geographic** last year! **Aaron Jones** of Old Blind Dogs and **Gary Innes** of Manran both recorded on **Phil Smillies'** new album. (Phil is in Tannahill Weavers) Our webmaster, **Chris Merle** and his wife, **Melissa Tatum**, love everything Celtic, and get around to more festivals and events than anyone I know. *They often meet and hear the bands live way before I do!*

It's a really small, small world, and an even smaller community for Celtic musicians. Many of the presenters I talk to have just been over to Ireland or Scotland, or other places, just did something with members of our bands, or have all the current gossip for me that I never hear about first because I'm sitting in my office booking all day long!

It is an amazing and very interesting business....and there is a certain dynamic that falls into place all on its' own now and then! **Balance, Family, and Harps....indeed!**

In fact, I wanted to create a family business clear back in 1996 when the conception of Real Good Music first came to be....but I never, ever realized that in booking all of these bands from all over the world, and in many, many sorts of venues in North America, that it would really "be" a *family* business in every sense of the word!

I thought I would share that with you this Newsletter.....

Taking to the Road in 2014

"**Green Month**" touring is filling fast for the February/March Irish time to tour Celtic artists. We have a week added for **Teada** from Feb 27 to March 9 open, just before they head to a big tour of Japan and Taiwan March 11-April 23. **Girsa** as a 5-6 member format also open during the season for mostly weekends and for spring break shows. As some of you know they are also students in college and they tour during the school year around those college needs.

FullSet is out for a long tour for most of February and March, with much of the period already booked in the West-coast, Midwest, and even reaching to a nice week in Wyoming and Arizona. There are still good dates open, but hurry!

Goitse has quite a bit of their own Feb/March 2014 tour booked, but still some good dates, and possible touring in many parts of the country!

Runa w/Dave Curley (and for some key dates an added piper to the tour) has a solid March tour going with shows at Northwestern Michigan College, Firelands Symphony Concerts in Sandusky OH and on St Pat's at National Geographic Live, but also are open for other Feb/March dates as well.

Tannahill Weavers has a mid February California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia tour going to early March, with still some great dates open!

Moya Brennan Trio on the "Voices and Harps" tour has a short tour in April kicking off in Atlanta at Emory University, with shows in Milwaukee and Cedar Rapids the following weekend....and open for options around those dates.

SUMMERTIME & FALL 2014

The High seasons for touring; festivals, city events, theaters are always busy times for our roster....and to be honest with you just about every band on roster has plans for touring, and indeed some already have bookings, re-bookings and holds! Some of the artists are still sorting exact avails around other offers overseas, but a healthy chunk of the whole season will be open for the entire roster.....so please contact me direct with specific needs and interest and we can put together what you need.

Band Touring can often change to entirely different periods and even other formats as routing and offers come in to my office. Please check with me for any specific needs, ideas, or for specific artists so that we can see what will fit your programming needs! I am known for a very creative approach to booking and for coming up with solutions that make sense.

Irish Christmas shows

Continuing with the very successful **Irish Christmas in America** program over the last 8 years, produced by Oisín Mac Diarmada (Teada), they are returning in 2013 with a popular and asked for return of the guests from the 2011 tour, Eilís Kennedy and Pauline Scanlon of "**Lumiere**" along with a wonderful slide photo display, sean-nos style dancer and traditional Irish band, with plenty of stories of the Irish Christmas traditions. Dates are on our website at: www.rgmbooking.com.

Éilís, Pauline & Donogh Hennessy from Lumiere will be back for the 9th edition of Irish Christmas in America tour starting the week before Thanksgiving.

If one Irish Christmas tour was not enough, for 2013 we decided to spread the Christmas cheer around even more. For the first time, **Moya Brennan** will be bringing her Holiday show to the US. The two shows are very different from each other, with Moya's version quite a bit more ethereal and focusing more on Irish Christmas songs and spiritual aspects. This is fitting since Moya Brennan's is the lead singer of the famous Irish band *Clannad* as well as Enya's sister. Her Christmas tour has been a huge hit in Europe for many years.

Come join us for both of these fine Christmas shows!

Note: see below, in Last Minute Tour-Dates section, open dates for Christmas!

They're Baaaack!-OBD's

OLD BLIND DOGS from Scotland are finally set to tour again!

To many of you this news will be the best thing you have heard from us for years. Most of you will remember that in April 2011 The Dogs started a tour of the US in Minneapolis....and founding member Jonny Hardie ran afoul of the immigration folks in MN while trying to come in for the tour after a delay from the UK consulate. The band did continue on as a trio on that tour, and also with Claire Mann to replace Jonny for the Oct 2011 tour, but ever since we have been in a complicated struggle with the Consulate to get Jonny approved to tour again.

At that time the band decided that they would rather wait to clear things up, before heading out with the recent OBD's line up of **Jonny Hardie, Aaron Jones, Fraser Stone & Ali Hutton**. Not that we were not getting calls from most of you to have them back in any form!

The band has kept busy in various other projects with other bands and artists, but our goal has always been to have them back to the US!

Now between various lawyers work and other ideas we finally feel confident to bring the "complete" band back on tour in **February/March 2015**, and are starting to book that tour right now. The band will also begin work on a new CD to go along with the tour....and believe me, I am sure we can all come up with some good titles for it! "*Immigration Hell*" for one title!

Please contact me ASAP for requests for dates. There should be great excitement for all of the OBD's fans for this tour, and I expect it to fill up quickly.

RGM has toured the band since April 2001, and always had 2-3 tours going on every year, so I am personally looking forward to seeing the lads myself again live! There is nothing quite like their live show! (Not to mention the after show parties)

Last Minute Tour-dates

I know this Newsletter is fairly general in concept, and it does go out to fans, friends, media, press and radio folks....as well as to musicians....and presenters. But let me take a few lines of shameless promotions!

***Here are the bands open and their specific dates still needed in 2013:
(Note: go to www.rgmbooking.com and All Bands Tour Dates section for routing)***

FullSet: Sept 26

Girsa: Open specific weekends for touring, call our office

Manran: Sept 26

Runa: Oct 26-Nov 3, Nov 13-30, and Dec 9-12

Tannahill Weavers: Oct 2

Irish Christmas: Nov 26, 27, Dec 10-11, 16, 17, 20.

If you do want to pick up a special last minute deal, and to also help our bottom line out for our bands, and happen to have need of a fine Celtic show, please contact me soon and we can chat about this.

I will also say that this fall 2013 is the busiest period of the year for booking our winter/spring and summer/fall 2014 and even 2015 shows! Please contact me soon for all your booking needs!

Who Was Out in 2013?

Really a banner year for our roster in 2013.....

FullSet, Girsu, Goitse, Manran, Moya Brennan, Runa, Slide, Tannahill Weavers, and Teada....and coming up, Irish Christmas in America and Moya Brennan Christmas have all been touring in 2013!

Pretty much most of the US and Canada have been hit, and about every type of venue from Arts Presenters and Theater shows, Teaching, Workshops and Sessions; World, Bluegrass, Irish, Scottish Festivals and Games, to Pubs, House Concerts, listening rooms, bars and clubs, and large to small festivals and city events.

It has been fun and productive for all of the bands, and our artists have been exposed to all sorts of wonderful areas of North America.

Manran and Fullset have been a huge hit this summer at the festivals they have done so far, and already have many new offers in for summer 2014 for festivals that either just had them or saw them at other festivals.

On top of the performances most have taken the time to see the country a bit, taking in **National Parks** and beautiful scenery, or having their hand at the casinos in **Las Vegas**! We have always believed that touring should be a larger range of experience than just coming in for a show and out again. I have always been interested in recommending things for artists to do and see while on tour that will enrich them as much as they enrich the folks they perform their music to! Many, many of the presenters, organizations and venue producers and volunteers also feel strongly about this sort of thing and often suggest lovely sights to see in their communities and indeed right down to the local foods and drinks that are offered up to the band members. A lot of pride is out there that the good folks have for their own cities and states, and it is always interesting for me to see just how that pride is on parade for my roster while on tour.

To be clear with you all, folk musicians are not, in most cases, going to become rich financially in this business, but they can certainly look back some day and say they were "enriched" while touring and experiencing their days on the road and by the people they met and the sights they saw!

Big thanks to all of you for making the experience a good one! (On a side to this; as an agent, one of the biggest paybacks I get is all of the interesting conversations I have with most of you, and indeed, although seldom on the road, I too learn so much about North America and your homes and areas that I could never have had without this unique profession.

Please feel free to do us a favor and to send this Newsletter on to anyone you feel might enjoy it, or to folks that may not be aware of our company or Celtic artists. It will go a long ways towards helping us to continue to grow and for our roster to gain the recognition they deserve. Thanks!

Tour-dates Web format

Something newer on our website!

We will be doing **just one** tour dates section, in a month to month format, which will be kept up to date as often as possible. In this way you will be able to look at any month or any date in the month, and see which band is out and when. You may even see 5 or 6 different bands on any specific date.

You will find that it does still make it easy to see specific bands' tour dates over a given period, and what city and venue they are performing in, but it will be much quicker for anyone to scroll down the few pages of booked shows to pick out bands or dates of interest.

We will also keep the past dates for bands that we have booked many years in a section on each band so folks can have a perspective of just what we have booked. Newer bands will not have this feature.

Most of the bands we book have their own websites, and list booked dates for tour dates as well!

About RGM Newsletters

I have been making Newsletters for many years. These are still archived on our website, as is the original information about Real Good Music and a business plan statement....an oldie but goodie!.

I want to say that I take careful use of the internet to try and not over-burden folks with mindless, and needless updates. I do not like to receive those either.

What I try to adhere to is the following:

*One long fall newsletter that gives my whole email list a simple and (I hope) fun and informative view of what our roster and company was up to last year and to look ahead to following years.

*Also we send around three short email notices, mainly to presenters, about who is touring when and last minute and specific tour openings.

*Now and then something specific about a special project or invitation to a Conference showcase, etc!

Over many years I have had a very positive response to my Newsletter and general or specific update emails. Folks say they like receiving them. It is quite a bit of work doing these but well worth it. After I send these updates, I have tons of responses from many people for many different needs. Some folks say it is just nice to be reminded about RGM projects, or had planned to contact me already.

***But should you want to be deleted from this list do let me know and I will remove your emails.*

I look forward to hearing from you all soon, and hope you enjoy this bit of news about our bands and some of the things we were up to in 2013! Our roster is looking forward to another great year ahead and to sharing the music and good times with you all!

All the best, Patrick Garrett and Real Good Music