

Screaming Orphans Long Biography **www.screamingorphans.com**

Screaming Orphans are the four Diver sisters - Joan, Angela, Gráinne and Marie Thérèse - from Bundoran, County Donegal, Ireland. From an early age, the Diver sisters performed with their mother Kathleen Fitzgerald, a well-known Céilí singer in Ireland, playing shows in Ireland, England and Germany.

When the band hit their teenage years, they formed their own Celtic pop/rock band, Screaming Orphans. The band's first pop/rock shows were at local surf festivals in Bundoran playing cover songs. During this time the band contributed a track to the *Litmus Surf Movie* that achieved cult status in the surf world in the following years.

Soon they started writing their own music and travelling to Dublin to play the singer/ songwriter clubs, including the famous Whelan's. At one of these shows, Screaming Orphans were seen by the director of London based Blue Mountain Music publishing company, founded by Chris Blackwell of Island Music (Bob Marley, U2) and subsequently signed a publishing deal with Blue Mountain Music.

The band's next break came with an invitation to play at a St. Brigid's day concert in Kildare along with Irish artists like Christy Moore, Liam O'Maonlai, and world-renowned singer Sinéad O'Connor. Sinéad O'Connor then asked the band to be her back-up singers and open for her on her subsequent tour. Screaming Orphans went across Europe, America and Canada and appeared on David Letterman and numerous other TV shows as part of Sinéad O'Connor's show and as a band in their own right.

The following year was spent touring with world music star, Babba Maal, singing at his homecoming concert in Dakar, Senegal and contributing vocals to his album *Nomad Soul*. The band also recorded with Peter Gabriel and were backing vocalists on the Joni Mitchell track *Magdalene Laundries* for the Chieftains *Tears of Stone* album. They also contributed tracks to the Jeremy Thomas film *All the Little Animals* starring John Hurt and Christian Bale.

In early 2000, Screaming Orphans signed with Warner UK (WEA) and recorded their debut album in Normandy, France with the legendary Mike Hedges, who has been producer for the likes of Siouxsie and the Banshees, U2, Manic Street Preachers, Texas and Travis.

In 2001, the band traveled back and forth to the US to work on music for cartoon pilots with Funny Garbage, an interactive development company whose clients include MTV Networks, Cartoon Network, Comedy Central, The Smithsonian Institution, PBS, CNN and HBO. At that time, Screaming Orphans also started playing various music venues throughout the US, including Irish festivals, universities and performing arts centers.

The band soon became one of the most sought-after Celtic bands and still continues to actively tour and play extensively across America and Europe. The band is known for their powerful, award-winning sound that combines their own original melodic old-school pop songs with their unique and modern take on traditional Irish music and song.

In 2007 Screaming Orphans were invited to be a part of the Marc Bolan (T Rex) tribute concert which took place in Central Park, New York City. This was a great honor for the band as they were asked to open the show in this iconic setting and perform two songs. The line-up on the night included Patti

Smith, Moby, Blondie, Lloyd Cole and many other artists. They were asked again in 2017 to perform as part of the Marc Bolan 40th Anniversary Tribute Concert in New York City alongside Marc's son Rolan Bolan, Suzanne Vega and members of David Bowie's band.

In 2016 the band was invited to perform at the prestigious Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington DC. In 2018 they recorded backing vocals for the new album by French artist Mathieu Insa. The album was produced by legendary producer John Reynolds (Herbie Hancock, Indigo Girls, Belinda Carlisle, The Chieftains, Glen Hansard). They were also featured on the album *Bankers And Gansters* by Black 47, the legendary New York City band. Larry Kirwan, lead singer and songwriter with the band, is currently host of the very popular Sirius XM radio show Celtic Crush. Larry has featured the band extensively on his radio show as have many other radio stations throughout the U.S.

Screaming Orphans have also played at the Milwaukee Irish Festival, Pittsburgh Irish Festival, Iowa Irish Festival, Dubuque Irish Hooley, Irish Fair of Minnesota, I2000 Music and Arts Festival, Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival and Highland Games, Celtic Festival Missoula, Colorado Irish Festival, Celtic Fling and Highland Games, North Texas Irish Festival, Annapolis Irish Festival, Florida State Fair, Florida Keys Celtic Festival, Greater Philadelphia Mid-Winter Scottish & Irish Music Festival and Fair, Weston Irish Festival, Riverfront Irish Festival, Boston Irish Festival, Pipes in the Valley, Saltwater Celtic Festival, Appaloosa Festival and many more festivals and fairs.

The band was previously nominated by the Irish Music Awards for Best New Irish CD and has won the Top Celtic Rock band category. They were also included on the Ultimate Guide to Irish Folk album, which includes tracks from many of their musical heroes.

Screaming Orphans released their folk album *Taproom* in August 2017. Guesting on this album was world-renowned piper Eric Rigler (*Titanic, Braveheart, Million Dollar Baby, Cinderella Man*). *Taproom* charted at No. 1 in the iTunes Charts, the iTunes World Music charts and top ten in the Billboard World Albums charts. *Taproom* was named Folk/Pop/Rock Album Of The Year by Folk'n'Rock magazine.

In 2019 Screaming Orphans released their latest pop album *Life In A Carnival*, recorded in London and produced by John Reynolds (Sinead O'Connor, Herbie Hancock, Indigo Girls, Belinda Carlisle, Brian Eno, Andrea Corr, Damien Dempsey). It reached the #1 spot on the Irish Singer/Songwriter charts, #1 in the Billboard World Music Charts as well as #24 on the U.S. iTunes pop charts which is an incredible feat for an unsigned band.

Happy Together, the first single from the album, received widespread airplay on many radio stations throughout the United States including Sirius Radio, WEXT Albany NY, WXPB Philadelphia and the NPR stations WAMU (Washington DC), WMOT (Nashville, TN), WCBE (Columbus, OH), KUNI (Cedar Falls, IA), KNOW (Minneapolis MN).

Screaming Orphans also received airplay on BBC Radio 1 UK, BBC Radio Wales and three of the singles released from the album were playlisted by RTE Radio 1 (Ireland's main radio station) which resulted in continuous plays. In March 2019 the band performed on Ireland's Late Late Show (the most watched TV show in Ireland) which is also the world's second longest-running late night talk show after America's The Tonight Show.

Their second single *Shine* was picked up for inclusion on the August playlist for retail stores all over Australia such as New Balance, Hush Puppies, Adidas, Jeanswest, Karen Millen, Le Coq and Forever New.

In January 2020 Screaming Orphans were handpicked by the organizers of Tradfest 2020 for the launch of the festival in Iveagh House (Department Of Foreign Affairs), Dublin alongside the Lord Mayor of Dublin Paul McAuliffe and the new CEO of Culture Ireland Kieran Hanrahan. They were also chosen by the head music programmer of RTE Radio 1 Aiden Butler to be part of the RTE broadcast for Tradfest in Dublin Castle the night before the band's show in the Olympia Theatre, Dublin.

As of this year, the band has released 14 albums of both original pop and folk/traditional Irish music.

Released Recordings To Date:

Life In A Carnival, 2019

Taproom, 2017

Dance With Me e.p., 2015

Ballads Rule OK, 2015

Toy Theatre, 2013

Sliabh Liag, 2013

Lonely Boy, 2011

The Jacket's Green, 2011

East 12th Street, 2009

Belle's Isle, 2009

Circles, 2005

Back to Dublin, 2005

Screaming Orphans, 2003

Listen and Learn, 2001