

# Screaming Orphans

[www.screamingorphans.com](http://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, the Screaming Orphans. The band's first pop/rock shows were at local surf festivals in Bundoran playing cover songs. During this time the girls 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 Whelans. At one of these shows, the 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 bands 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 Sinead O'Connor. Sinead O'Connor then asked the band to be her back-up singers and open for her on her subsequent tour. The Screaming Orphans went across Europe, America and Canada and appeared on David Letterman and numerous other TV shows as part of Sinead 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, the band 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 Siouxiie 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, the 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 the band were invited to be a part of the Marc Bolan (T Rex) tribute concert which took place in Central Park, NYC. 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 have also featured on the album 'Bankers And Gangsters' by Black 47 the legendary NYC 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.

The 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 and in the top ten in the Billboard World Music charts. 'Taproom' was named Folk/Pop/Rock Album Of The Year by Folk'n'Rock magazine.

In 2019 they 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). 'Life In A Carnival,' reached the No. 1 spot on the Irish Singer/Songwriter charts, No. 24 on the U.S. iTunes pop charts, which is an incredible feat for an unsigned band, and it charted in the top ten in the Billboard World Music charts.

'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).

'Life In A Carnival' 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 Irish radio 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 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 the band was 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 their concert in the Olympia Theatre.

The Covid pandemic of 2020 cut short the bands St. Patrick's Day tour in the U.S. but the cessation of all live gigs has not stopped the bands creative output. During the lockdown in Bundoran, Co Donegal in 2020 they recorded an album of Irish, Scottish and American folk songs and tunes that they had played as children. They called the album 'Sunshine And Moss,' sunshine (light) to represent the good acts that came out of the pandemic and the moss (shade) to represent the hardship. The album received very positive reviews from the critics and reached No.4 in the iTunes Singer/Songwriter charts in the U.S. and No.2 in the Singer/Songwriter charts in Ireland. It also received widespread airplay which has continued into 2021. 'Sunshine And Moss' was chosen as album of the year by Manilla PR and one of the tracks 'Mary From Dungloe' was featured on BBC U.K. Mersey Folkscene selection for 2020.

The band has maintained a very strong online concert presence since the start of the pandemic by live streaming concerts every two weeks to a large global audience on their Facebook page. In addition, Screaming Orphans have worked with festivals in the U.S and Europe to help them maintain a strong online presence by participating in various online events produced by festivals and theatres. (Association Of Celtic And Irish Festivals/ Irish Embassy U.S., Milwaukee Irish Festival, Kincardine Scottish Festival Canada, KVMR, Galway City Council/ Town Hall Theatre to name a few.) This has resulted in over one million views to date of Screaming Orphans live online performances.

Screaming Orphans also worked in 2020 with critically acclaimed songwriter John Spillane to write the band's first Christmas single 'Song We Used to Sing'. The new single was released in December to great success and received extensive airplay from premier radio stations in Ireland, UK, U.S. Canada and Germany. It was also chosen to be on the coveted and exclusive R.T.E One (largest national radio in Ireland) Recommended Christmas List.

As of this year, the band has released 15 albums of both original pop/rock and traditional Irish music.

#### **Released Recordings to Date:**

Song We Used To Sing (Single), 2020  
Sunshine And Moss, 2020  
Life In A Carnival, 2019  
Taproom, 2017  
Dance With Me, 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