



KELTISH

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Keltish is based in the Washington DC area, but tours internationally in venues ranging from house concerts to stadiums. Keltish is the perfect festival band, easily switching from electric/acoustic to all acoustic as needed.



Keltish is a Wammie-nominated three-to-four-piece piece band whose players are all of Celtic descent, but all born in America with widely different musical backgrounds. Keltish plays a mix of acoustic and electric instruments, and the tunes chosen are often traditional Celtic tunes with a fun and tasteful modern “Keltish” twist, or modern tunes changed to have a more traditional Celtic feel to them. Keltish offers everything from the sweetest, most ethereal ballads and tunes like “Annie Laurie” and “Minstrel Boy” to rousing drinking songs and fast paced instrumentals like “Dublin Lullaby” and “Red Haired Boy/Drowsy Maggie.”

Keltish was the first “live” full band to perform in Second Life (SL). Second Life is an online society, a 3-D virtual world built and owned by its residents. Keltish plays monthly in SL, performing in Lynn’s living room and broadcasting their sound over the internet to be enjoyed by other SL residents in the US and abroad. The SL concerts take place in the “Blarney Stone,” a fun little virtual bar in the Dublin sim, and other venues all over the face of the SL map.



Chelle Fulk

Our fiddler owns and operates Music by Anthem (www.musicbyanthem.com), where she provides ensembles of musicians for any function or any reason. She plays violin, viola, and various electric fiddles with groups ranging from clas-

sical string quartet to latin, jazz, and rock bands, and any other group you can imagine a fiddle in. Her solo recordings include “2 Do Beatles” and “Island Time”.



Lynn Cunningham

Lynn’s passion is singing, which she’s been doing professionally for over twenty years. She has performed with the Pyrates Royale, a rowdy lot that frequents the Renaissance Festival, and the world-beat folk band Kiva. Lynn

also plays the bodhran, or Irish frame drum, and loves to re-write lyrics to songs, making them more her own.



Glen McCarthy

A long-time music educator and guitar instructor at the high school and college level, Glen adds guitar and vocals, as well as bass, to the group. A graduate of West Virginia University, he’s toured with bluegrass recording artist Hickory

Wind and appeared with many of the area’s best rock, jazz, and big bands. For more on Glen, visit www.guitaredunet.org/gmccarthy.html



**Kim Davidson
(Semi-retired)**

Kim plays a variety of instruments and enjoys switching from the harp to the pennywhistle, small pipes or melodica (especially when they all happen in one song!). Kim is a professional harpist providing

music for all sorts of social events, weddings, parties, dinners, etc. Visit her website (www.kimharpist.com) for more information.

Contact Information

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Released in 2006, Keltish’s Wammie-nominated debut CD, *Keltish* contains 14 of their most popular pieces, including drinking songs (“Beer Beer Beer”), heartfelt ballads (Annie Laurie), and instrumentals ranging from raucous (“Red-Haired Boy/Drowsy Maggie”) to heartbreakingly beautiful (“Minstrel Boy”).

FEATURE ARTICLE:

CELTIC BAND A HIT IN SL!

BY SITEARM MADONNA STAFF WRITER

They didn't PLAN to become one of Second Life's most popular live music bands... in fact they all had fine Real Life music careers thank you very much... BUT fate, or Kismet, in the form of SL Resident Lynne Singh intervened. "[I] was in SL for months [before I] found out there was live music here," says Singh. "[I] brought it to [my real world] band as a potential way to gain international exposure. They went for it, and [I] scrambled to get them in world with avies and instruments."

Keltish is a four piece band whose players are all of Celtic descent, but all born in America with widely different musical backgrounds. The group plays a mix of acoustic and electric instruments, and the tunes chosen are often traditional Celtic tunes with a fun and tasteful modern twist. Members are all located in the Metropolitan Washington D.C. area and their first CD is in production.

Lynne Singh has been singing for better than 20 years professionally with more than 10 years total of vocal training under her belt. She's a veteran of the Washington DC area folk music scene and has added her talents as a studio musician/singer to many other projects as well. Her passion is singing, but she also plays Bodhran (Irish Drum) and loves to re-write lyrics to songs, mostly to make a funny song even more hilarious, but sometimes to make a serious song more her own.

Chelle Fish, who was featured soloist at an earlier Dublin in SL Live Music Showcase, is owner and operator of Music by Anthem, and is a multi-talented, highly versatile musician. She refers to herself as fiddlist - part fiddler, part violinist - but is also an accomplished violist and singer with two CDs and several works-in-progress.

Harpo Clutterbuck plays a variety of instruments and enjoys switching from harp to pennywhistle, small pipes, highland pipes and the melodica. Kim is a real world professional harpist, playing concert harp at weddings, receptions and parties. When not playing music, Clutterbuck spends much of her time running, biking, swimming, hiking and competing in triathlons and marathons.

Rounding out the group is bass guitarist/vocalist Mac Twang, a long-time music educator and guitar instructor at the high school and college levels. A graduate of the West Virginia University School of Music, he toured extensively with bluegrass recording artists Hickory Wind, and has been a sought-after guest bassist with a number of Washington area premier rock, jazz and big bands.

Asked about real world versus second life band experiences, Singh responded at length. "The key similarities are that we are the same, in or out of world. The main difference is not being face to face with your audience, and seeing their reactions [in chat] sometimes minutes after your tune ended." Playing in Second Life has major advantages for real world musicians, she adds. "It helps tighten the band's sound, and aids us to relax us for face to face [real world] gigs. It broadens one's experience of music, and one's exposure."

For aspiring live musicians in SL, Singh suggests "If someone has the chops, it's an excellent place to play. [It's] hard, however, if one has not already gained at least some experience in RL. You cannot really gauge your performance without being able to see the faces of your audience. I would do live first, then SL."

Singh loves SL and has been a resident for almost a year. "It was a great way to 'get out' without having to deal with leaving a kid at home alone. It grew to be a wonderfully interesting and rich experience that has added to an already rich life." Her favorite real world bands include "Irish traditional and contemporary bands like Clandestine and Cucanandy as well as better

known ones like Mary Black, Maire Brennan, Anuna and Clannad. For Irish rock, I like the Cranberries, the Corrs and of course, the ubiquitous U2. And, Beatles, Sting and a host of other things.”

In addition to live music, Singh operates a venue in SL and runs an interior decorating business for businesses and homes. A real life banker as well as performer, she has some pertinent observations about changes needed in the SL economy. “[We need to change] the way live music is currently handled. As a venue operator as well as a live musician, I see how much venue owners are

shelling out, but with no real return for them. In RL, a venue owner pays the musician to perform, but then sells food, drinks or charges a cover at the door (or all the above). In SL, venue owners are still paying, but they don’t get these recompenses. In RL, musicians are sometimes the ones with the shorter stick. In SL, it’s the venue operators. I do both, so I see the difference. I think there needs to be some way to make this more equitable.”

Keltish may be heard monthly at the Blarney Stone Irish Bar in Dublin in SL.

Reviews

Bay Weekly: Music Review

Coffee House Concerts are a Sweet Deal

By Dawn Kittrell

This Friday, you could be listening to Irish music with your friends while having coffee and cake at a candlelit table, if you come to the 333 Coffeehouse.

The 333 Coffeehouse is an affordable, fun and down-to-earth musical dessert where regular folks can have a cultural evening inexpensively.

Every third Friday, the 333 Coffeehouse organizer and folk singer Janie Meneely turns the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis into an intimate concert setting, serving music, coffee and desserts.

Keltish, a high-energy Celtic band from Reston, Virginia, is this week’s St. Patrick’s week treat. Fiddler Chelle Fulk leads a group of musicians with tastes ranging from jazz to country. As Keltish, “we twist traditional Irish tunes into our own flavor,” said Fulk.

Chelle Fulk and Lynn Cunningham, two members of Keltish, have played at 333 Coffeehouse before with the band Pirates Royale.

“Keltish sparkles with wit, wisdom and a wealth of talent. Their blend of old and new makes for a vibrant performance that reflects the continuum of musical traditions through the ages. Lusty vocals, strong fiddling and snappy percussion thread the arrangements together with flair. This is no street group/garage band, but a collection of enormously talented music professionals who provide a performance that will make you laugh, make you cry, and more importantly, make you think.”

– Janie Meneely, host of the 333 Coffeehouse, Annapolis, MD

January 9 Showcase – Keltish

by Dan Grove

Keltish is a fun, energetic quartet of professional musicians who are all of Celtic descent. They have widely varied musical backgrounds, but have joined together to play traditional Celtic tunes with their own modern and humorous twist.

You can find Keltish online at www.keltish.com. Their music can be previewed and purchased at cdbaby.com/cd/keltish, and their current activities can be found at www.livejournal.com (under “Keltish,” natch). But there is another place to find them on the internet, and that’s in a 3-D virtual world, built and owned by its residents, called Second Life (secondlife.com). In this world, you are represented by an avatar, can look like anyone you want, and do things impossible in the

physical world. There is a real economy there – you can own land, and run a business using the site’s “play” money. But then you can exchange the play money for real-world dollars, for which there is a floating exchange rate. For more info, look up Second Life in Wikipedia, but for now, remember hearing earlier that Keltish does traditional Celtic music with a modern twist? Well, they were the first band to perform live in this new world, and they continue to do it monthly. They appear to the online denizens to be in the “Blarney Stone,” a fun little bar in Dublin, while in reality are broadcasting from Lynn’s living room. They’ll do it again on Friday, January 12 (check Livejournal, above, for the time), and you can tune in from the real world by plugging the URL <http://66.34.54.162:8000> into your browser.

Now, that’s a modern twist done right!

A review by Jay Carrington (from the internet):

Keltish takes traditional pieces and spices them up a bit with more modern rhythms. They also take pop tunes and “Keltify” them. [On their CD,] “Parting Glass” has Lynn in a duet with herself, backed with an ethereal harp and an aching emotive violin. Keltish’s take on “Beer, Beer, Beer” is quite unlike the one Lynn recorded with the Pyrates. Lynn and her husband wrote two new original verses, while Chelle, Kim, and Glen added their own spin to the instrumentation, to include a tag team ending between vocals and instruments. You’ll also find a fast-paced song in the style of Irish bar bands everywhere called “Dublin Lullaby” which is, to be blunt, damned funny. Lynn was inspired by this song when she found on a sampler CD given to her many moons ago, only she re-wrote it in its entirety. The final result is far more toe-tappingly fun

than the original. Add to this many more trad vocals, several wonderful instrumentals [including] the simply delightful “Mist-Covered Mountains/Kerry Dance”, and even a “Keltified” version of the Beatles classic “Norwegian Wood”. My personal favorite, “Star of the County Down,” is truly something else. It begins with a driving bass line and flirty harp, followed by a jazzy tempo on the vocals that Lynn came up with years ago, and finishes with Chelle’s gritty style of violin; they’ve done nothing less than breathe new life into a song that has been overdone and worn out over the years.

They’re a good listen (even to someone as picky about music as me) and well worth the price of a CD and shipping. You can order CDs, and/or check out their performance schedule, on their website.

Glen,
We had a great time at the Carrigan's on Saturday. The highlight of the evening was your music. We bought one of the CDs so we will be enjoying your music on a routine basis. You must get a lot of satisfaction from playing at such a high level of competency.

Regards,
Jeff

Chelle,
"Parting Glass" has to be one of the most bittersweet songs ever written, and you guys milk every drop of that nectar on your CD. Maybe because the rest of the CD is such a joyous romp, every time I listen to "Parting Glass", I get a hiccup in my inhale and my eyes well up. I'm afraid if I ever hear you guys play it after I've had a couple of shots of Jameson's, I'll embarrass myself by right out crying in public. I must have some Irish in me; I've got a melancholy streak that you guys pluck like a guitar string.

I caught about half an hour of your first show (online); wonderful! That was the first time I've listened to a streaming broadcast over the Internet.

Mike Dial

Hi. I have been listening to bits of your music online and would love to hear you play in person! I plan to attend the Va. Renaissance Faire at Lake Anna Winery on either May 19 or 20 and was wondering if you know what times you will be playing on those two days.

Thanks.
Kathi Mason

Chelle,
Just a note to thank you and your wonderful musicians for a terrific night of great music.

As always, your music was the highlight of the evening. We heard many great comments about your performance, and we are most appreciative. And thank you for the CD. That was most generous and greatly appreciated. As always we wish you and Anthem music continued success.

Have a great year and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Warmest regards,
Charlie and Ginny

Audio Samples

These links connect with sound files at <http://www.keltish.com/sounds.html>.

STUDIO (from the CD, "Keltish")

[Dublin Lullaby](#) - drinking song/singalong
[Norwegian Wood](#) - a "Keltified" Beatles song
[Red Haired Boy/Drowsy Maggie](#) - instrumental tunes with individual solos
[Star Of The County Down](#) - jazz influence

LIVE (from internet broadcast shows)

[Cuckoo's Nest](#) - traditional Irish reel
[Finnegan's Wake](#) - sing-along/audience participation
[McCahill's Reel](#) - features Glen on guitar
[Partners](#) - new ballad by Janie Meneely
[Rakes of Mallo](#) - a polka featured in several movies

[The Butterfly](#) and [Fox Hunters Jig](#) - two slip jigs (instrumental)

[Whiskey In The Jar](#) - traditional sing-along, with parodied lyrics

NOVELTY (between-song silliness)

[Gathering Peascods](#) - English dance tune with commentary

[Freebird](#) - be careful what you ask for!

[Wiehle Waile](#) - a macabre tune written by Irish schoolchildren

[Down By The Riverside](#) - free-association improv from the previous tune