

# Four Winds

**Educational and outreach  
program**



**"FourWinds deliver their tunes & songs with sublime musicianship & conviction, you can only love their music!"  
- Paddy Keenan**

**"Both lovers of Celtic music and neophytes were drawn into the universe of FourWinds and seduced by their modern and unique interpretation of traditional Irish music. They share their passion with great generosity and are very connected with their public."  
- Rencontres Musicales de Bernex, Switzerland**

**FourWinds**



## The Band

With deep roots in the tradition, FourWinds produce an exciting landscape of tunes and lyrics that present Irish Traditional Music in a creative, modern context. Though Their influences include such titans as Begley and Cooney, The Bothy Band, Planxty, Brady and Irvine, and Moving Hearts, this energetic quartet delivers a truly unique musical experience. For over 5 years, FourWinds have been performing around the globe. They have shared their electric enthusiasm for Irish traditional and Folk music with a truly international audience, with performances at The Oulu Irish Festival in northern Finland, all the way to the enormous Woodford Folk Festival in Brisbane Australia. As part of their performance schedule, the band emphasize the importance of understanding the music, history, and cultural context of the music they share. Irish Music, though being very accessible, is also a highly intricate art. As such, it is often enjoyed by an audience looking to deepen their own education and knowledge of its subtleties and richness. For this this reason, FourWinds are proud to offer a variety of workshops, outreach programs, and curated performances aimed at a developing a better enjoyment of Irish/ folk music in general as well as lessons and workshops on individuals music skills. Whether they are performing and teaching at Goderich's Celtic Roots College in Canada, or at The Gaidhleatacht summer camp in New Zealand, their enthusiasm transcends age, skill, and experience, and guarantees a fun and educational time.



## **Caroline Keane**

**Caroline was, from a young age, exposed to the richness of West Limerick and Sliabh Luachra traditional music, an influence which has become the cornerstone of her uniquely vibrant, passionate and emotive style of concertina playing. Now having toured extensively throughout Europe, Canada and America, performing at festivals such as Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, Goderich Celtic Roots Festival, Celtic Colours and Le Bono Winter School in both solo and ensemble capacities, Caroline is truly a world musician.**

**At the age of seven, Caroline began taking tin whistle lessons at her local Comhaltas branch, and soon afterwards progressed on to concertina. Under the guidance of her teacher, Noel Hill, she developed proficiency in her art, and by fifteen, was performing both nationally and internationally. In 2006, Caroline was awarded the prestigious Lán Mara award, in recognition of outstanding achievement in national music examinations. In 2008 Caroline began studying at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, where she received a BA in Irish Music and Dance with first class honours after graduating in 2011.**

**In addition to her TTCT diploma in Irish traditional music teaching, Caroline also completed a Professional Diploma in Music Education in 2012. Her versed approach to tutelage is not only a testament to her musical expertise, but demonstrates the patience and empathy of experience. She is a regular performer and tutor at Irish, roots and folk music festivals all over the world, and teaches and performs regularly around the South West of Ireland. Caroline currently lives in Dingle, Co. Kerry, where she performs and teaches regularly.**





## **Tom Delany**

**Born and raised in France, Tom hails from an upbringing, steeped in traditional music. His lively rhythmic style stands as a powerful embodiment of tradition, coupled with sheer musical passion.**

**He has toured the world, performing in both solo and group contexts, from the United States to New Zealand, boasting musicianship beyond his years.**

**Tom has been playing Irish traditional music since the age of 12, when his Father Rory, who emigrated from Ireland in the 1980's taught him to play the tin whistle. By thirteen, Tom had picked up the uilleann pipes, and was already performing regularly around France. Inspired by the traveling style of piping which he encountered in recordings of Johnny Doran, Paddy Keenan and Davy Spillane, Tom's music was later greatly influenced by the playing of Mickey Dunne, John McSherry and Blackie O'Connell. Since his first of many visits to county Clare, Tom has developed a particular fondness for the music of the west of Ireland. In 2009, Tom completed his undergraduate degree, specializing in Irish folklore at University College Dublin. He was accepted to the MA in Irish Traditional Music Performance at the Irish World Academy of Limerick, from which he graduated in 2013. Tom claimed second place in the prestigious All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil.**

## **Robbie Walsh**

**Robbie is a bodhrán player who hails from Dublin. Brought up through a strong musical background in all genres, his style is the definition of diversity. Inspired by the fantastic playing of his uncle, Robbie began to learn the ropes from the great Noel Dowling of Kilkenny in what he feels is his second home Áras Chrónáin. Taking these skills to the vibrant session culture throughout Dublin Robbie began to shape his style.**

**In 2008 Robbie became the Dublin, Leinster and All Ireland Champion thereby opening him up to further opportunities. He has played with various different bands including Ciorras, Coras, The Hunters, Keeva, B\*witched, Blasta and The Jeremiahs. He has also worked closely with dance shows and companies such as Celtic Céilí, Celtic Legends and Damhsa to entertain and teach audiences at theatres, festivals and corporate functions stretching as far as the United States and the Middle East.**

**Robbie has also worked on albums with musicians such as Daoiri Farrell, Alan Doherty, Laoise Kelly, Gerry O'Donnell, Seamus Begley, Eleanor Shanley, Colin Farrell to name but a few, and has shared the stage with the likes of Donal Lunny, Karen Tweed, Cormac Breathnach and Paul Brady.**

**With such a gathering of experience throughout his musical career Robbie set up The Bodhran Buzz to further extend the knowledge of the bodhrán throughout the world via workshops, private teaching and regular classes.**





## **Alan Murray**

**Guitarist, bouzouki player and singer Alan Murray lives in Boston, Massachusetts where he has established himself as an in-demand performer and teacher on the Irish music scene. He currently plays and tours around the world with many of the finest traditional musicians and acts today, and has taught classes at such prestigious music programs as Warren Wilson college's Swanannoa Gathering, Catskills Irish Arts Week, Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, The O'Flaherty Retreat, as well as masterclasses in Irish and Celtic music at the University of Louisiana and Connecticut's Sacred Heart University.**

# Community Outreach

Studies show that advance work material will actively engage 90 - 100% of the class before a concert or a workshop. A workshop before a concert will therefore encourage students to be more enthusiastic, responsive, and focused.

## School Concerts

The band strongly believes in the importance of bringing music to schools. Hence, we provide the option of school concerts to be paired with interactions with the students, and presentations about the culture and the music in advance of a school performance. These presentations include introductions to the technical aspects of the music, as well as listening materials, and introduction to the instruments used in the band. There will an opportunity for students to try the instruments for themselves, and learn some of the mechanics of each one. Instrumental group classes for beginners and more advanced pupils can also be arranged. A Q&A session with the students will also be very beneficial in providing insight into the variety of topics regarding music, performance, creative processes, and other subjects that students may be interested in. These workshops and presentations in advance of a main concert help to enable a young audience to more deeply appreciate and understand the richness of the performance, and also make for a more dynamic event. These events can easily be tied in with academic work done in advance with music, English and history programs.





## Acoustic and Small Community Outreach Concerts

Similarly to a school performance, FourWinds believe that all parts of the any community should have access to music and culture. This is why the band takes great enjoyment in providing an acoustic/ interactive option of performance suited to smaller venues and community facilities such as Youth centers, Nursing homes, Maisons de la Culture etc...

These performances include all the material of a regular concert PLUS cultural background to the pieces, the instruments, the band and the general history of the music in its context. It truly is an engaging opportunity in a relaxed atmosphere which caters for all! concerts

WOODFORD FOLK FESTIVAL & FUSION BOUTIQUE PRESENT METRO SOCIAL

*First Australian Tour*

*FourWinds*

*Deeply rooted in the tradition,  
FourWinds produce an exciting landscape  
of tunes and lyrics that present Irish traditional music  
in a modern and creative context.*

**SOLD OUT**

**SAT 21st JAN**

THE METROPOLE GUEST HOUSE, CNR LURLINE & GANG GANG STS, KATOOMBA  
BLUE MOUNTAINS 02) 4782 5544 DOORS 5:30PM | SHOW START 6:30PM  
TIX \$20 DISC EARLY BIRD PRE-SALE @ RECEPTION OR CARD/PHONE/ONLINE +bf  
OR \$25 CASH @ DOOR FROM 5:30PM (UNLESS SOLD OUT) - LIMITED CAPACITY!

[WWW.FUSIONBOUTIQUE.COM.AU](http://WWW.FUSIONBOUTIQUE.COM.AU)

Woodford Folk Festival 27 DEC - 1 JAN [fourwindsirishmusic.com](http://fourwindsirishmusic.com) Culture Ireland Cultúr Éireann

## **MASTERCLASSES AND GROUP WORKSHOPS**

**These mostly apply to Music Schools, Conservatoires, Festivals and other music related facilities.**

**All four members of FourWinds are experienced teachers, as well as performers, and thoroughly enjoy sharing their skills to enable students to develop their own abilities. Having both collectively and individually taught around the world at numerous festivals, universities, and music schools, they have helped musicians of all ages grow on nearly every continent.**

**A variety of workshops are available at multiple age and skill levels, and the classes are usually divided in small groups, pertaining to individual instruments**

**Beginner level (from 0 to 2 years playing experience) :** Tin whistle/ low whistle

**Concertina**

**Guitar**

**Celtic songs**

**Bodhran**

**Bouzouki**

**Piano**

**Intermediate (2 to 4 years playing experience)**

**Tin whistle/ low whistle**

**Concertina**

**Guitar**

**Celtic songs**

**Bodhran**

**Bouzouki**

**Advanced (4 years and above of playing experience)**

**Tin whistle/ low whistle Concertina**

**Guitar**

**Celtic songs**

**Bodhran**

**Bouzouki**



# MASTERCLASSES



Master Classes are small, intimate classes that focus on specific skills and techniques at a high level. Typically, they are led by teachers who have expertise in a certain area and who work one-on-one with the participants. As the teacher is working with an individual student, the rest of the class observes, asks questions and take notes that apply to their own pieces. These classes are organized by instruments and small groups (5 and under) 3 years of instrument practice is typically necessary in order to participate.

## Classes offered:

Tin whistle

Uilleann pipes

Concertina

Bodhran

Bouzouki accompaniment

Guitar accompaniment

## **GROUP ARRANGEMENT CLASSES- ENSEMBLE**

**These workshops cater for players of many different instruments, and are always a great opportunity for students to bond and understand each other's roles while playing as an ensemble. The workshop will focus on a selection of tunes or song – which may have been practiced and learned individually in advance of the class- which will then be developed and arranged, with guidance from FourWinds. Student suggestions and input will form the main core of the piece to be worked on. Groups of up to 10 students will learn skills and techniques involved in arranging and playing with others, with a goal of performance of the piece. An intermediate level of playing is required to participate, as knowledge of melody, harmony, time signatures and repertoire will be needed.**

**« With their fantastic mix of Irish tunes and songs, these master musicians stay true to the tradition while injecting it with infectious drive and energy. When FourWinds take to the stage, prepare to be blown away by their performance! »**

**Ronan Healy, Coordinator of Tradfest Belgica at The Irish College in Leuven, Belgium.**

**“ A clean, crisp blend of textures, recalling classic Planxty or Bothy Band for sure (..) The energy and conviction they exude is outstanding” David Kidman, The Living Tradition**

**“It’s a full force gale of positive energetic music delivered in tight and cohesive arrangements.”  
Tradconnect**

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