



Press Release May 2007 - for immediate release

Celtic Music Band Blackthorn's popular 2003 album *Far From Home* is released by Proper Music in May 2007, following Hobgoblin Record's recent distribution deal with Proper.

www.properdistribution.com
www.hobgoblinrecords.com
www.blackthornband.org
www.myspace.com/blackthornband

Far From Home CD - Blackthorn's debut album, has been well received by reviewers. BBC Radio Scotland's "Reel Blend" featured *Far From Home* as its album of the week and Irish Dancing Magazine made it the album of the month. The band plays a wide variety of tunes and songs from all around Britain and Ireland at live gigs, but for this album they have given concentrated on traditional Irish tunes.

"Extremely accomplished." Folk London
"Musicianship of such a standard deserves recognition and success" The Folk Mag
"A commendable musical collective" fROOTS
"superbly rich and colourful" Irish Dancing
"Fresh like spring water" Keltika (Italy)

Blackthorn's music is led by strong flute and whistle melodies, backed by guitar and bouzouki rhythms, and contrasted with the sounds of fiddle, concertina and their many other instruments. All the band are multi instrumentalists, and provide a varied and traditional feel to the music. Blackthorn style has developed through regular performances at Folk and Irish music festivals and events across the country, including Sidmouth Folkweek where according to Seered.co.uk "Blackthorn were one of the best bands on offer during the whole week. ..Have them back next year!" Founder members Fergus (Pete) and Mannie McClelland are also members of popular ceilidh band ThingumaJig. Philippe Barnes - a finalist in the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards joined in 2001, Alex Percy - also a member of young upcoming folk band Rocas joined in 2003 and the line up is completed by the return of Crawley born Sarah Mooney from the USA where she has been playing with Trefoyale a New York state based band.

Biography

Fergus (Pete) McClelland - Melodeon, Fiddle, Bouzouki, Guitar, Banjo, Vocals. Fergus has been playing traditional music together with his wife Mannie for over 30 years. He is also a member of [ThingumaJig](#). *"Ciaran Curran's (bouzouki) style and Pete McClelland's differ greatly - and yet both players are absolutely spot-on."* - Aidan Cossey, [paythereckoning.com](#)

Mannie McClelland - Anglo Concertina, Bodhran, Guitar, Mandolin, Vocals, Dance Caller. During the week she now works as an educational psychologist, and also leads children's music workshops at festivals. She is also a member of ThingumaJig.

Alex Percy - Fiddle, Guitar, Melodeon. Alex is also a member of Rocas and [Beltaine](#) and has performed with them at Glastonbury, Trowbridge, Larmer Tree and other major festivals.

Philippe Barnes - Flute, Tin Whistle, Guitar, Bodhran, Vocals. He has been making waves in the music world with his unique flute work. *"I've heard nobody else who can make the Boehm flute sound like the true traditional thing, who can mould tone to fit the tune so nicely... the sheer musicality is exceptionally impressive..."* - John Brophy, *Irish Music*.

Philippe has recently been seen on TV on the Des and Mel show on ITV1, was a finalist in the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Awards 1999 with [All Jigged Out](#), is a member of ThingumaJig, and is appearing at the Barbican and WOMAD with Candela, a nine piece flamenco group.

Sarah Mooney - Flute, Whistle, Uilleann Pipes, Guitar, Bodhran. Sarah's traditional style of flute playing has developed through leading regular sessions in Buffalo and Brighton. She left Blackthorn to join US based Trefoye and pursue other musical and scientific interests for a while, and rejoined the band in 2004.

If you would like further information, additional review copies or press photos, please contact Nicola Rain at Hobgoblin Records on 01903 203399 or nicola@hobgoblin.co.uk