

# PRESS RELEASE

## SONORA'S *BLACK IRISH BAND* CELEBRATES TWENTY-TWO YEARS AND TWENTY-ONE ALBUMS!

When you take Celtic, Spanish, and Italian Music, and mix it up, you get the true nature of the Black Irish. For twenty-two years this band has created an original sound that no other band has. With over 500 concert performances to date and airplay around the world, the band has kept very busy spreading their brand of progressive folk music to a large audience. Performing both traditional and original music the band is very focused on presenting acoustic music in a very exciting up-beat way that appeals to all ages. The band has written and recorded 96 original songs that appear on many of the bands twenty-one CD recordings. Many of the original works written by the band are based on Celtic history.

Hailing from the historic Gold Rush Country of America, the four member Black Irish Band of twenty years, have a musical style that is as timeless as the rugged landscape of the west, a tribute to the people whose lives were spent building the world we now take for granted. The band has a large compliment of traditional maritime and railroad music, as well as ethnic tunes in their repertoire. They excel at Irish & Scottish, Italian, and American folk music with an assortment of original songs and traditional western ballads. The bands musical style captures the spirit of the immigrants of this land, the men and women who tamed the Wild West.

### Highlights over the past 22 years

The Black Irish Band has gained much national attention over the years. In 2005 the band was featured at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and performed at the National Mall and Kennedy Center. The band was featured on CBS "This Morning". In 2000 the band headlined at the International Music Festival in Singapore. The band also was the featured performers for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the Alaskan Gold Rush and White Pass & Yukon Railroad. Because of the historical nature of the Black Irish Band many venues such as, the Alaska History Museum, Golden Spike NHS, Gene Autry Museum, the Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco Maritime Museums have headlined the group in the past.

The band has sold 120,000 albums independently to date, and their music has been featured on College Radio Stations, National Public Radio, and on Satellite Radio Programming. Their recent original song, "Grizzly of Old California", which features the vocals of Michael Martin Murphey, has been broadcasted on stations throughout the world. Another noted original work by the band, "Ballad of John Muir", has been celebrated on the official John Muir National web site. The band also boasts eighty-five music videos on You-Tube at [trainfire28](http://trainfire28.com).

The Black Irish band Are: Patrick Michael Karnahan: banjo, melodeon, octave mandolin, trumpet, guitar, concertina, vocals \* Steve McArthur: accordion, guitar, piano, vocals \* James Nelson: banjo, guitar, vocals \* Richard Restivo: acoustic bass, trumpet, vocals

Bands web site at [www.blackirish.com](http://www.blackirish.com)