

PRESS RELEASE

UPCOMING EVENT



FINGAL: LIVE IN CONCERT!

Presented by Four Peaks Irish Arts

Fingal is the name of an exciting new trio in the world of Irish music. Its members are well known and respected worldwide for their musicianship and commitment to the roots of the Irish tradition. These are master musicians who know how to deliver the passion and power of this ancient music in the here and now.

FINGAL will be performing in Arizona on Friday **January 15th at 8:00 PM** at the **Irish Cultural Center** in downtown Phoenix. Admission is **\$20 in advance*** or **\$22 at the door**.

*FPIA members and Academy students receive a \$2 discount!
For more information, or to reserve your tickets, please contact a Four Peaks Irish Arts officer at: info@fourpeaksirisharts.org or (512) 917-0279.



We look forward to seeing you there!

Band Biography:

The world of Irish traditional music is in some ways like the jazz world - there are certain musicians known to insiders as the "real thing", the genuine creative artists of the music. These players often combine and recombine in new groups, searching for fresh inspiration. It's safe to say that the members of Fingal would fall into that category, and the fact that they've formed a touring group has got the trad music world abuzz. Singer and guitarist Daithi Sproule has been a member of the band Altan for many years; Randal Bays made two seminal recordings with fiddler Martin Hayes plus a string of highly acclaimed solo releases; James Keane was a founding member of the great Castle Ceili Band in Ireland and is among the truly legendary figures in Irish music. Although this trio was formed only a few years ago, Fingal's musical connections go deep and wide. They're playing exactly the music they want to play, and the result is a powerhouse of a trad group that knows how to deliver the full voltage of the Irish music tradition.

Discography

"Fingal" - 2008 New Folk Records

Website

<http://www.fingalmusic.com>



Band Member Biography

James Keane www.JamesKeane.com

James Keane was born to a musical family in Drimnagh, Dublin, and took up the button accordion at age six. He spent his youth surrounded by some of the giants of Irish traditional music; Seamus Ennis, Leo Rowsome, Sonny Brogan and many more. As a teen, James and his brother Sean (longtime Chieftains fiddler) founded the famous Castle Ceili Band, which won the All-Ireland ceili band competition and played to sold out dance halls all over Ireland. James went on to win four All-Ireland championships on the accordion, and became an important figure in the Dublin folk revival. He emigrated to America in 1968 and performed with many of the great Irish musicians in New York and beyond, including a concert at Carnegie Hall. In the years since, James has established a worldwide reputation as one of the finest Irish accordion players of our time, and has released a series of highly acclaimed solo recordings. James lives in Queens, New York.

Randal Bays www.RandalBays.com

Randal Bays is a self-taught American born musician who's been playing Irish fiddle for thirty years, and through his recordings and performances has built up a reputation as a master. He's "among the best Irish style fiddlers of his generation", according to Fiddler Magazine. Randal has toured and recorded with many of the great Irish musicians of the day, including James Kelly, Martin Hayes, Michéal O'Domhnaill and many more. His live CD "House to House" (with Roger Landes) was picked by the Irish Times as one of the "top five traditional recordings of 2005". He's performed all over the US, Europe and Canada, and is a respected teacher of Irish fiddle. Randal is a co-founder of the Friday Harbor Irish Music Camp, which takes place every March in the San Juan Islands off the coast of Washington state.

Dáithí Sproule www.DaithiSproule.com

Dáithí Sproule is a native of Derry in the North of Ireland, a renowned traditional singer in both Irish and English, and one of the world's premier guitarists in the Irish tradition. He's widely credited with pioneering the use of DADGAD tuning in the accompaniment of Irish music, a style now used around the world. He's worked with many of the greats in Irish music, and has been for some years a member of the famed Donegal group Altan. The Rough Guide to Irish Music called him "a seminal figure in Irish music." Dáithí has also taught Old Irish, Celtic mythology and Irish music at the University of Minnesota, the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul and University College Dublin. He published a volume of short stories in Irish and several academic articles on early Irish poetry and legend. Dáithí now lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.