

# Iona E-News August 2010



August 2010

## ALBUM AND TOUR NEWS

Hello and welcome especially to those of you who are receiving our enewsletter (in pdf and text formats) for the first time. In this bumper summer issue we have reports on the recent USA/ Canada tour from Joanne, Dave and Martin, details of the Switzerland tour in September plus an update on the new album recording, along with plenty of other exciting stuff. So, grab a coffee, settle back in your seat and read on....



## USA/CANADA TOUR

**It was brilliant to return to the USA/Canada after so many years and we were thrilled with the response to the gigs. We hope to return again before not too long. Here are some reflections on the tour, firstly from Martin:** “I really enjoyed my first long tour with the band. A very relaxed and caring group of people to be with, who took every opportunity to build each other up. I certainly appreciated the encouragement.

Phil had also mentioned to me before how Iona fans "support" the band and want all its members to succeed and this was borne out on many occasions when fans talked to me after gigs. Many who had misgivings about and, in some cases, great disappointment at Troy's departure were kind enough to express their compliments as to how I have filled that gap. It meant a lot to me to hear that and I would like to thank those again who took the trouble to tell me.



**Martin in full flight!** | NEARfest 2010 | 6.19.10 | Photos ©2010 Joe del Tufo, Studio M Live

I am also continuously surprised at the great distances that Iona fans will travel to see the band perform. Hearing their stories of the many and varied ways that

Iona's music has positively affected them is a great endorsement of the band's past achievements and a powerful encouragement to Iona to continue making music in His name. I have never encountered this before and am both humbled and happy to now be a part of the Iona story.

Becoming a part of Iona has given me a musical sense of purpose. Honouring God through Iona's music, giving back to Him what He has given me, is so much more fulfilling than just performing for the sake of performing, or solely to "please" an audience. This is not to belittle or disown all that I have played in the past, and continue to play when not with Iona, but to acknowledge that God has graciously allowed me to move into a new season with my music. I have for a long time now realised that we have a God of New Beginnings and I praise and thank Him that he is such a God.



**Joanne** | NEARfest 2010 | 6.19.10 | Photos ©2010 Joe del Tufo, Studio M Live

The tour also provided me with the chance to really get the material "under my skin" and gig by gig to perform with fewer charts. I'm happy to say that I was chart free for the last 3 concerts.

Iona's time in the US and Canada was also enhanced by the presence of David Christopher, our tour manager. A great guy to be with who did all that was asked of him and more besides. The word 'caring' comes to mind when I think of him. I hope that we get to travel the road together again.

A big Thank You to Kathy Bunker, Debbie and all the promoters and their support people for their work and hospitality. You guys 'make straight our path' !!!”



Jo - Cornerstone 2010  
photo by Mark Hootman



Above: Frank - Rialto Theatre, Colorado 2010 photo by Joel Endicott.  
Below: Dave - Zeke's, Ames IA photo by Tim Ostendorf



**Joanne:** “Well....greetings to all you splendid friends of Iona. Settling back into life in a much cooler Ireland for sure. Just when I was beginning to acclimatise to the heat and humidity, it was time to return home. We had an amazing trip...really...so many great stand out memories crammed into 2 weeks. I wish I'd taken my camera and kept a journal....but maybe next time I will. Thanks so much to all of you who supported the tour and especially those of you who bought copies of ‘Raphaels Journey’...which I hope you're enjoying. For those of you who haven't got hold of it yet .....please do! Frank did a beautiful production job on this project and of course played some wonderful violin. There are beautiful contributions from all my Iona friends and some gorgeous guest vocals from the very special Moya Brennan! It's a gentle album which I kinda think of as lullabies for grown ups. It's an album to fall asleep to...that is not to say you couldn't listen to it while driving! It might slow you down though! The idea is that once I've recouped the initial costs, then subsequent sales profits will all go to support work with children in extreme poverty through several Christian charities that I have contact with..

peace and joy to you, Jo.”

**NB: We hope to have copies of Jo and Frank's excellent album ‘Raphael's Journey’ available on our secure store very soon.**

**Dave:** Wow what a great tour in so many respects and so many highlights that it would take pages to recount them all. Here are some that spring to mind for me: At NearFest - the wonderful people who put on the festival and did everything possible to make us feel welcome and give of our best. It was great meeting up there with Nick Beggs our former bass / stick player and seeing him play with Steve Hackett (then meeting Steve at breakfast - one of my guitar heroes!). Also meeting guitarist Gary Green from ‘Three Friends’ (and formerly one of my all time favourite bands ‘Gentle Giant’) was a thrill! Talking of great guitarists our support act at the Rialto Theatre in Colorado was Dave

Beegle - one of the most amazing guitarists around and a great guy and friend. So many other highlights I'll attempt to cover some in a list for brevity!

- \*Our great little (9 year old) Irish dancer in Ames who managed the whole of the ‘Reels’ without keeling over!
- \*Putting faces to so many names on the Iona mailing list and in many cases meeting people again after 14 years! Also meeting many great old friends and making many new ones.
- \*People travelling so far to see us - in many cases flying or even driving upwards of 1,000 miles!
- \*Violinist Trevor Dick's great support set at Belleville, ON - also feeling an aftershock from the recent earthquake, just as we entered the country!
- \*David Christopher - our brilliant tour manager - nothing was ever too much trouble for him.
- \*Staying with a wonderful family in the heart of Amish country and feeling like we'd stepped back in time.
- \*Our wonderful reception upon our arrival in South Hadley and Pastor Don's great dancing!
- \*Returning to Conerstone Festival after a gap of 14 years. (The last time we were there Troy and I played ‘Stars and Stripes’ on pipes and keys on 4th July in front of 25,000 people complete with fireworks!).

**NB: You can see photos of the 2010 gig at**

**[www.cornerstonefestival.com/AlbumDetail.php?aID=127&nocache=1279526516](http://www.cornerstonefestival.com/AlbumDetail.php?aID=127&nocache=1279526516)**

**You can also register your vote here if you want to see Iona at Cornerstone next year!**



L to R: Mike Houghton (saxes / flutes / whistles), Nick Beggs (Chapman Stick, bass guitar), Jo and Dave. On drums & percussion out of the shot to the right: Terl Bryant.

Here's an interesting archive photo, courtesy of Sonya Bockhorst. This is from the band's appearance in the big top at Greenbelt Festival, England in August 1991. This was Mike Houghton's first appearance with the band. Mike was standing in for David Fitzgerald who was in the Baltic States at the time on tour with Adrian Snell. Mike joined the band the full time in October 1992 shortly after David's departure.

## ALBUM NEWS

The postponement of the April session in The Netherlands due to the Icelandic ash cloud grounding all flights and various other commitments has meant we're a bit behind with the album recording now. However Dave has resumed work on the album at his Open Sky studio and is currently busy recording acoustic and electric guitars and keyboards on various tracks. He will be getting together with Jo for a writing / vocal recording session next weekend which both are looking forward to.

With Frank working on producing an album for Selah, the band of our Dutch friends Niek and Elbert Smelt, through most of the summer and with various family holidays, it will be September at least before the whole band can be together in the studio again. We will keep you posted on developments.

## TROY NEWS

Our former bandmate Troy has certainly been busy since leaving the band for pastures new last year. Currently touring extensively with Ade Edmonson (yes - he of The Young Ones!) and violin virtuoso Andy Dinan as 'The Bad Shepherds', they are making huge waves in the folk scene playing their folk arrangements of punk anthems such as 'London Calling'! The band were recently nominated for a BBC Folk Award 2010 for 'Best Live Act'.

Troy continues to write his own music - recently conducting an orchestra in the USA for a recording of one of his compositions for hi-fi manufacturers Bose! In February/ March he was again touring as musical director with Barbara Dickson and he will be arranging and producing a third album for her sometime this year featuring a set list of mainly traditional songs.

In his spare time (!) he has also managed to fit in playing on a couple of Hollywood blockbusters - listen out for his distinctive pipes and whistles on the Ridley Scott epic movie 'Robin Hood' starring Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett and on 'Ironclad' a major new film scheduled for release sometime this summer about the Knights Templar and the siege of Rochester Castle.

And if you miss him with 'The Bad Shepherds' there's a chance you might see Troy in an arena near you on stage with the huge Finnish rock band 'Nightwish'! Troy now has his own Facebook page too if you want to drop by and say hello.



The Bad Shepherds (photo David Angel)

## IONA WEBSTORE

To those of you new to the newsletter or indeed the band (especially all those from the US/ Canada tour), you may not be aware of the many Iona cds and dvds and related solo & collaborative album projects we have available from our secure store. We would love to have had all these with us on the US tour, but it would have cost too much in shipping and duty costs.

**However, they can all be purchased direct from us on our website. Buying direct from us also means that a far great profit comes to us, so we can continue to make the music that you love. Should you prefer the albums or individual tracks in download form, most are also available from iTunes.**

We will be adding several new items to the webstore in the near future - Joanne's 'Raphael's Journey', Martin's excellent album 'Bright Silver Dark Wood' and we hope to have some IONA - ANOTHER REALM t shirts available soon too.

To access the store, do so via our website ([www.iona.uk.com](http://www.iona.uk.com)) or directly at [www.drshosting.co.uk/iona/](http://www.drshosting.co.uk/iona/)

## FEATURED ALBUM

As there is so much available, we are going to have a featured album or dvd section in each newsletter to help introduce you to the music. This enewsletter's featured album is:

## From Silence

Troy Donockley & Dave Bainbridge



A live recording of Troy and Dave's completely improvised performance of 27th October 2004 in the splendour of 13th century Lincoln Cathedral (see [www.lincolncathedral.com](http://www.lincolncathedral.com)). Captured in binaural stereo it is a stunning, organic recording which really captures the ambience of the cathedral and an amazing sense of involvement in the music as the two musicians are inspired by the acoustic properties of the building and the sense of history. Featuring Troy on uilleann pipes, whistles, acoustic guitar and vocal with Dave on keyboards, electric guitar, ebow, bouzouki and live looping. Also available on DVD with additional interview footage.

## REVIEW QUOTES

"Just these two "Iona" performers fill the great nave with the most glorious sound"

**Dai Woosnam [Kevin McCarthy's Celtic & Folk Music CD Reviews](#)**

"What they achieved working alone in this most beautiful and ancient building is a moving, moody, organic sonic pleasure....relaxing and invigorating.... consistently captivating"

[www.open-ears.com](http://www.open-ears.com)

"It's amazing to realize that this album was improvised and recorded live with no overdubs, with no pre-rehearsed themes. Troy and Dave have captured a special musical event, when the muse, the emotion, the expression that issued forth came from the spirit rather than the mind, where joy poured out in fresh new songs that could only be created by two musicians with 15 years of improvising together.... listen close, you can almost hear the angels joining them in ecstatic melody."

[www.spiritualprog.com](http://www.spiritualprog.com)

"With this album Troy and Dave have delivered a masterpiece....this music gets me longing for their next activities" **2005, Paul Rijkens, iO Pages, Holland**

"The result is stunning. Without any rehearsal at all they agreed the chord to start in and just started improvising, letting themselves flow on the stream their instruments created. The album is not so much a compilation of songs, but is rather a musical invitation for the listener to set off on a journey that aims for the deepest essence of the soul. Donockley is a master of the low whistle and playing that instrument he creates a whole new world. While listening, one does not hear tunes, notes or chords, but one is drawn into a vast landscape where magic, pain of the soul and happiness are one.

From Silence...succeeds in positioning this great emotion that is called hope"

[www.prog-nose.org](http://www.prog-nose.org)

"A sonic masterpiece...it is as dynamic as it is gentle...a moving experience." **Classic Rock Society Magazine July 2005**

## IONA TOUR DATES

### Switzerland Tour - September 2010

It is great to be returning to this beautiful country - hope you can make it along. These are likely to be the last gigs for a while as we will be concentrating on finishing the new album over the next few months.

17.09.10 20:00, CH-3600 **Thun**, Burgsaal, [www.ultimo-arts.ch/component/option,com\\_frontpage/Itemid,1/+41 33 534 30 33](http://www.ultimo-arts.ch/component/option,com_frontpage/Itemid,1/+41_33_534_30_33)

18.09.10 20:00, CH-8645 **Rapperswil-Jona**, Eventhouse, Neue Jonastrasse 65  
+41 44 784 85 50

19.09.10 20:00

CH-1200 **Genève**, Uptown Geneva, 2, Rue de la Servette, 1201 Geneve. [www.uptown-geneva.ch](http://www.uptown-geneva.ch).  
+41 22 364 25 89

(see also Profile Productions - [www.profile-productions.ch/wDeutsch/Events/Agenda.php?Artist=1](http://www.profile-productions.ch/wDeutsch/Events/Agenda.php?Artist=1))

## IONA DISCUSSION GROUP

If you'd like to join the Iona on line discussion group run by Steve Gorsline, here's a message from Steve:  
*"Our group now has a new website! If you haven't already registered for the site, please do so now -- it takes just a few seconds! You will not be able to access certain group content and features until you register. You can register for your new group website at <http://iona.grouply.com/register?r=1324060&vt=143974337> . After you register, you can login at <http://iona.grouply.com/login> ."*

Thanks! Steve Gorsline, Moderator

## IONA - THE USA BASED BAND

For some years now we have been aware that there is another band (based in the USA) working under the name of Iona. With the recent USA tour and hopefully more US trips on the horizon, Dave though it was time to make contact with the band. In the past there have been a few instances where people have gone to their gigs expecting to see us and recently a couple of ads for us have mistakenly used a photo of them, such as in the Cornerstone Festival programme! Unfortunately one or two fans of ours have contacted them with rather negative comments regarding them using the name Iona.



Dave says: "The US, Washington DC based Iona are a lovely bunch of hardworking musicians. They have been together for many years and work hard at promoting traditional music from the Celtic countries, which form the roots for much traditional US folk music. They play mainly acoustic instruments and describe themselves as 'America's pan-Celtic band'. We both have valid reasons for using the name Iona and rather than be in conflict with them I would like to honour what they're doing and promote a healthy dialogue between the two bands. Recent email correspondence with Barbara and Bernard, the band's co-founders has been very positive, to the point that we all agreed it would be great for both bands to play together sometime! Our musical styles are quite different though there are several points of reference, so if you like traditional, acoustic folk music I would definitely recommend that you check them out, or even just wish them well on their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/IONAmusic?ref=search](http://www.facebook.com/IONAmusic?ref=search)."

The USA based IONA (NOT US!!)

**NB: A note to all our USA fans: We always publish details of ALL our gigs on our websites ([www.iona.uk.com](http://www.iona.uk.com) and our Facebook and My Space pages). So if you see an ad for a US Iona gig somewhere but it is NOT on any of our websites, then it will be the USA based Iona NOT us playing there.**

## CATHEDRAL OF DREAMS Nick Fletcher Update

Released last year on our own Open Sky Records (distributed by Voiceprint), this great album by amazing guitarist / composer Nick Fletcher continues to receive airplay on the UK's premier classical music radio station Classic FM. **Recorded and produced by Dave Bainbridge**, as well as Nick's solo guitar

compositions, the album also features **'Iberian Fantasy', a 4 movement, 22 minute long piece for guitar and orchestra written by Dave and Nick**. Nick has some solo tour dates coming up, so do check out his amazing playing if you get the chance.



**10<sup>th</sup> October**, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford

**23<sup>rd</sup> October**, 7.30pm Holy Trinity Church, Grove Road, Millhouses, Sheffield

Tickets £10.00 and £5.00 concessions

For info and to hear Nick (including the 1st Mvt of 'Iberian Fantasy') visit [www.myspace.com/nickfletcherguitarist](http://www.myspace.com/nickfletcherguitarist)

Martin, Phil and Frank - Cornerstone 2010  
photo by Mark Hootman

## FACEBOOK

Don't forget to let us know what you're thinking on our FACEBOOK PAGE and whenever possible we'll try and respond back. It was great to be able to add comments where we could during the recent tour as it was actually happening. Thanks to all those who have uploaded their photos from the recent gigs. These are well worth checking out (in some cases there are links to more photos / videos). And if you trawl back to the 4th July there's a nice bit of video from Tim Ostendorf of us playing The Reels (complete with our own great mini Irish dancer!) from the gig at Zeke's in Ames, IA. Please encourage other Iona fans to join the Facebook page - it's a great way for us to keep in touch with you.



Phil - Cornerstone 2010, photo by Eric Townsend

BEST WISHES, IONA

[www.iona.uk.com](http://www.iona.uk.com)

[www.facebook.com/pages/IONA/133955679394?ref=mf](http://www.facebook.com/pages/IONA/133955679394?ref=mf)

[www.myspace.com/ionauk](http://www.myspace.com/ionauk)

\*You are receiving this email because you have previously contacted the band in the past or are on the Open Sky Records database. If you have received this in error or do not wish to receive future news updates, we send our apologies and ask that you email us back with the word DELETE in the heading.

Many Thanks, IONA / OPEN SKY RECORDS