



GIRO

Galway International Retro Orchestra

GIRO, the Galway International Retro Orchestra, was formed in Galway City in the West of Ireland in late 2011. Galway City has a thriving music scene, and is particularly well known for the abundance of traditional Irish music. The member of GIRO all came to the city largely for its music, and had known each other for years through the Irish music session that abound.

The concept of a band playing traditional music from across Europe in the styles of the early 20th century had been an idea in the minds of founding members Anders Trabjerg and Kyle Borley for some time, after discovering that they shared an interest in Klezmer and Romanian music. Anders, himself an accomplished five row accordion player, has also long been learning and performing one and two row accordion repertoire from Irish American recordings of the early 20th century. Kyle, a flute player, had recently begun playing Irish music on piccolo, an instrument more common in the musical traditional of eighty years ago. Anders' wife, Mayo Yanachi, is a classically trained violinist in addition to being a great exponent of Irish style fiddling, and so was recruited for the band. The final member, Geoff Ward, is well known in Galway as a saxophone and clarinet player, who also plays in a unique style on the banjolin. With the lineup complete, GIRO was underway!

Work on their self titled album began in 2013, and is an entirely self produced work, from the arrangements of the pieces to the recording, mixing and editing, to the CD cover and sleeve artwork. With its members having years of performance experience, GIRO launched their album at the Crane Bar in April 2014.



Band Members

Anders Trabjerg: Accordions

Geoff Ward: Clarinet, Saxophone, Banjolin

Kyle Borley: Flute, Piccolo, Vocal

Mayo Yanachi: Fiddle

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Anders Trabjerg hails from the west coast of Denmark, in the little town of Hee. While he has played the continental five row accordion since the age of seven, he became interested in traditional Irish music in his teens. He moved to Galway in 1996 and has become a fixture in the local music scene, well known for playing the two row C#/D Irish accordion, along with one row accordions and melodeons. In 2001 he recorded his solo album "Boxed," for which he received Roots Release of the Year at the Danish Music Awards. In 2004 he released "McBones and the B Band," as well "For the Same Reason," a duo project with fiddler Tak Tamura. In the same year Anders' life in Ireland was featured in a Danish documentary titled "Irish Heart, Danish Blood," which aired on Danish TV DR1. Anders and fellow Danish musician Jonas Fromseier released their album "The Great Danes In Ireland," in 2008. Since then he has been involved various projects, such as with Galway theatre company Macnas in their show "Rumpus," and can be seen performing daily at music sessions in some of the busiest pubs in Galway.



Geoff Ward comes from Aotearoa, the Land of the Long White Cloud, better known as New Zealand. He received a ukulele from his grandmother at the age of five, and at the age of six found a mandolin brought to New Zealand by his great aunt from her travels to Italy. He studied at the Otago School of Art as a teenager, and around this time began playing clarinet and saxophone, and acquired a unique English made banjo-mandolin. After spending time in London, he was encouraged to make a trip to Ireland, eventually moving to West Cork in 1990. After several years, he, his wife and daughters moved to Galway City. Quickly becoming a part of the local music scene, Geoff has lent his eclectic musical tastes to many musical projects, including bands such as Molly Hicks, Queen Elvis, the Bombanova Latin Band, Shrooligans and the Sidewalk Boogie Blues Band. Currently, he is also performing with the Bridge Street Brass Band.



Kyle Borley comes from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He started playing the tin whistle at eleven years old, taking lessons in Irish music from local music teacher Susan Hammer. Through his teens he also learned to play the flute and bodhran, as well as gaining an interest in traditional songs from Ireland, England, Scotland and Canada. After completing a sound technician course at the Mid-Ocean School Of Media Arts, he moved to Galway for a year in 2009. After meeting Anders Trabjerg, he became enamoured with early recordings of Irish music, as well as klezmer music, and began to play on a late 19th century piccolo. In 2010 he took first place on Senior Tin Whistle and Senior Men's Singing at the 2010 Midwest Fleadh Cheoil, and went on to compete at the All-Ireland Fleadh in Cavan. In Winnipeg, he performs with the Bart House Band as well as with the McConnell School of Irish Dance with the Barefoot Ceili Band, festivals such as La Festival Du Voyageur, Folklorama, the Winnipeg Bargefest and the Winnipeg Irish Fest.



Mayo Yanachi of Tokyo, Japan, began classical violin lessons at the age of seven. As a teen, her interests shifted towards theatre performance, giving up violin to become a theatre practitioner. She studied in England in 1999, completing a BA in Circus Studies in London. However, after sustaining a head injury she could no longer pursue a career in the circus. She moved back to Japan in 2005, after which she began studying Irish fiddle with Tak Tamura, who had lived in Galway for many years, and who had recorded with Anders Trabjerg. Her passion for Irish music lead her to come to Galway, completing an MA in Irish traditional music with first class honours at the University of Limerick in 2010. In the same year she recorded her solo album "Eat Sleep Fiddle." Mayo can be found performing at sessions across Galway city on a regular basis.

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