

IONA



Formed in 1989, IONA take their name from the small island off the west coast of Scotland. From the beginning, their aim has been to write spiritual, atmospheric, yet uplifting music that would stir the emotions, weaving complex patterns that echo the intricate knot work of the great Celtic artists. Often inspired by the great figures of the Celtic Golden Age such as Columba, Aidan, Brendan and Patrick, IONA's music is as timeless as the message that reaches out to us across the centuries.

Uniquely combining rock / folk / progressive / ethnic and ambient elements with the crystalline voice of Joanne Hogg as their focus, IONA create 'a blaze of colours and textures...all the sounds fusing into a single, yearning, heartfelt beautiful cry.'

'IONA has carved out a unique musical niche.....creating music that is challenging and inspirational....Their music surrounds the listener, seeming to have no beginning and no end.....Book of Kells touches something elemental, resonating as few albums can. Allow it to touch you as well.'

C.C.M. Magazine (USA)

'Their music seems to draw from the collective memories of an entire race of people - 'Beyond these Shores' is all that and more. It is a modern day masterpiece.'

Bob Darden - Billboard (USA)

'Beautiful, mystic and edifying.....powerful, pure and simple.'

Musikk Forum Magazine (Norway)

'... an exhilarating contemporary folk act, able to press traditional instruments convincingly into service alongside their electric counterparts ... rarely has the new age Celtic thing been given so many welcome twists, or played with such conviction.'

'Q' MAGAZINE

'... staked in moods and atmospherics - they proceed to weave a complex, many stranded sounds cape.'

Folk Roots

'... ambitious and visionary ... The effect is at times stunning, as huge ethereal soundscapes... rise up from the hi-fi speakers.....A beautiful album.'

Cross Rhythms Magazine

'... close your eyes and prepare to sink into the atmosphere created by this magical band.'

Cornerstone Magazine (USA)

... It must be said Miss Hogg always did have a near mystical voice and in both Bainbridge and Donockley they have two musicians who know how to produce soundscapes, big, vast spaces which fill with melody and passion.'

Simon Jones - FRoots Magazine

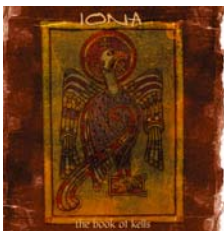
After an extended break from touring and recording, due to singer Joanne starting a family and more recently undergoing a serious operation, Iona are now playing concerts again and currently writing and recording their first completely new studio album for over 5 year - due for release in Spring 2006. Their first full length concert DVD 'Iona - Live in London' is due for release in winter 2005 and another DVD documenting the bands long history - 'Iona - Introspective' is currently being filmed, for release in 2006.

ALBUMS



IONA (1990)

'Iona have arrived at a personal sound that finds them east of Clannad/ All about Eve and west of Genesis/ Moving Hearts.....Superb.' **'Rock 'n Reel'**



BOOK OF KELLS (1992)

'Finally, the most evocative release of all....Iona's ethereal 'Book of Kells.'.....unbelievable.' **Billboard (USA)**

Best Album - Billboard Magazine - No.2 Critic's Choice

Best Import Album of the Year - Syndicate Magazine (USA)

International Artist of the Year - G.M.A. Awards (USA)



BEYOND THESE SHORES (1993) (special guest - guitarist ROBERT FRIPP)

'Anyone with a Celtic nerve in their ear will be enthralled with this music ... these songs exude the mystery of faith, hope and struggle ... still, as always, beauty hangs on every note, every syllable.'

AFTS (USA)

"A rock band full of imagination...which continues to grow day by day." **Marquee (Japan)**



JOURNEY INTO THE MORN (1995)

(With guests MAIRE BRENNAN - Clannad - and ROBERT FRIPP)

One of 'Q' MAGAZINE'S Top 50 Albums of 1996 (** excellent rating)**

One of 'Q' MAGAZINE'S Top 5 Folk Albums of 1996

" 'Journey' finds IONA making the killer album that was always within their grasp." **'Rock 'n Reel'**

"Inventive melodies, impressive musicianship, emotional vocals and intelligent lyrics. Buy it!"

The Observer - New York



HEAVEN'S BRIGHT SUN (1997)

Live double album, recorded in the UK in December 1996.
(**** excellent rating in 'Q' Mag.)

“Heaven's Bright Sun cannot be missed as it is unrepeatably in its genre.” **Mju:zik (Italy)**

“Undoubtedly the most interesting live release for several years. Probably since *CESeconds Out*¹ by Genesis. I can't stop listening to this CD and each time I hear it, the music grows on me.”

'Art Rock' (Poland)



WOVEN CORD (1999)

Recorded 'live' at the Royal Festival Hall, London in May 1999 with the All Souls Orchestra in front of 2,300 people during the band's 10th anniversary year.

“Stunning guitar solos, almost angelic vocals, tradition and the classics all on one album - it was always going to be a bit special!”

Wondrous Stories

“The orchestra adds depth and beauty without overwhelming....Iona's perhaps the best band you've never heard of ...”

Dallas Morning News (USA)



OPEN SKY (May 2000)

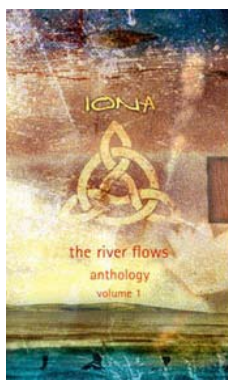
IONA's long awaited recent studio recording contains stunning images and sounds in a celebration of life and hope.

“An incredible musical experience....that draws you in....the music put out by this band is like nothing you've ever heard.”

Gold Records (USA)

“A tremendous testament to a talented group of five musicians, completely illustrating their virtuosity.” **Musical Discoveries (USA)**

“... It must be said Miss Hogg always did have a near mystical voice and in both Bainbridge and Donockley they have two musicians who know how to produce soundscapes, big, vast spaces which fill with melody and passion.” **Simon Jones - 'Roots' Magazine Dec 2000**



THE RIVER FLOWS (Anthology Volume 1) 4 CD box set (August 2002)

IONA's first release on their own newly established 'Open Sky' label, “The River Flows” brings together the band's first three now deleted albums (remastered, with a number of tracks reworked and remixed), together with a fourth cd of new and previously unreleased tracks. The two cd high digipack format contains a superbly designed 60 page full colour booklet, detailing the band's early years, inspiration behind all the tracks on the box set, plus around 80 band photos (many previously unseen). “The River Flows” is already receiving very favourable reviews.

“In the years ahead this box set will be the benchmark against which all other..... reissues and returns-to-the-archives will be measured. For here is a package assembled with such tender loving care and attention to detail and encapsulating such glorious and timeless music that one is left boldly asserting that this 4 CD set succeeds on every level - as a musical exploration of the celtic roots of Christian spirituality; as a record collector's delight where old classics are re-mastered and in many cases re-mixed and delightful new-to-CD items are rescued from the vaults; and as a beautiful artefact where the strikingly illustrated and designed book, incorporated into the package, brings its own aesthetic pleasure ... the fourth disc, 'Dunes', which presents some stunning new material. The first suite of songs, "Snowdonia - Realm Of The Ravens", is haunting, mainly instrumental music originally written for a BBC natural history series and is as emotive as music gets. All in all, this package is an essential item both for long term Iona devotees and new to the group music lovers wanting to discover a rich musical history.” **Tony Cummings - Cross Rhythms Magazine Nov/Dec 2002**

IONA (DVD) (Spring 2005)

The first DVD release from Iona's own Open Sky label, this 30 minute documentary, filmed at the end of 1990 shows the band towards the very beginning of its journey, soon after the release of their debut album. Combines atmospheric landscape footage filmed on the island of Iona and rare concert footage of one of the bands first ever concerts.



LIVE IN LONDON (DVD) (due Winter 2005)

Filmed at the University of London in November 2004, this is the bands first full length concert film, and captures something of the atmosphere and energy of the bands live performances. Also features 4 tracks to be included on Iona's forthcoming studio album. With full 5.1 surround mix by John Kellogg (surround mix producer for ELP / Deep Purple / Chicago / Foreigner / Black Crows / Britney Spears etc, etc)

THE BAND



JOANNE HOGG - Voice / Keyboards / Acoustic Guitar

“Joanne Hogg is possessed of a beautiful voice somewhere between Maire Brennan and Julianne Regan.....which sends shivers down the spine.” **Rock ‘n Reel**

“Joanne Hogg’s voice in particular is spectacular.” **Q Magazine**

Prior to Iona, Jo won a national song contest in her native Northern Ireland. Three times voted “Best Female Vocalist” by the “Classic Rock Society“, Joanne has also recently record an album with “Maire Brennan” (from Clannad) titled “New Irish Hymns“. Ironically, Jo’s unique voice is well known to millions (particularly in Japan) for her contribution to several Sony Playstation soundtracks! Joanne’s first solo album “Looking into Light” was released in April 1999, to critical acclaim:

“Hogg’s amazing, ethereal voice supported by incredible musicianship carries her gifts without overpowering them ... ‘Looking into Light’ is a treasure not to be missed.” **CCM (USA)**

“The unique, angelic and crystal clear voice of Joanne Hogg ... possibly without equal among contemporary rock vocalists.”

Metal Hammer (Poland)



DAVE BAINBRIDGE - Keyboards / Guitars / Bouzouki

“Dave Bainbridge is a stunning player with absolute control over feel and emotion.” **Wondrous Stories**

“The effect is at times stunning, as huge ethereal soundscapes - the foundation stone of which is Dave Bainbridge’s haunting choice of keyboard washes - rise up from the hi-fi speakers.” **Cross Rhythms**

“A completely tremendous guitar solo - I was floored.” **Exposé (USA)**

Composing / arranging credits include; “Natural World” series (BBC2), “World in Action” (ITV) Fingerstyle Guitar Magazine (USA), Michael Ball, The New Irish Choir and Orchestra.

Composed the string quartet soundtrack for the short cinema film “Wilfred” (featuring Derek Jacobi and Edward Fox reading the poems of Wilfred Owen - shown three times at the Canne 2000 Film Festival), “The Eye of the Eagle” (with David Fitzgerald & the St. Edmundsbury Cathedral choir - premiered at the 1998 Norwich International Festival). Artists Dave has worked with include; Jack Bruce, Buddy Guy, Nick (“Kajagoogoo”) Beggs, Gloria Gaynor, “Snake” Davis, Paul Jones, Pete Brown, Phil Keaggy, Emiko Shiratori (Japan) and Bryn Haworth. He has produced numerous albums, including all eight of IONA’s.

Dave’s first long awaited solo album “Veil of Gossamer” is due for release on the “Open Sky” label in Autumn 2003. Dave and his wife Debbie also run the band’s “Open Sky” record label and “Open Sky Studio.”

To my ears this is the most successful album of this type since Mike Oldfield’s masterpiece *Ommadawn*. Stunning. www.progressiveears.com

‘Sitting here stunned after my first full listen to Veil Of Gossamer, I’ve not the command of words to convey the true gratitude to Dave Bainbridge for what has instantly become one of my favorite recordings of all time.’ **Kenneth L. Solomon - Progressive Soundscapes Radio**



TROY DONOCKLEY - Uilleann Pipes/Whistles/Cittern/Guitars/Vocals

“Troy Donockley has arrived and the world of Uilleann Pipes will never be the same again.” **Irish Music Magazine**

“In my book there is no finer player in his generation than Troy Donockley...as an exponent of the low whistle he is pushing back the boundaries with a firm and sensitive hand.” **Whistling Low (USA)**

Leader of the acclaimed Folk-Rock band “You Slosh” (‘87 - ‘92), Troy has worked with an impressive array of artists, including; The Enid, Barbara Dixon, Alan Stivell, Katrina and the Waves, Midge Ure, Kathryn Tickell, June Tabor, Del Amitri, the Beach Boys, Maire Brennan, Status Quo, Roy Harper, Uriah Heep, Leslie Garrett and Maddy Prior (touring, co-producing and co-writing her last four solo albums “Flesh and Blood“, “Ravenchild”, “Arthur the King” and “Lionheart”).

As well as playing on TV and Film soundtracks (including the BAFTA award winning “Children of the Sun God”), music from Troy’s first solo album “The Unseen Stream” (1998) has been used on several TV films, including Feargal Keane’s “Forgotten Britain”, “HMS Splendid” (both BBC1) and “Flamborough Head” (BBC2).

“This album is a glorious rush of autumnal strains and bursting of colours which create a soundscape that’s full and juicy as a big jug of house red.” **Music Maker Magazine**

Troy has been acclaimed several times in the Classic Rock Society’s annual polls, recently winning both the Best Instrumentalist and Best Roots Musician categories. His second solo album “In Pursuit of Illusion” has just been released on his own label “Lantern Music.”

‘Beautiful, lyrical and deeply emotive music.’ **Expose Magazine (USA)**



PHIL BARKER - Basses

Joined IONA in 1996. He was a member of the band “Saltmine” for a year and co-founder of “Beehive.” For three years from 1993, Phil played with ex “Classix Nouveau” singer Sal Solo, recording two albums with him and touring extensively in Europe and the USA. He also works regularly with (Julie Fordham) guitarist Dave Clifton and (John-Paul Jones) drummer Terl Bryant on numerous recording projects.

Phil is increasingly in demand as a session player and has worked with many other artists including: Grammy award winning singer Faith Hill, Eoghan Heaslip, Robin Mark, Kim Hill, Don Moen, Matt Redman, Paul Wilbur, Andy Piercy, Tim Hughes, Chris Eaton, Andy Park, Brian Doerksen, Liz Fitzgibbon, Geraldine Latty, Paul Field, Barry & Battya Segal, Caroline Bonnett, The New Scottish Choir and Orchestra and Noel Richards.



FRANK VAN ESSEN - Drums / Percussion / Violin / Vocals

Son of a Dutch classical composer, Frank commenced violin studies at the age of seven, taking up drums at 15. Within three years he was playing with several big name Dutch and US artists including Rick Cua, Margaret Becker, Jesse Dixon, Julie Miller, Susan Ashton, Billy and Sarah Gaines, Marcel McArthur and Ralph van Mannen.

Frank has also toured extensively with singer-songwriter Adrian Snell, in productions also featuring his wife, dancer and singer Marlou. He is now established in Holland as a composer / producer / arranger in his own right for various artists / TV programmes and also runs his own recording studio - “Studio Frank Van Essen.” In 2002, Frank and Marlou released an album based around new interpretations of traditional Dutch Christmas songs titled “Immanuel.” A member of Iona in the very early days of the band, soon after the release of the first album, Frank re-joined in 1998.

LIVE CONCERTS



“The much awaited stunning live album from IONA..... The sound is immense, galactic, roof-blowing, soul-wrenching. It feels as though the whole recording has been touched by the hand of Heaven.” **Cross Rhythms Magazine**

“Since the successful *ÆJourney into the Morn¹* album, IONA have become the spearhead of Celtic folk-rock, which they have proved especially on stage.”
Keyboards Magazine (Germany)

Extensive touring in the UK (headlining at the Shepherd’s Bush Empire, Clapham Grand Theatre, Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall - London) and in Germany, Holland, Japan, Estonia, Canada, USA, France, Poland and Switzerland. Notable festival appearances include:

- UK - Glastonbury / Orange Wow / Greenbelt (headlining mainstage)**
- USA - One Festival (headlining) / Creation / Cornerstone (headlining)**
- Germany - Bardentreffen**
- Holland - Flevo (headlining) / Day of Dreams (headlining)**
- Switzerland - Expo 2002 / Schlosspark Open Air (headlining)**
- Poland - Song of Songs Festival**
- Norway - Seaside Festival 2005**

TV/FILM

TV appearances include:

Heart and Soul / First Light / Titchmarsh's Travels / Routes and Rhythms - (Live concert in the 12th century Abbey ruins on Lindisfarne) (all BBC 1)

Highlight - Documentary on IONA / **Spoor 7** - IONA in concert (E.O. Holland)

Leverkusen Jazz Festival - Live Festival performance (German TV)

The Band's music has been used on many TV programmes worldwide, including;

MTV Sports - (MTV)

Why we care about Bosnia / Signal Exchanges (both USA cable)

Heart of the Matter / First Light (both BBC1)

A.B.C. of the Celtic Saints / Island Soldiers (both ITV)

Snowdonia - Realm of the Raven (BBC2)

Ann Geddes -Photographer (USA)

God in the House / Corws (Channel 4 / S4C)

Channel 7 Sports (Australian TV)

UNICEF-fund raising films -shown on cable TV & British Airways long haul flights



Photos by Tim Martindale. Dave solo photo by Chris Sands.