

## Tony DeMarco and the Atlantic Wave includes Tony DeMarco, Siobhan Butler, Donie Carroll, Sean Earnest, and Martin O'Connell

**Tony DeMarco** was born on May 20, second of three children raised in Flatbush by Paul DeMarco and his former Patricia Dempsey. Paul, a of Italian immigrants, was a teenage boxing star who turned down an offer and work with lightweight champ "Billygoat" DeMarco in order to pursue conventional career on Wall Street. maternal grandfather Jimmy Dempsey New York City cop and a son of Irish who married Philomena "Minnie" one of several Italian-American who married into Brooklyn Irish Musical ability runs on both sides of family.



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During the Prohibition years, Minnie Dempsey's Italian immigrant father ran a speakeasy in East New York, where he played the piano and mandolin. Tony's paternal uncle Louie DeMarco was a singer who performed with 1950s doo-wop groups, including "Dickie Dell and the Ding Dongs." Tony's cousin John Pattitucci, from the Fenimore side of the family, is a leading professional bass player who has recorded with jazz stars Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, and Wayne Shorter. But Tony definitely found his way to Irish traditional music via a different path than the one trod by musicians raised in Irish immigrant households. As he puts it: "I never grew up with the competitive Comhaltas scene—I came through the hippie scene, the folkie scene." His first exposure to Irish traditional music was through a Folkways recording of the County Sligo fiddler Michael Gorman. Tony had many other musical influences before this, and would have many more afterward, but for him the appeal of the Sligo fiddle style would never fade. Tony has been performing and teaching Irish fiddle music for more than 30 years, and is now one of leading living exponents of the New York/Sligo fiddle style. The late Paddy Reynolds, Andy McGann and Martin Wynne were very influential on Tony's playing, as was the music of New York/Sligo fiddlers of the generation prior, including Michael Coleman, James Morrison, Paddy Killoran, and James "Lad" O'Beirne. Tony's fiddling has been featured in music programs at New York University organized by Mick Moloney, as well as the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick headed by Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin. Tony has performed and recorded with many traditional and modern players and bands, including The Flying Cloud, Black 47, Celtic Thunder, Wishbone Ash, and the Kips Bay Ceili Band, and has appeared on various compilations on Rounder Records. Tony has performed at Boston College Fiddle Festival, the Chicago Folk Fest, Sligo Live Fest, Return to Camden Fest and Ennis Trad Fest, to name a few.



New York based Irish dancer **Siobhán Butler** is an acclaimed performer and teacher who has been featured on many platforms including the Nationally televised station TG4 in Ireland and the prestigious Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee. Siobhán has performed and collaborated with many of the leading traditional artists including, but not limited to, Tony DeMarco, Cherish the Ladies, Nic Gareiss, Kevin Burke, Kieran Jordan, and Patrick Ourceau. With over 15 years of dance experience, Siobhán's dance style is a well balanced mix of musicality, grace, and delight. Her approach to dance is to honor the traditional relationship between dance and music while adding her own modern flourishes. She draws inspiration from many different music and dance styles which ultimately manifests into a completely unique style. Siobhán was born in Cambridgeshire, England to American parents stationed there in the Air Force. After discovering she had a great love for Irish music, Siobhán began Irish step dancing at age 8 under the tutelage of Jeanie O'Connor, T.C.R.G. in San Diego, CA. Siobhán quickly moved up in the ranks, competing in her first National Championships just two years later. Once retiring from a successful career in competitive Irish step dancing, Siobhán switched her focus to the Old style of Irish dance: Sean-Nós. The recipient of

many scholarships over her career thus far, Siobhán received the Lissa Florman Memorial Scholarship at Green Street Studios and Boston Percussive Dance in Cambridge, MA in 2010. During her time at BPD, Siobhán was able to apprentice under the award winning Irish dancer, Kieran Jordan. Also at BPD, Siobhán studied a variety of dance styles, all under the guidance of extraordinaries such as Lauren O'Donnell, Leonor Leal, Antonio Arrebola, and Omayra Amaya for Flamenco; Julia Boynton for Tap; Jennifer Schoonover for Cape Breton Step dancing; and Nic Gareiss for American Flatfooting and Improvisation. Siobhán continues to perform, teach, and study, furthering her knowledge of traditional percussive dances, while also pursuing a degree in Ethnochoreology and Cultural Preservation at Goddard College.

A musician, singer, actor, businessman, philanthropist and golfer, **Donie Carroll** is famous on both sides of the Atlantic. He began his musical career in Cork City, Ireland, during the great ballad boom of the 1960s. One of Donie's first regular gigs was playing for thirty bob a night in Bridgie pub in Ballygarvan in the company of Liam Beale and big bearded Moore. The fee, of course, was for three musicians with a few pints. Bridgie's was to become a great launching pad for young and as the scene got stronger he found himself meeting and from other musicians. The 1970s was the decade Donie did most of work, playing annual residencies at seaside resorts and small before getting involved in the Cork folk scene more fully. There, he people, like his good friend Jimmy Crowley, and opened shows for the big acts of the day. After a few years playing the pub scene Noel Delaney, Donie teamed up with the well known Cork folk Finnegan's Wake, and so began a decade of touring extensively to Europe. Donie arrived in New York in the early 1990s and soon Kate Kearney's with box players Gus Murray (Leitrim) and John (Galway), and New York fiddle great Andy McGann. The late Joe "Banjo" Burke and the late Johnny Cronin (accordion) were other musicians who often complemented Kate's sessions. A change of ownership at Kate Kearney's brought an end to one of the great session in New York, Donie took a rest from the music to pursue an acting career. His off-Broadway debut was in John B. Keane's play Sive, in which he not only acted but did a nightly pre-show concert where he performed some of the songs on this recording. He is presently a member of the New York City-based Washington Square Harp and Shamrock Orchestra, led by Dr. Mick Moloney.



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Acoustic guitarist & bouzouki player **Sean Earnest's** sensitive yet eclectic accompaniment style has taken him far from his native central Pennsylvania. He is among the most in-demand Celtic traditional music



accompanists today and can be heard on stages up and down both coasts of the United States and all points in between. Sean spends most of his time in New York and the greater Northeast, where he can be heard playing and recording with some of the top talents of the genre. Having cut his musical teeth in the vibrant session scenes of Baltimore and New York, Sean honed his guitar and bouzouki craft whilst studying abroad at the University of Limerick's Irish World Academy of Music & Dance. Friendships forged across the length & breadth of Ireland lead to Sean's highly successful 2009 tour with Irish supergroup Téada. For the last three years Sean has worked with the legendary McPeake family of Belfast in bringing their signature sound to American audiences. In the summer of 2011 he rejoined

'McPeake' for their third critically-acclaimed American summer tour. Also that year, Sean joined forces with one of the most exciting bands to come out of Scotland, the Paul McKenna Band, for two highly successful tours of

the U.S. and Canada. Most recently Sean has collaborated with Boston singer/songwriter Kyle Carey and violin player Andrew Finn Magill in 'The Kyle Carey Trio', a project drawing as much upon Kyle's fluency in Scots Gaelic song as well as her interest in Appalachian poetry and American roots music. When not touring Sean resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he offers personal instruction on both the guitar and bouzouki.

**Martin O'Connell** is from Kerry, Ireland and currently resides in New York. He is a button accordion player but also a producer and music director of a variety of stage shows, including his most recent show, Rhythms of Ireland. He has achieved numerous All-Ireland titles, including Senior All Ireland Accordion Competition in August 2012 in Cavan, and has recorded and performed with renowned Irish musicians and bands. Most recently, he collaborated with Eimear Quinn (former Eurovision winner) for a series of concerts and has also worked with Michael English just to name a few. Martin has toured Ireland, Britain and the U.S. with Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann, and has travelled extensively to diverse locales including Australia, China, South Korea, Japan, France, Italy, Kenya, Germany, Spain, Norway, Finland, Cyprus and Portugal. He has several television appearances to his credit, and has appeared as a guest soloist with Gaelforce, Brú Ború, Celtic Legends, Emerald Beat and a plethora of other tours and shows including the Irish Entertainment Awards at the Helix, Dublin. He also founded the award winning céilí band The Triogue in 2009, which has won All-Ireland awards annually. Additionally, by profession, Martin is an Electrical Engineer.

