

The Donegal X-Press



The Donegal (pronounced 'dä-ne-gäl) **X-Press** has emerged as one of the premiere Irish-American roots rock groups in the country. This high-energy, six-piece outfit has gained praise and fans from New York to Ireland, Baltimore to Nashville and beyond. DXP blends a unique combination of traditional Irish music with American country and blues, folk and rock, rhythm and funk, which John O'Regan of *Roots Magazine* calls, "...creative ferocity not seen since The Clash's *London Calling* period."

Brad Dunnells (guitar and vocals) and Jason Tinney (formerly harmonica and vocals) began collaborating and writing songs in the late 1990s with the hope of rejuvenating Irish American culture. With this partnership, the Donegal X-Press was formed and it wasn't long before the band's popularity and musical dimensions began to grow. Building on a core of traditional Irish pub songs, the Donegal X-Press added original songs and popular covers to their live set, creating a stage performance that can be enjoyed by a wide variety of audiences.

In the years since its formation, the group has gone from boozy bar crowds to sharing the stage with artists such as O'Malley's March, The Saw Doctors, Prodigals, Solas, Black 47, Gaelic Storm and the Wolfe Tones. DXP has also written and produced six albums

of original music: *Whiskey, Bars, A-Go-Go*; *Quinn's Diaries*; *Translations*; *Stand Alone*; *Fr. O'Leary's Memorial Boys Club* and *Paid Off the Boom*.

In 2000, the *Irish Voice* (NYC) named the group among their "Best of 2001" and eventually dubbed them "Artist of the Year." In that same year, Brad Dunnells was the first American to win the National Song Contest for Peace held in Cork, Ireland. The 1st place winner, "Omagh," is featured on *Quinn's Diaries*. In 2001, Donegal X-Press was named "Best Band" in the *Baltimore City Paper's* Readers Poll.

After two decades of making music together, the members of Donegal X-Press truly embody these words from Willie Nelson: "The life I love is making music with my friends." Those friends are Brad Dunnells (guitar and lead vocals), Skye Sadowski-Malcom (fiddle and vocals), Jeff Malcom (bass guitar), Jeff Trueman (drums), Ed Tetreault (keyboards, guitar, vocals), and Laura Hein (keyboard, vocals).

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 DonegalXPress

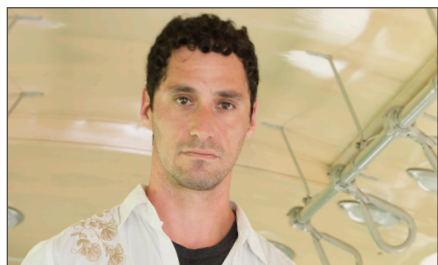
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QUICK FACTS



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW MURDOCH

Band Members

Brad Dunnells – guitar and vocals

Laura Hein – keyboard and vocals

Jeff Malcom – bass guitar

Skye Sadowski-Malcom – fiddle and vocals

Ed Tetreault – Keyboard, guitar and vocals

Jeff Trueman – drums

Albums

Whiskey, Bars, A-Go-Go (1995)

Quinn's Diaries (2000)

Rosemary Nelson (single, 2000)

Translations (2001)

Stand Alone (2004)

Father O'Leary's Memorial Boys Club EP (2007)

Paid Off the Boom (2012)

Festivals

Baltimore Irish Festival

Celebrate Fairfax (VA)

DC Shamrock Festival

Dublin (OH) Irish Festival

Hartford Irish Festival

New York City Guinness Fleadh

Springfield (MA) Irish Festival

Syracuse Irish Festival

Airplay

WTMD (Baltimore)

WRNR (Annapolis)

WFUV (New York)

Celtic Lounge Radio (celticlounge.com)

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Baltimore-based Irish/American roots-rockers The Donegal X-Press release their new album *Paid Off the Boom* on March 11, 2012. Featuring 12 new tracks, including covers by Steve Earle and Old Crow Medicine Show, *Paid Off the Boom* is The Donegal X-Press' sixth studio album and an audibly artistic detour from their previously recorded material.

Produced and recorded in Baltimore by Ed Tetreault, and mastered by Michael McDonald of Algorhythms Mastering in New York City, *Paid Off the Boom* combines well-crafted songwriting with earthy audio tones and bare-knuckled song arrangements into a genre of music that has been called "Irish/American Counterculture".

The Donegal X-Press (pronounced 'dä-ne-gäl') has sustained itself for ten plus years as one of the premiere Irish/American roots bands in the country. A high-energy, six-piece outfit that has gained praise and fans from New York to Ireland, Baltimore to Nashville and beyond, The Donegal X-Press (DXP) blends unique combinations of country and blues, folk and rock, rhythm and punk, which John O'Regan of *Roots Magazine* calls, "...creative ferocity not seen since The Clash's *London Calling* period."

The Donegal X-Press plans to prove with *Paid Off the Boom* why a band must keep evolving to thrive and why they like to keep their audience guessing. *Paid Off the Boom* displays a renewed strength of artistic direction for the band through a variety of recording techniques and thematic diversity.

Baltimore-based Grammy nominated engineer and producer Ed Tetreault may be best known for his work with classical and jazz artists such as Ana Vidovic, Manuel Barrueco, and Paul Bollenback. His background in classical and jazz music recordings is evident throughout the album and brings a unique perspective to each track. Tetreault's input during the *Paid Off the Boom* sessions brought out a focus and determination in the band that sharpened their collective vision and brought out the best they had to offer. The band members' long-time friendships with one another afforded them the ability to take risks throughout the recording process that resulted in artistic honesty in both the driven rockers and gentle ballads.

Paid Off the Boom spans honest introspect to lustful excess while engaging in a wide variety of musical styles. There are songs of forgotten wars, irreverent accolades, ill-gotten romance, honest love, and summer employment. *Paid Off the Boom* is the next generation of The Donegal X-Press' development as both band and bard.

What the hell does *Paid Off the Boom* mean? Check out paragraph 18 of *The Oyster in Chesapeake History* by Dr. Henry M. Miller.



Track Listing

1. **Paid Off The Boom**
An anecdotal account of the oyster wars of the Chesapeake Bay
2. **Mad Dogs and English**
Irreverent accolade to Noel Coward
3. **Dublin City**
Power pop praise for The Big Smoke
4. **Day In August**
A lifetime proposal ?
5. **Rather Be Dead**
PSA for prophylactics
6. **White Free & 21**
A call for individual responsibility
7. **Green White and Gold**
Brothers in blood
8. **Take My Hand**
Introverted blues
9. **Johnny Come Lately**
Earle Cover
10. **Wagon Wheel**
O.C.M.S. Cover
11. **Town I (Thought) I Knew So Well**
A nod to Phil Coulter via Port Washington, Long Island
12. **OC Romance**
There really is no cure for the summertime blues

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