



ARTIST NAME:
BEN WALKER & CHRIS KNOWLES

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: **UK**

NO. ALBUMS RELEASED: **6**

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BEN WALKER & CHRIS KNOWLES



Biography

Ben Walker & Chris Knowles are a duo act specialising in instrumental Celtic music.

They are both highly proficient and experienced multi-instrumentalists: in this duo Ben plays uilleann pipes, flutes, and whistle, and Chris plays Celtic harp and bouzouki.

Their performance consists of their own arrangements of traditional music mainly from Ireland, Wales, Scotland, but also some from Isle of Man, Brittany and Cornwall, ranging from slow airs, jigs, hornpipes etc. to fast exciting reels. They also play compositions by 17thC. Irish harper Carolan, and pieces from other early Celtic music sources.

Their repertoire is varied, and their music is both hauntingly beautiful and exhilarating.

CHRIS has worked as a freelance professional musician for 29 years, playing a variety of instruments, but in particular the Celtic harp and bouzouki. He has performed at many Folk festivals & Arts festivals all over the UK, and on several TV & radio programmes. He also played many public events for the Welsh government organisation CADW at various castles and historic sites throughout Wales, and was their official harpist at Caernarfon castle for 9 years.

He has recorded 22 albums as a principal artist, including 6 with Ben and one solo CD.

BEN has a background in jazz (piano, saxophones, flutes) but took up the uilleann pipes in the 90's and decided to specialize in Irish music on pipes, flute, whistle & low whistle. Since then he has become highly skilled in the genre on all those instruments. He is also a singer-songwriter and professional music teacher.

Ben & Chris originally worked together in a Celtic music trio called 'Howling at Ravens' (1999-2000), which produced 1 album 'Lovely Molly'. This received considerable critical acclaim in folk music press, but the trio disbanded shortly afterwards. Ben and Chris got back together a couple of years later as a duo playing trad. Irish music, and have worked together fairly regularly since.

They have recorded several albums together as a duo, the most recent being 'The Coming of Spring' (2016)

History in brief

A sketch timeline of some of Ben & Chris's public work together. (For details of their solo work and separate individual careers, please see their individual websites).

- 1999: (in trio 'Howling at Ravens'):**
Kinnersley Festival, Glastonbury Festival, Recorded CD album 'Lovely Molly'
- 2000: (in trio 'Howling at Ravens'):**
St. Martin's Centre Oswestry, Presteigne Irish Music Festival
- 2001: (duo)Manchester Irish Festival**
Also playing together in band 'ROAM'
- 2002:(in band 'ROAM'):**
Saltburn Folk Festival, Festival at the Edge, Middlewich Folk & Boat Festival, Burntwood Folk Festival, Banbury Folk Festival
Recorded CD album 'Ragged in the Rain' with ROAM (Bedspring label)
- 2003:(in band 'ROAM'):**
Saltburn Folk Festival, Fylde Folk Festival
- 2004: Duo- Wimborne Folk Festival,**
Open-air Concert on Wirral(supporting act to Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra)
- 2005: Duo- 2-week tour in Nova Scotia Canada, Recorded CD album 'The Holly Bush'**
- 2008: Duo- The Big Whistle weekend Bury, Concert at Public Gardens Ness Wirral,**
Performance at Hay-on-Wye Festival.
- 2009: Duo- Concert at Dragon Theatre Barmouth.**
- 2012: Duo- Supported Oyster Band at Wimborne, and performance at Wimborne Folk Festival**
- 2014: Duo- Folk Festival in a Day- Barry Island Wales**
- 2015: Duo- Concert at St. Tanwgs nr. Harlech**
- 2016: Duo- 3 x Concerts at St. Tanwgs nr. Harlech, Concert at Caban, Brynrefail,**
Recorded CD album 'The Coming of Spring'
- 2017: Duo- Concert at Ludlow Fringe Festival, 2 x Concerts at St. Tanwgs nr. Harlech,**

Discography

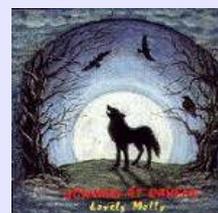
Ben& Chris have recorded 3 albums of instrumental Celtic music together, shown below. The first was 'Lovely Molly' as the trio 'Howling at Ravens'. The other two are duo albums.



The Coming of Spring (2016)



The Holly Bush (2005)



Lovely Molly (1999)
(Obelisk HAR001)

(In addition they have recorded 3 albums of Ben's songs, which is completely different music on different instruments, not relevant to this Celtic instrumental act. For complete discography please see their individual websites)

Music samples

For mp3 samples of the latest album, please go to:

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/benwalker12>

Or see Chris's website www.chrisknowles.org

Video

For video samples please see :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brMfzXokkqc>

and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rm-M7EcWFjE>

Press - Reviews

The harp playing is beautiful as is the piping...I can recommend them strongly

Traditional Music Maker magazine Oct. 1999

This is a wonderfully esoteric CD of mostly traditional Celtic music..There are 14 tracks on the CD ranging from joyous jigs, reels and polkas-sounding at times rather like the Bothy Band or the finest possible traditional session you could imagine. Other tracks have an ethereal quality..Lovely Molly is simply the best album of traditional Celtic music that I have heard for a very long time. (Review of CD 'Lovely Molly')

Traditional Music Maker magazine Mar. 2000

FOR LATEST REVIEWS AND RECENT PERFORMANCES, PLEASE SEE
ONLINE EPK : <http://www.chrisknowles.org/presskit/index.html>

PROMOTIONAL PHOTOS AND STAGE PLAN SETUP DIAGRAM CAN ALSO
BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE EPK

www.chrisknowles.org

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