

LUCKY ENOUGH FROM PLASTIC PADDY

Plastic Paddy is the name of an exciting new Celtic Rock band from the American West Coast writes John O'Regan.



From Northern California, Plastic Paddy's music crosses everything from The Pogues, Clancy Brothers, West Coast Rock and Progressive Folk Rock. The band members: Erin Bloom (vocals, bodhrán, tambourine), Robin DeMartini (flute, piccolo), Matt Faris (bass, vocals) John Gomes (guitar and vocals), Patrick Russ (guitar, mandolin, banjo, vocals) and Logan Cruz (drums) all gel together very well. Recently, Logan was drawn away to work on other projects so Jules Wolley has joined the group on drums.

Their debut album, titled *Lucky Enough* issued in Spring 2017 "has been featured on radio and podcasts from Boston, Chicago, New York, California, and Australia," according to multi-instrumentalist Patrick Russ. It has featured on the Some Good Craic Irish Radio Show, the Irish and Celtic Music Podcast, the Irish Power Hour (WOUR 96.9FM), on Windy City Irish Radio (WSBC 1240AM), and in Ireland their music has graced the airwaves of Limerick City Community Radio among others.

Patrick Russ outlined the Plastic Paddy story. "Several of us having been performing together for much longer, having performed in a band

Murphys and Clancy's, the range of our collective influences include classical (our flute player is classically trained and teaches flute) to jazz, improvisational rock to bluegrass, country music to world reggae". There's no leader as the band's democratic ethos applies when it comes to making music policy decisions. "We decide as a group," Patrick explains. "Mostly everyone has an input. Also, our original songs are important in our growth. If someone has written a song that fits or defines our sound, that inspires us and helps to shapes our CD and our set list," he added.

Lucky Enough includes crusty bar ballad staples *Whiskey You're the Devil*, *Murshleen Durkin*, *Dacey Reilly* and a Hispanic flavoured reading of *I Know My Love*. The instrumental set *Biscuits to a Bear* includes some intriguing tunes and a post-psychedelic drum solo for good measure. Most impressive though is the Nordic sounding gothic ballad *Scali L*. "It was written with a feeling of the mystic folkloric traditions of life, death and rebirth that are part of so many cultures. It includes the tradition of liling with the lyrics "Scali li la le la lo" from Celtic and Irish

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called Pladdohg that recorded three CDs," Patrick answered. Plastic Paddy's date sheet has been varied: performing at music festivals, community events, bars and pubs. "San Francisco Bay Area has a large Irish presence that includes Irish and Celtic dancing groups and classes to learn to traditional dances. There are many Irish pubs and bars and some have dedicated Irish music nights for musicians to play acoustic instruments. On St. Patrick's Day, there are many places to celebrate. We recently performed at Two Day Town music festival in Livermore, CA. This is a gathering of local bands to perform in a beautiful family orientated setting. In May, we are performing at the Silicon Valley Irish Fleadh," (which is a celebration of Irish culture in the famous Silicon Valley).

Plastic Paddy's music is an eclectic melting pot: "In addition to traditional Celtic, the Irish music of 60's like The Irish Rovers and the more modern Irish rock influences from The Pogues to Dropkick

songs. It was inspired by a song called *Dreadful Wind and Rain*, which is a retelling of the *Twa Sisters*, a song from Northumbria (from the 1500s).

In the story one sister pushes the other into the river to drown and she is reborn into a swan and eventually her bones are made into a fiddle that can only play the namesake song *Dreadful Wind and Rain*. *London after Midnight* is very loosely based on an experience in a cold rainy London on New Year's Eve in 2016. I (Patrick) was remembering it after I got back home and thinking what the evening would have been like under different circumstances. My memory of London was a positive one. I was wandering the city feeling the goodwill of strangers. The song is about not giving up hope".

The good news on the upshot of *Lucky Enough* is that Plastic Paddy are busy drawing up ideas and material for their second album, which they hope to record in the future.