

AN LAR : YARN



An Lár (Irish for “the center”) has gained a reputation as one of the most vibrant Celtic Folk Band in Switzerland in the past few years. Their mix of traditional and contemporary tunes and songs from Ireland, Scotland, Asturias and Brittany has been enriched increasingly with their own material, so that the band’s unique sound is most likely to be called Swiss Celtic Folk.

Distinctive features of An Lár recordings and concerts are the exciting arrangements, the strong lead vocals and the musician’s great virtuosity on a multitude of instruments.

An Lár was founded in 1992 as a hobby project. The band’s technical skills, sense of style and motivation to perform high quality music has grown ever since. Touring as a quartet, An Lár plays about 30 concerts per year with an upward trend.

Stefanie Aeschlimann, Jürg Frey, Matteo Hofer, David Brühlmann and guest musician Wolfgang Zwiauer have just recorded An Lár’s fourth CD “Yarn”. Half of the new material is written by the band, the other half consists of tunes and songs from Ireland, Scotland and the US.

Line-up

Jürg Frey: Whistles Concertina, Guitar, Mandolin, Banjo, Voc

Once upon a time there were three musicians. They were waiting for the bus to the rail station in a town called Fribourg, which lies on the french-german language border in Switzerland. Talking of languages, the three fellows, who just had started playing Irish Folk Music together, rememered at this moment that a Irish bus heading to the center would be marked with...

Well, the story may not be very spectacular, but that's where the Band's name has it's origin. Jürg was one of the three, he is the musical leader of the band and composer of tunes and songs.



Matteo Hofer: Guitar, Mandola, Flute, Whistles

Matteo is the new guitarist of An Lár. Well, he's not that new, we're talking of more than eight years here. And neither is he just our guitarists, as you can see above. Just as Jürg he's got band experience in several genres, in his case that's Hip Hop, Rock and Pop. That may not be very usual for a folk musician, but it opens up his and our musical horizon. He is also contributing his own tunes to the bands repertoire. On top of his musical qualities, we benefit of his artistic talents. After his participation in our previous CD „Bümpliz Süd“ he designed the new on „Yarn“ on his own..



Stefanie Aeschlimann: Fiddle, Voc

Stefanie has played the fiddle in An Lár since 1994. She knows a whole lot of jigs and reels and we love to cherry-pick out of them. A good part of the tunes she has learned on her many trips to Ireland, Scotland and the US. She has also learned from stars of the celtic folk scene like Lissa Schneckenburger. Stefanie is the only band member, that plays just one instrument, I guess that's because she doesn't have to deceive the audience like the rest of the band does.



David Brühlmann: Voc, Bodhran, Button Accordion

David joined An Lár after his first appearance with the band as a guest musician in 1999. We had won one of the finest sinngers in the area, who brought in not only his powerful and expressive voice but also a lot of band experience. He had always liked to backbite multiinstrumentalist. Well, we're glad he can't do that anymore without hurting himself. Dave has written all the lyrics of the band's original songs and has composed a waltz on the new CD, as well.

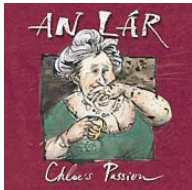


Discography:



Snapshot (1999)

recorded live at Villa Stucki, Bern, by Urs Lanz



Chloe's Passion (2002)

recorded by Urs Lanz (Lastasound)
and Matthias Ackermann



Bümpliz Süd (2005)

recorded at Turtle Recording studios,
by Urs Lanz (Lastasound)



Yarn (2009)

recorded at the "ZOO",
by Mat Callahan

past concerts...

Mahogany Hall, UpTown, Gaskessel, ISC, Sous le Pont, Bern
Euro 08 Rahmenprogramm Bundesplatz
Irish Festivals Veysonnaz, Bassecourt, Basel, Tesserete, Schötz (LU)
St.Gervais, Coupole, Biel
Alti Moschti, Mühlethurnen
Schloss Ueberstorf
Kulturmühle Mühletal, Wünnewil
Folkclub Interlaken
Kulturmühle, Lützelflüh
Kiff, Aarau
Ochsen, Zofingen
Salzhaus, Brugg
Culturium, Basel
Kulturwerk 118, Sursee
Stadtkeller, Schüür, Luzern
Krone, Giswil
Scala Wetzikon,
ZAK, Jona
Alte Post Aeugstertal
Kultur im Bären, Häggenschwil
Werkstatt, Chur
Saratz, Pontresina
Expo.02, Biel, Neuchâtel