

THE FAIRFIELD WEEKLY READER

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Chicago-based Irish Band Gan Bua, L.to R: Brian Miller, Jackie Moran, Brian O hAirt, Christy Bain, Sean Gavin; Christy Bain is being replaced for this tour with Brendan Bulger, not pictured. Café Paradiso – Friday, October 13th at 8 p.m.

Gan Bua Makes Fairfield Debut

By Tim Britton

I'm delighted to report the forthcoming appearance of Chicago-based Irish band Gan Bua at Café Paradiso on Friday, October 13 at 8 p.m. Yes, that's Friday the 13th. (Although Fairfield can boast one resident named Fred Kruger, it's not likely he'll be in evidence.) As Fairfield's honorary Irishman, I've had the pleasure of sharing with the community the acquaintance of many of my friends – cherry picked from the firmament of Irish music luminaries. Even so, it's rare that we score so well in one evening.

Gan Bua which loosely translates as "without gift", is hardly that. Irish American News hails them as "New Group Of the Year", going on to say "This is powerful, simultaneously pure and innovative trad [traditional] music at it's most exiting. Chicago has a new major force on the scene."

Founding member, Jackie Moran is one of the few Irish musicians who's made his name as a serious percussionist on the Bodhran, a goat-skinned Irish frame drum. A mainstay of the Chicago Irish scene, Jackie has toured extensively under various flags such as Riverdance, The Drovers and The Trinity Irish Dance Company, and appears on the soundtracks of a number of major motion pictures.

Sean Gavin on wooden Flute, Whistle and Uilleann Pipes is the talented son of my old friend and Fiddler from County Clare via Detroit, Mick Gavin. Sean has quickly risen through the ranks, his group taking second place in the All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil music competition.

Brían Ó hAirt (Brian Hart) is especially intriguing in that he chose, as a young American, to embrace perhaps the most intimate and profound expression of Irish culture, the Gaelic language itself, and through that, sean nos (old style) singing. His aspirations have seen singular success. He became the youngest and first American to win the coveted Sgiath Uí Dhálaigh shield at the Fleadh Cheoil – adding his name to the sheidl's long list of noted singers including Joe Heaney, Frank Harte and Paddy Berry. He also sports a delicate touch on the Concertina and Whistle.

Guitarist/Singer/Flutist Brian Miller has appeared at Café Paradiso twice now with Fiddler Django Amerson and other friends. It's saying a lot that I count Brian among my favorite guitarists in Irish music. A native of Minnesota, Brian has managed to spend an inordinate amount of time soaking up tunes and Guinness in the Southwest of Ireland.

I can hardly be disappointed that fiddler Christy Bain will be replaced on this tour by Brendan Bulger. Also an All Ireland Champion, Brendan has also graced the Café stage and is one of the most capable innovators on Irish Fiddle.

Admission is \$12. Come early if you want to catch these guys from the comfort of a chair. Preview them at www.ganbua.com or just show up to Café Paradiso on Friday the 13th.