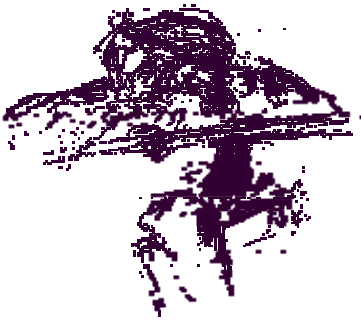


# Brendan McKeever

Traditional Irish & Contemporary Folk Musician

## Press Release



Brendan McKeever comes from Portadown, County Armagh, in the north of Ireland.

As the youngest of nine very musical children, Brendan grew up with music as a second language. He already could instinctively comprehend complex progressions and scales by the time he was old enough to stretch his hand around the fretboard of a guitar, and thanks in no small part to the weekly Classical violin lessons he was already receiving he could make the theoretical crossover from four strings to six with prodigious ease. He was five years old by this time. By the time he entered his teens, he was an accomplished violinist and member of the County Armagh Youth Orchestra, as well as an ever more competent Irish Traditional guitarist.

At this time (early to mid 1970's), Brendan was a much sought after musician in Folk Clubs up and down the country, with fresh interpretations of the old tunes and songs adapted by himself and musical soul-mate Adrian McParland for Harp and Guitar, and both of them individually won All-Ireland titles in Fleadhanna Cheoil, Slógadh, and Scór. Together they played as support band for, among others, The Chieftains and Christy Moore. Every available opportunity Brendan had, however, he was off to the Gaeltacht (Irish language speaking area) of Gaoth Domhair and Rann na Féirste in north-west Donegal, to speak the language and play the music in its natural habitat; often hitch-hiking the 160km after school on Fridays to do so!

It was here, in the homeland of Clannad and The Bothy Band, that Brendan got the greatest instruction and inspiration; learning his art at the side of the leading exponents of the modern Irish Folk Revival, and a bond developed between him and his cultural heritage that has never weakened over the years.

By the time the 1980's came around, Brendan had joined up with childhood friend Adrian McParland once again, and along with ex 'Hyland Paddy' and 'Tara' stalwarts, Morgan Campbell, and Seamus McKenna, they formed what was to become one of the most influential groups on the

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Irish Folk scene; Bonaparte. Playing a very broad cross-section of music, Bonaparte broke through some fairly well defined musical boundaries itself at the time, and the band received critical acclaim both at home, and abroad.

Brendan left Bonaparte and the north of Ireland, in 1983, and over the next 11 years he worked with various bands, in genres ranging from Traditional Irish, Contemporary Folk, to Rhythm & Blues, and Rock; redefining himself as a session musician, and he toured America on a number of occasions with some of the greatest names on the modern day Irish music scene.

In 1994, Brendan moved to Oslo, Norway, and started to develop more as a solo artist. His vast wealth of material, and his adaptation of many songs into an acoustic setting, has gained him the notice and respect of audiences and aficionados wherever he has gone.

Brendan McKeever has been described as having the most distinctive style of Irish Traditional guitar accompaniment around, and has been ranked by many as one of the top Irish Traditional guitarists in the world.

### **Contact & Booking Information:**



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