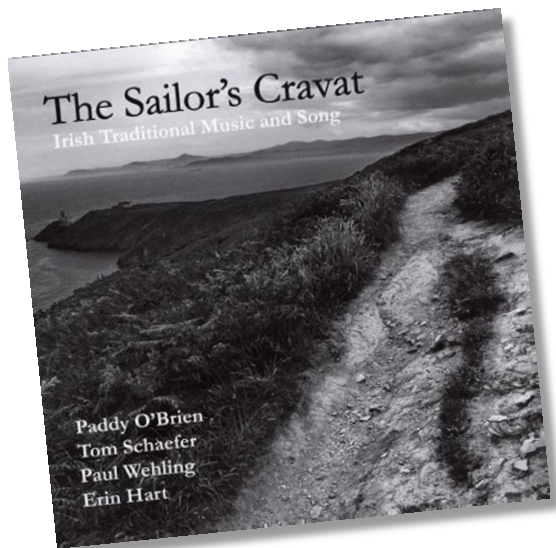


News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 18, 2011

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Irish music legend **Paddy O'Brien** launches new recording **'The Sailor's Cravat'**

Button accordion maestro Paddy O'Brien to celebrate
his latest CD release on New Folk Records label
7:30 pm on Saturday, June 25, 2011 ~ Celtic Junction in Saint Paul

Saint Paul, MN — May 18, 2011: Paddy O'Brien, often described as 'a walking encyclopedia of Irish music' will celebrate the release of his latest recording, 'The Sailor's Cravat,' with a concert at 7:30 pm on June 25 at Celtic Junction, 836 Prior Avenue North (just north of University Avenue) in Saint Paul. Joining Paddy for the CD release are his 'Cravat' collaborators, Tom Schaefer on fiddle, Paul Wehling on bouzouki, singer Erin Hart, and a few special guests. Admission is \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door; each paid attendee will receive a free copy of the latest New Folk Records Sampler CD. There will be a cash bar, with beer and wine available.

'The Sailor's Cravat' represents a labor of love, and more than five years of concentrated rehearsals. The CD features 14 tracks with Paddy O'Brien and Tom Schaefer in what has become the O'Brien signature style, an amazing note-for-note unison between accordion and fiddle, with tasty backup from Paul Wehling on bouzouki. The track list includes some brilliantly twisty tunes from two of the finest modern composers of Irish traditional music: legendary Galway fiddle

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player Paddy Fahy and the late Sean Ryan of Tipperary. The CD also features some old traditional tunes, and one of Paddy O'Brien's own compositions, 'The Gosling,' along with three fine unaccompanied songs from Erin Hart, who in addition to being Paddy wife, is also an award-winning and bestselling crime novelist.

WHAT CRITICS ARE SAYING ABOUT 'THE SAILOR'S CRAVAT'...

"I seemed to hear some new combination, harmony or turn every time... with O'Brien's music the heart and the brain are instantly engaged." —Tom Clancy, *The Old Blog Node*

**"There are certain artists from whom we just come to expect excellence, and Paddy O'Brien is one of them. Great stuff."
— Bill Margeson, *Live Ireland***

"It's incredible!" — Mary Caraway, 'A Feast of Irish Folk' on WHPK, 88.5 FM, Chicago

Copies of 'THE SAILOR'S CRAVAT and Paddy O'Brien's previous recordings will be on sale at the June 25 concert, along with other New Folk Records merchandise. Erin Hart will also have books available for purchase and signing.

For ticket information or additional details on the CD launch, please call 651-698-2258 or 612-722-7000.

For more background on Paddy O'Brien, please visit: <http://www.paddyobrien.net/>

For sound samples and ordering 'THE SAILOR'S CRAVAT,' please visit: <http://www.paddyobrien.net/cravat/>

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The Sailor's Cravat

Irish Traditional Music & Song

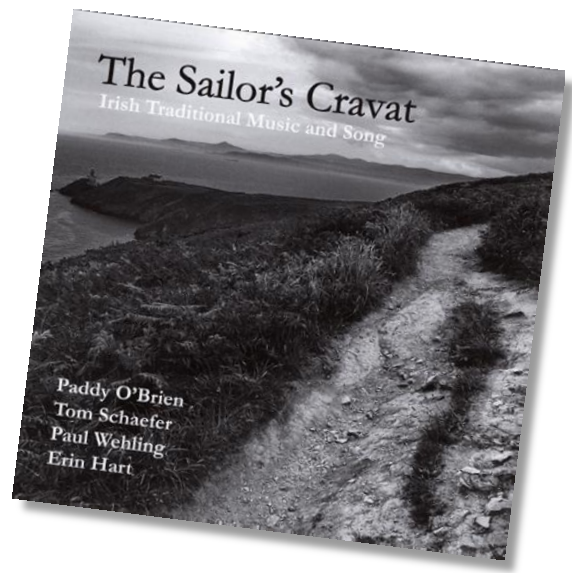
NEW FOLK RECORDS/CLÓ IAR-CHONNACHT WCM0001

Paddy O'Brien, button accordion

Tom Schaefer, fiddle

Paul Wehling, bouzouki

Erin Hart, vocals



Track listing:

1. Reels: The Singing Kettle / Sean Ryan's
2. Jigs: Michael Coleman's / The Rose of Lough Gill
3. Reels: The Sailor's Cravat / The Maple Leaf
4. Song: The Flower of Magherally-o
5. Hornpipe: The Groves (4 parts in the key of F)
6. Jigs: The Rambles of Kitty / Paddy Fahy's / Paddy Fahy's
7. Reels: The Humours of Tooma / The Wheels of the World
8. Polkas: The Peeler's Polka / Joe Bane's / Dick Tobin's
9. Song: The Generous Lover
10. Reels: Paddy Fahy's / Paddy Fahy's
11. Jigs: The Goat in the Garden / Sean Ryan's
12. Reels: McCollum's / The Gosling
13. Song: The Shooting of Molly Bawn
14. Jigs: The Cat in the Corner / Paddy O'Brien's Ramble
15. Hornpipes: Murdoch Henderson / The Low Level
16. Reels: Bill McEvoy's / Paddy Fahy's
17. Reels: The Silver Spire / Sean Ryan's

'THE SAILOR'S CRAVAT' (New Folk Records WCM0001) — PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES**Paddy O'Brien**

Button accordion icon Paddy O'Brien is a tradition-bearer in the truest sense: he has accumulated a veritable hoard of rare versions of tunes and stories gleaned from more than five decades of seeking out and spending time with older musicians throughout Ireland. A native of County Offaly in the Irish midlands, Paddy has played with many celebrated ensembles in Ireland (the Castle Ceili Band and Ceoltoiri Laighean) and in the US (Kelly, O'Brien & Sproule, Bowhand, Chulrua, The Doon Céilí Band, O'Rourke's Feast), and has taught at many prestigious Irish music schools. He has played at hundreds of venues all over North America (from the Kennedy Center and Milwaukee Irish Fest, to small folk clubs and concert halls), and across Europe (Ireland, France, Germany, and Russia). He has been featured on dozens of recordings (including six albums with Shanachie Records since 1978), and in 1988 released his first solo album, *Stranger at the Gate*, on the Green Linnet label. A second solo effort, *Mixing the Punch*, will be released by New Folk Records in 2011. In the early 1990s, Paddy embarked on a project to record and document 1,000 melodies from his vast and remarkable repertoire of traditional tunes; Volume One of *The Paddy O'Brien Tune Collection: A Personal Treasury of Irish Traditional Music* came out in 1995; Volume Two was just released in April of 2011, to broad accolades from players of Irish music around the world.

Tom Schaefer

A South Dakota native who has long made the Twin Cities his home, Tom Schaefer is considered one of the finest fiddle players in the upper Midwest and can play everything from swing to Irish traditional music with the skill and ease of a true master. Tom has won honors as state fiddling champion in North Dakota and earned the same title three times in South Dakota. Besides playing Irish fiddle (which he studied with master musicians Kevin Burke and Liz Carroll), Tom has also shared the stage with Bluegrass phenoms Clay Hess and Bob Black, virtuoso guitarist Tommy Emmanuel, Country Music Hall of Famers Hank Thompson and Jethro Burns, as well as Peter Ostrousko, Dáithí Sproule, Riders in the Sky, Tiny Moore, and many more. Tom has performed in many festivals across the US and has recorded on more than 50 different albums.

Paul Wehling

Paul Wehling's attraction to Irish traditional music began at a session in County Clare, during a trip to Ireland in 1987. With his brother Matt, he was a founding member of Clumsy Lovers, a band which dominated the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Irish/Celtic music scene in the early nineties, making two recordings and winning a Minnesota Music Award. In addition to playing with Celtic trio The Blackbirds, he is a highly sought-after accompanist, performing with such well known Irish musicians as Sean O'Driscoll and Paddy O'Brien.

Erin Hart

In addition to being a traditional singer, Erin Hart is the award-winning author of *Haunted Ground*, *Lake of Sorrows*, and *False Mermaid* (Scribner), a continuing series of archaeological/forensic crime novels set in the bogs of Ireland. Her books are published all over the English-speaking world, and have also been translated into German, French, Dutch, Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese, Norwegian, Swedish, Russian, and Japanese. She is currently at work on the fourth in the series, *The Serpent's Egg*. Erin is married to Irish button accordion wizard Paddy O'Brien, with whom she frequently visits Ireland, carrying out essential research in bogs and cow pastures and castles and pubs. Visit her website at <http://www.erinhart.com>.