



the sweet colleens

fiddle-fueled accordion-infused celti-cajun folk pop

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biography

The Sweet Colleens are David Bade, Dave Bille, Jeremy Greenhouse, Wolf Loescher and Pete Sandvik – accomplished multi-instrumentalists who together fuse their diverse musical backgrounds into a high energy, infectious, and crowd-pleasing mix of “Celtic folk-rock and alt. country/Americana, with Cajun and Caribbean seasonings.” With infectious original songs, warm vocal harmonies, and fiery instrumental arrangements, The Sweet Colleens are winning a loyal local following and fans across the Midwest and beyond.

Ex-pat Canadian songwriter and fiddler Jeremy Greenhouse and Minneapolis accordionist Pete Sandvik put together a band for a Y2K New Year’s show at Kieran’s Pub in Minneapolis. The Colleens went on to establish themselves as the Twin Cities’ favorite pub band and — since the release of the band’s debut CD *Flop* and its celebrated sophomore release *half a mile from home* — has expanded its audience through shows and festivals in the Midwest and even a 2-week jaunt to France.

The Sweet Colleens CD *half a mile from home* showcases the band’s trademark musical dexterity with 16 tracks that draw on a remarkable range of roots music – feisty medleys of Irish and Canadian fiddle tunes, a raucous cover of The Pogues’ “Fall From Grace,” Cajun-tinged original songs featuring performances by Michael Doucet of BeauSoleil, a folk-rock ballad about Jesse James, a tender waltz featuring the Trinidadian steel drum, and a dozen energetic and raw alt-country original songs about love, life, death and everything in between – all pulled together into a seriously fun and uniquely Minnesotan sound.

The Sweet Colleens are currently working on a third full-length CD release, scheduled for release in Winter 2011.

Additionally, in January 2010, the band released its first CD of original kids’ music, *The Monkey Dance: All the Kids Are Doin’ It*, with two sold-out release concerts, again at the Cedar Cultural Center. The CD, which features celebrated inner-city kids choir, The Minneapolis Youth Chorus, has kids everywhere singing “No Beans, No Brownie” and shakin’ their booties to the Monkey Dance! (Although the CD is aimed at kids, it is guaranteed not to drive adults crazy!)

The Sweet Colleens bring diverse musical backgrounds to bear on their truly unique folk-rock sound. Jeremy Greenhouse (vocals, guitar, fiddle, mandolin, harmonica), has recorded and performed extensively with Celtic, rock, Cajun and country acts in Canada, the U.S., and Europe. Pete Sandvik (accordion, piano, guitar, vocals), brings Cajun and rock influences, classically-trained dexterity, and a not-so-secret love for the Grateful Dead to his accordion playing with the Sweet Colleens. David Bade (bass, vocals) offers rock solid bass during the Sweet Colleens live shows, and everything from bluegrass picking guitar solos to cello on their recordings. Dave Bille (acoustic and electric guitar) has years of experience playing diverse musical styles ranging from West African soukous to country blues and American roots rock. Finally, drummer Wolf Loescher’s style draws not only on the country-swing of his native Texas, but on the rich bagpipe-laced Celtic music of Scotland, where he lived for several years before founding the acclaimed Celtic-rock band Jiggernaut. Together, The Sweet Colleens offer a unique high-energy roots sound.

press quotes

“...a smart, crowd-pleasing mix of Celtic folk-rock and alt. country/Americana, with Cajun and Caribbean seasonings.”

Minneapolis Star Tribune

“*Half a Mile From Home* confirms what I already knew from hearing The Sweet Colleens live—that they’re one of the freshest roots bands to come out of Minnesota in years. Their spicy blend of Cajun, country, Celtic and Appalachian music is infectious.”

Ellen Stanley, Director of Publicity and Promotions – Red House Records

“These guys take you on a wild, high-energy trip from Belfast, to Kentucky, to Louisiana, to Nova Scotia, to Kingston and back home again all in one set. My legs are tired just thinking about it.”

Mike Pengra, Producer, Minnesota Public Radio – 89.3FM The Current

“I was lucky enough to do a session with the Sweet Colleens and I have to say that their music woke me up. It was like walking out of Fred’s Lounge in Mamou, a dark bar swelling with music and beer into the bright sunshine of a Saturday morning. That’s what it’s like hearing these guys play Cajun music in Minneapolis.”

Michael Doucet – BeauSoleil

“This five piece plays fiddle-drenched and acoustic-hopped jigs with spirit and smarts...”

Jim Walsh, St. Paul Pioneer Press

“The Sweet Colleens are fluent in the blissfully forlorn folk-pop traditions that can wring both tears and nostalgic stories about your ex out of you. They can also go crazy green, throwing Celtic sparks and fiery, fiddle-fueled, whirling jigs. The Colleens are conversant, as well, in the stink and smoke of punk music. You’d swear at times that this is a progressive country group with traditionalist sensibilities and once in a great while, you might believe this Minneapolis band grew up wading through the muck and bugs of a Louisiana swamp.”

Michael Metzger, Skyway News, Minneapolis

“Hip parents take note: The Sweet Colleens (true to their name, a sweet group playing Irish-tinged folk-pop) have come out with a children’s record that’s just about as cute as a leprechaun.”

Tim Gihring, Minnesota Monthly

discography

- Closer to the Sky (Spring, 2012)
- The Monkey Dance: All the Kids Are Doin' It (2010)
- Half a Mile from Home (2005)
- Flop (2003)
- The Sweet Colleens (2000)

representative shows

- The Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis, MN (2006)
 - Opening Night Gala
- The Basilica Block Party, Minneapolis, MN (2007, 2009)
- The Minnesota State Fair, St Paul, MN (2008, 2009)
- Cedar Cultural Center, Minneapolis, MN
 - Standing-room-only Twin Cities Celtic Showcase (2011)
 - Monkey Dance "Spooktacular" Kid Show (2010)
 - Sold out double bill with the Grammy Award winning Cajun band BeauSoleil (2009)
 - Double bill with Irish folk star Damien Dempsey (2008)
 - Packed-house CD release concert (2005, 2010)
- Festival Theater, St. Croix Falls, WI (2009, 2010)
- St. Paul Winter Carnival, St Paul, MN (2009)
- North Texas Irish Festival (2012)
- Irish Fair of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN (2000 – 2011)
- Premier Minneapolis Clubs (2006 - 2010)
 - First Avenue, Fine Line, Varsity Theater
- Festivals, Pubs & Clubs (and private events) throughout the Midwest and France
- Burnsville Performing Center, MN (2010, 2011)
 - Headlining Kids music festival

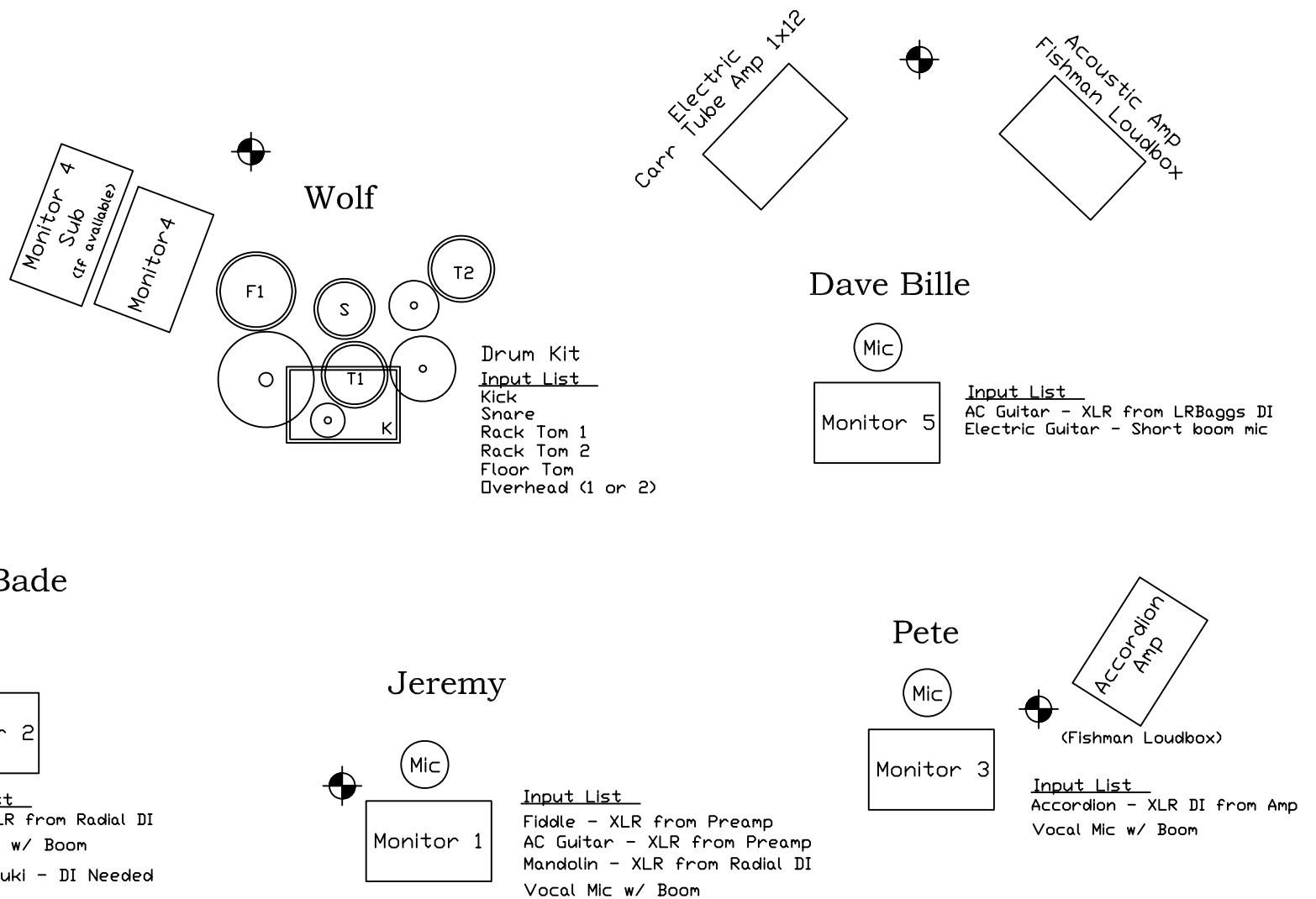
appearances (radio, television & more)

- Minnesota Public Radio, 89.3 FM – The Current, St. Paul, Minnesota
 - The Morning Show (hosted by Dale Connelly and Jim Ed Poole)
- KARE 11 Television, Minneapolis/St. Paul
 - Showcase Minnesota, (hosted by Rob Hudson & Corbin Seitz)
 - Saturday Morning Show, (hosted by Eric Perkins & Belinda Jensen)
- Cities 97, 97.1 FM, Minneapolis, MN
 - Cities 97 Morning Show – Studio C Performance (hosted by BT and Lee Valsvik)
- St. Paul St. Patrick's Day Parad, St. Paul, MN (2005)

radio airplay

- Minnesota Public Radio – The Current - 89.3 FM St. Paul, MN
- KFAI - Radio Without Boundaries - 90.3 FM Minneapolis, MN
- WPCR - Plymouth College Radio - 91.2 FM Plymouth, NH
- Cities 97 - Music from Then, Music from Now – 97.1 FM Minneapolis, MN
- Pandora Internet Radio Internet Broadcasting
- Celtica Radio, Wales Internet Broadcasting
- KPFT – Irish Aires – 90.1 FM Houston, TX

SWEET COLLEENS - 2011 Irish Fair



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