

POOR MAN'S FORTUNE

New World Music from the Old World

Poor Man's Fortune is North America's finest performer of the music of Brittany. This region of Northwestern France boasts Europe's largest Celtic music scene, rivaling that of Ireland and Scotland. The Breton music tradition embraces a range of styles from the pure-drop traditional to the intensely modern, and Poor Man's Fortune embraces them all. Poor Man's Fortune mines the Breton dance tradition as well, offering workshops on the traditional dances of Celtic France.

No fairy tales, just fiery tunes that happen to be a century or so older than your average hip-hop jam, arranged for modern ears and played on traditional instruments with verve and exuberance. Dance music, Real music that's been around awhile but still sets toes tapping.

The individual members of Poor Man's Fortune comprise a list of the best Breton musicians in The US...

SERGE LAÏNÉ is a native of France and holds a Ph.D. in French folk music & literature. In the mid 1970s, Serge has performed with Irish bands Crazy Jane & the Bishop and Finn MacCool, French folk band Cocquesigruës, Cajun bands Ti Fer and D'jalma Garnier. Presently, Serge also performs with one of the oldest folk bands in Texas, Bourrée Texane.

Serge has also recorded with Abra Moore, Irish flute player L.E. McCullough, Scottish singer Ed Miller, guitarist Rich Brotherton, and fiddlers Erik Hokkanen and Danny Levin. Serge sings in French and Breton, and plays an astonishing number of diverse instruments including diatonic accordion, Scottish lowland bagpipes, Scottish smallpipes, dulcitar, guitar, hurdy-gurdy, pennywhistle, crumhorn, musette, & cabrette.

LARRY RONE has been at the forefront of Celtic music in the Southwest for over twenty years. Larry is one of the best wooden flute and pennywhistle players in the region and one of the best bombarde players outside of Brittany. Larry has played wooden flute, rustic oboe, pennywhistle and bombarde with several of Texas' finest traditional bands including Crazy Jane & the Bishop, Connemara and Rakish Paddy. In 2003, Larry performed as a soloist on the bombarde with the Chicago Symphony.

He is also a highly respected flute player in Japan, where he was a founding member of the Kansai-based Banish Misfortune (Yakubarai) and performed regularly with the most famous Japanese folksinger-songwriter, Takaishi Tomoya. Larry has recorded with Michael Martin Murphy, Ed Miller and Eliza Gilkyson.

Born in Edinburgh Scotland, **RICHARD KEAN** moved to Canada at the age of three and at ten began tuition under his father, Pipe Major Eric Kean. Richard continued his tuition with several prominent Canadian pipers. By his late teens Richard formed the group MacBOFA and began developing new styles and compositions for the Highland bagpipe. Richard later moved back to Edinburgh where he teamed up with Pipe Major Lindsay Davidson, B.Mus. edu. Richard also participated in the formation of Stockbridge Pipe Band, Edinburgh and was pipe sergeant for three years until returning to Canada.

Richard moved to Houston Texas and soon joined the Hamilton Pipe Band, a successful competition band. In early 2000 Richard added Scottish Highland and Small pipes as well as the Breton Biniou Kozh to Poor Man's Fortune. Not content to play in just one band, Richard soon after joined the new celtic-rock band Jiggernaut. In 2001 Richard formed the performance troupe Tartanic which extends the roll of the bagpipe as a strictly musical instrument and allows it to be expressed as a theatrical tool as well. Work with Tartanic lead Richard to involvement with the performance group Wolgemut, blending period medieval and renaissance music with a "rock and roll" show. All of these endeavors share a common goal; to allow Richard to express his love of bagpipes and their music and to continue the development of bagpipes in new settings.

KRISTEN JENSEN is a native of Central New York and holds a degree in Music Education/Violin Performance from Ithaca College. She started playing violin at the age of 4 hoping that someone would teach her to play "Eleanor Rigby." After 20+ years of classical training she heard the call of the fiddle and pursued Celtic fiddle music with Laurie Hart & Martin Dowling, and improvisation with Darol Anger and Mark O'Connor.

Kristen has been an active fiddlist in both Houston and New Orleans playing and recording with several groups including The Wild Lotus Band, Riccardo Crespo and Sol Brasil, Ya Ya Sol, Kim Carson, The Moe Handsome Blues Band, Fish & Chips, Lisa Novak, Mark Zeus, and Funky Mustard.

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