
WAKE THE DEAD

*The World's Only
Celtic All-Star
Grateful Dead
Jam Band*

WAKE THE DEAD
725 Pomona Avenue
Albany, CA 94706

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for bookings, promo or info, contact
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www.wakethedead.org

WAKE THE DEAD

As an expression of cultural joy, you can't top an Irish wake. And what is a wake but a celebration—a toast of appreciation—an expression of love—and a damn good party?

So when seven top Bay Area musicians realized they shared as deep a love for the songs of the Grateful Dead as they did for traditional Celtic tunes, some brand-new music sprang up and started partying.

WAKE THE DEAD is a romp that flows seamlessly from rock grooves to hot Irish reels, and from haunting airs to achingly beautiful melodies familiar to Deadheads everywhere. "Sugaree" in waltz time, bracketed by an ancient harp tune and infused with a poignant Celtic longing. "Bertha" thundering out of "China Cat" on a mandolin tidal wave. The eerie lilt of the uilleann pipes, giving a glow to "Bird Song" as if it was always meant to be there. Groove jams to keep the tie-dye swirling. Vocal harmonies that float like clouds.

The music takes off, and the band follows, grinning all the way. These aren't worlds colliding—they're worlds meshing, coalescing—creating a whole new world of possibility, and true to the spirits of the Grateful Dead and the eternally hopeful Celts.

WAKE THE DEAD bands together seven of the best-known and most respected players in the west. Harper Maureen Brennan has toured for over 30 years and recorded the acclaimed "Harpistry" collection. Bassist Cindy Browne is equally at home in folk and jazz, touring globally as the musical fusion go-to gal. Singer, fiddler, and octave mandolinist Danny Carnahan is an award-winning songwriter whose original Irish-tinged songs are popular worldwide. Kevin Carr is a musical triple-threat, renowned as a dance fiddler, a pennywhistler, and Irish piper par excellence. Sylvia Herold's delicious vocal phrasing can also be heard on her solo recordings and her performances with Euphonia. Paul Kotapish is known far and wide for his work with Kevin Burke's Open House, and for his blazing guitar and mandolin with The Hillbillies From Mars and Euphonia. And Latin percussionist Brian Rice rounds out the band's groove engine.

*WAKE THE DEAD has wowed concert and festival crowds from San Francisco's Fillmore Auditorium to the Oregon Country Fair. National radio play and concert tapers are spreading the music wider every day. The first album was a huge success. The second, *Buckdancer's Choice*, was released in 2002 on Redwing Records to critical acclaim. The third, *Blue Light Cheap Hotel*, hit the deck in early 2007 and is currently tearing it up out there.*

So kick back, join the party, and wake the dead!

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WAKE THE DEAD THE STORY SO FAR

Wake the Dead was born in 2000 when three veteran Celtic performers who shared a love for the Grateful Dead experienced a joint flash of inspiration and began weaving the two seemingly alien musical genres into something new and immediately appealing. Danny Carnahan, Paul Kotapish, and Maureen Brennan assembled a septet of seasoned Celtic, jazz, and new acoustic players and recorded "Wake the Dead" as a lark. The CD contained nine songs originally popularized by the Grateful Dead, each retooled in unexpected ways, blended with Celtic jigs, reels, and airs, and performed all-acoustic but with true rock-and-roll sizzle. Grateful Dead Records took one listen and immediately signed the band, releasing the CD nationally.

What no one at the Grateful Dead knew at that moment, though, was that the band didn't exist yet. In fact, never had all seven members all played together at the same time. But, all agreeing that this was the most fun music any of them had played in years, they dropped everything and started rehearsing to perform live. It didn't take long, and by October, Wake the Dead was playing to sell-out houses in the Bay Area including the Fillmore Auditorium and the Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse.

Over the years, the band's repertoire multiplied, including rare Robert Hunter songs never done by the Dead, traditional songs that helped shape Jerry Garcia's career and, increasingly, original compositions by Wake the Dead bandmembers. More recently, the band has expanded its reach to embrace the entire Summer of Love, mixing in Jefferson Airplane, Buffalo Springfield, Dyland and more. At every turn, arrangements get richer and more adventurous. The band takes advantage of the strengths of each member, establishing more thunderous grooves, more interesting textural shifts, and more and more stepping out into dangerous improvisational territory.

Where the first CD was born around the kitchen table, the following CDs were born on stage, growing in intensity and complexity as the band grows tighter and more confident in front of bigger and bigger crowds. Where will the road take Wake the Dead next? Your guess is as good as ours, but judging from BUCKDANCER'S CHOICE, BLUE LIGHT CHEAP HOTEL, and DEAL, it's bound to be one amusing trip.

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What folks are saying about WAKE THE DEAD— the first release on Grateful Dead/Arista Records

"This mostly East Bay crew has tapped into yet another audience: fans of both Celtic music and the Dead. Judging by turnouts last month at Bimbo's (Wake the Dead in a double bill with doo-wop kings the Persuasions to celebrate both acts' CDs of Dead music) and at this sold-out hometown debut, the deliciously fresh Celtic-Dead thing was an idea whose time has clearly come."

—Larry Kelp, East Bay Express

"This marks the beginning of an era of music that I think is the most important, wonderfulest thing to happen to Grateful Dead music since Jerry died. I haven't heard anything that portrays the spirit — not even coming from the Grateful Dead members — that came this close to realizing the kindness of Jerry Garcia and the spirit of the Grateful Dead."

**—Vince Welnick, Grateful Dead keyboardist, after
Wake the Dead/Persuasions CD release concert**

"Shimmering renditions of Dead music fused with Celtic beauty. The music is beautiful, masterfully performed with Dead-hommage vocal style, great traditional Celtic instrumentation. The Dead songs fit this genre very well. I think any fan of the Dead will appreciate these renditions of their music. I know Jerry would've dug them."

—Reed Maidenberger, Amazon.com

"Five stars! This record captures more fully than any single Dead album or tribute project, the melodic beauty, lyrical depth and timeless quality of the Garcia/Hunter songbook. Largely acoustic and blended seamlessly with traditional Scots and Irish melodies, this is a record that could capture a broad audience, converting folkies into Deadheads and 'heads into folkies."

—Amazon.com

"[Wake the Dead] have found a spiritual walkway between Irish music and the Grateful Dead . . . There's a sense of longing in every CD track."

—San Francisco Examiner

"Dead touchstones, 'Friend of the Devil,' 'Bertha,' 'Sugaree' and 'Touch of Grey,' never sounded fresher. A musical feast for fans of Irish/Celtic and the Dead alike. If the closing track, 'Row Jimmy' doesn't break your heart, you don't have one."

—Chuck Waters, indyweek.com

"Just the new and different thing adventurous ears crave."

—Midwest Record Recap

"An eminently listenable stroll through new pastures that should please both Deadheads and trad music fans who've never touched tie-dye."

—Brad Kava, San Jose Mercury News

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More WAKE THE DEAD reviews—

"Wake the Dead is a thorough delight from start to end, seamlessly interweaving the good old tunes with the good older tunes — traditional airs, jigs and reels (plus one original dubbed an 'unreel'). You've never heard songs like 'Bertha,' 'The Wheel,' 'Sugaree' and 'Bird Song' quite like this, and it's likely that you'll never listen to them in quite the same way again."

—Gary Lambert, Grateful Dead Almanac

"The harmonies of Camahan and Herold are outstanding, with Herold being an especially delightful 'find'. The instrumental skills of all the string players shine throughout, and the arrangements are always melodic, bright and interesting. Fans of Celtic music with the inclination to combine rock music's more melodic songs with traditional dance tunes should definitely check this out."

—Steve Edge, Rogue Folk Club, Vancouver, B.C.

"Take eight classic Grateful Dead tunes, add seven seasoned musicians who groove to a joyful Celtic rhythm, blend it with a healthy dose of love for both, and you've got one hell of a party! In this case, it comes in the form of a delightful CD, Wake the Dead. From rock grooves to a touch of bluegrass to hot Irish reels to hauntingly beautiful melodies, the combination puts forth a new kind of sound that conjures up memories of Old & In the Way and early Grateful Dead vibes, familiar to Deadheads everywhere. The comfortable adaptations make it sound as if these songs were written to be performed in this manner, proving once again that the music of the Grateful Dead is capable of crossing all social and cultural boundaries, including a vast array of musical genres. A stellar cast of musicians."

—Portland Observer, Portland, OR

"Of all the Grateful Dead cover efforts, the arrangements on this recording are the most successful, reflecting some thought and effort and, most importantly, a real feel for the songs."

—Dan Rubin, cdconnection.com

"A wildly successful transposition of Garcia's and Hunter's tunes to a British Isles setting."

—Michael Parish, Dirty Linen Magazine

"An album as beautiful as it is unlikely."

—Kenny Berkowitz, Acoustic Guitar Magazine

"A beauty and a pleasure to listen to. The weaving of Celtic and Dead music is mesmerizing....and I rarely find anything that can grab and hold my attention and keep me coming back for another listen...and another listen."

—SRANET Live Event Site Reviews