

Brian Baynes Band

The Brian Baynes Band creates an exciting blend of musical styles and experience that strives to infuse a renewed energy and passion in Celtic music.

Brian Baynes – Influenced by both Irish and American music, Dublin-born Brian Baynes started his musical career in touring bands in Ireland. A frequent guest artist of the San Diego Symphony, he has performed with many world-renowned names in Celtic music – Eileen Ivers, Alasdair Fraser, Martin Hayes and Grammy Award-winning producer P.J. Curtis, to name a few. In the studio, he has built a strong reputation as a producer and arranger, with many local and international credits to his name, including Nollaig Broolly's critically acclaimed debut album and Maranna MCloskey's album (which won LiveIreland.com's prestigious 'Best Vocal Album' award for 2009.) Collaborating with Hayes and Curtis, Brian has recorded his own well-received instrumental album, *Celtic Guitar*. Brian also had a role in the film *Titanic*.

Wanda Law - San Diego Symphony violist Wanda Law has enjoyed playing Irish fiddle for over twenty years. She and her husband Ian, who plays Irish flute, are members of the Siamsa Gael Ceili Band, one of the area's oldest traditional Irish music groups. In 1986 Wanda won the Grand National Irish Fiddle Championship in Los Angeles and that same year joined the staff of the Lark in the Morning traditional music and dance camp in Mendocino, where she continues to teach fiddle classes every summer. This is her fourth appearance as fiddle soloist with the San Diego Symphony for its Celtic Celebration. Wanda has performed at major traditional music festivals and gatherings throughout the West. She has been featured in several concerts and recording collaborations with guitarist Brian Baynes.

Jeff Pekarek – A native of San Diego, Jeff studied with Federico Silva and Bertram Turetzky. He was the youngest member of the San Diego Symphony when he joined the contrabass section at the age of seventeen, performing with the orchestra from 1975-79. His interest in folk music led to the founding of local groups The Jackstraws and the Electrocarpathians. For over two decades Jeff has been the principal arranger for filmmaker and composer Yale Strom. The collaboration has included two documentaries, two ballets, and the orchestral work *Aliyot*, performed by the St. Louis Symphony. From 1996 to 2004 he performed with the Peter Puppington Quartet. In 2004 Jeff performed extensively with legendary bluegrass fiddler Richard Greene, and recently he has been working as an arranger for Canum Entertainment.

Jon Szanto - Jon Szanto is active as a percussionist, producer, composer and software designer in San Diego. He is primarily a performing musician and is a frequent percussionist with the San Diego Symphony. Mr. Szanto received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Performance from San Diego State University in 1976 and in the subsequent years has participated in a broad selection of musical styles, including classical symphonic percussion, klezmer bands, microtonal ensembles, percussion groups and recording work. He has also performed regularly with the San Diego Opera, and California Ballet, and was a founding member of the San Diego Chamber Orchestra.