

"True to the rollicking spirit of the Irish ceili!"  
Todd Dawson...The Morning Call

"Traditional Celtic music not bound by tradition"  
Dave Howell...Freelance Critic

"Unmistakably traditional...Sheer Ceili Aerobics!"  
Express-Times



**BLACKWATER**  
Trad with a Twist

# Trad with a Twist

Blackwater is a five piece traditional Celtic band from the Lehigh Valley region of northeastern Pennsylvania. Its members each have a rich tradition in Celtic, Folk, Classical and Contemporary Music and have successfully merged those individual influences into a unique and dynamic sound. Rich vocal harmonies, fiddle, Irish flute and whistles, button accordion, guitars, mandolin, bouzouki, piano, and bodhran lend the group its unmistakably traditional sound. Original compositions and innovative arrangements freshen the mix for a show that has been described as "sheer ceili aerobics!"

Blackwater is...

Sean Hennessy - Vocals, Guitar, Bouzouki & Bodhran

Alison Gillespie - Fiddle

Fionna Hennessy - Vocals, Flute & Whistle

Tom Gillespie - Guitar, Keyboard, Vocals & Percussion

Al Keller - Banjo, Mandolin, Button Accordion & Percussion

The band's name draws on Sean and Fionna's close association with the area of Southern Co. Waterford where their family is from and where they spent a large part of their formative years. The Blackwater is a swift moving river separating Waterford and Cork counties and runs near their hometown of Dungarvan. Nestled between the mountains and the sea, this area, also called the Deise (day-shuh), is renowned for its long heritage of both instrumental and vocal music.

Greatly influenced by their Grandfather, a singer and storyteller known throughout the area, Sean and Fionna were immersed in tradition at an early age. Embracing that tradition and bringing it to a modern listening audience has been their goal ever since becoming performing musicians.

Joining with instrumentalists and accomplished musicians, Alison & Tom Gillespie and Al Keller, the group quickly formed their unique style and sound. With each arrangement or composition they present a unique interpretation...tradition with a twist.



# BLACKWATER

# The Band

## Sean Hennessy



A self-taught musician, Sean has been performing Irish music with various groups throughout the Northeast for 18 years, and most recently as the leader of Blackwater. Splitting his childhood between a first-generation Irish household in New Jersey and his family's home in Dungarvan, County Waterford, music and oral tradition have always been a part of his life. Greatly influenced by the singing and storytelling of his grandfather, Sean loves to explore the story aspects of Celtic ballads, and is known for his expressive, rich voice and rhythmic accompaniment styles.

**Vocals, Guitar, Bodhran**

## Alison Gillespie



Is a native of Essex, England, but spent her childhood growing up on a farm in Central New Jersey. She studied classical violin in her teens, but also found enjoyment hearing authentic bluegrass music being played in an old music hall near her home. While away at Ohio University, Alison's interest in folk music led her to attend an inspiring performance by legendary Irish fiddler Kevin Burke. Not long after, Alison began performing Irish dance tunes on the fiddle with a five-piece band, and has been delighting listeners ever since. Alison currently teaches Celtic fiddle at the Moravian Music Institute in Bethlehem, PA.

**Fiddle**

## Fionna Hennessy



Studied at Moravian College's Music Department where she was a voice major. Spending most of her childhood in her mother's hometown of Dungarvan, she was greatly influenced by the strong musical tradition present in Co. Waterford. Fionna has been playing the flute and singing since she was a child. Before joining Blackwater, she performed for five years with her brother, Sean, in the Balladeers. Her creative harmonies and sensitive accompaniment contribute greatly to the band's unique sound.

**Vocals, Flute, Whistle**

## Tom Gillespie



Grew up in Central New Jersey and began playing guitar and 5-string banjo at 13, which led to his study in bluegrass, country, jazz, blues and then classical styles. Tom holds a degree in music from Trenton State College where he studied music theory and composition, with performance focused on piano, viola and voice. His folk music beginnings were rekindled in the 1970s when he came across some Steeleye Span recordings, and he has been playing Celtic music since. Tom also currently performs in the traditional Celtic instrumental band Gilly's Hedge with Alison and Al.

**Guitar, Bass, Keyboard, Vocals**

## Al Keller



While playing bluegrass music on guitar and upright bass fiddle, he became interested in the origin of the instrumental fiddle tunes. Listening to WXPB Radio in 1983 he heard a recording by the Boys of the Lough, a Scots/Irish band, and his direction in Celtic music was established. Learning the tenor banjo, mandolin, button accordion and bodhran, Al began playing for clubs, festivals and ceili's around the area with several local groups before joining forces with Sean to help form Blackwater.

**Mandolin, Banjo, Button Accordion**

Sean  
Alison  
Fionna  
Tom  
Al

# BLACKWATER

SENUEVA

Blackwater, formed in 1996, quickly gained a loyal fan base. The band has performed steadily for the past eight years at pubs, cabarets, concerts and festivals adding to their supporters and fans along the way. Some of the venues Blackwater has played include:

The Celtic Classic - Bethlehem, PA (6 Consecutive Years)  
The Philadelphia Ceili Festival  
The Jeanie Johnston Festival - Bristol, PA  
The NJ Irish Festival - Holmdel, NJ  
Brooklyn Academy of Music  
Stabler Arena  
The Ice House  
Godfrey Daniel's  
Mayor's Inaugural Ball - Bethlehem, PA  
Mayfair Festival - Allentown, PA  
Jack Frost Irish Festival  
The Oyster Fest - Reading, PA  
19th Street Theatre  
Lehigh Valley Christmas Show (8 Consecutive Years)  
The Roxy Theatre  
WPLJ FM, New York - St. Patrick's Day Live Broadcast  
Celtic TV - Live Internet Broadcast Concert  
St. Elizabeth's College  
Musikfest  
Moravian College  
The College of New Jersey  
Das Awkscht Fescht - Macungie, PA  
WDIY Public Radio - Live Performers Series  
North Jersey Feis  
Lehigh University  
Cedar Crest College  
De Sales University

and many more...



BLACKWATER

# Friends

Over the past several years, Blackwater has had the great fortune to meet and perform with many of the leading names in Celtic music.

Some of these groups and performers we are privileged to call friends are:

Seamus Kennedy

Cathie Ryan

Gaelic Storm

John Whelan

Eileen Ivers

Danu

The McKrells

Glengarry Bhoys

Dervish

Halali

The Wolftones

Charlie Zahm

Pat Kane and West O'Clare

Devilish Merry

Laura Cortese

Pipeline

many more...



# BLACKWATER

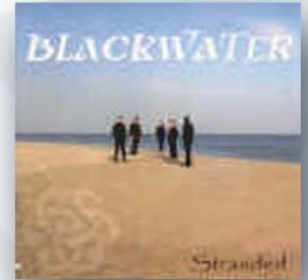
**Blackwater - 1999 Bummertent Records**

- Rising of the Moon
- Scottish Tunes
- Continental Ceili
- The Ploughboy
- Fergal O'Garra/Bucks of Oranmore
- Arthur McBride
- Littlebridge Inches
- Streets of London
- Ciaran Tourish's/Tonroe/Kevin McGillian's
- Sweet Thames
- The Improbable Set
- Isle Au Haut



**Stranded - 2002 Bummertent Records**

- Monday Morning
- Brenda Stubbert's/Fiddler's Creek
- Fair Jeannie
- Sean Ryans Jig/Coppers and Brass
- Uisge Beatha
- Forever Yours
- Love and Freedom
- Colligan Springs
- Both Sides the Tweed
- Winner of the Games
- The Headland March/MacArthur's Road
- The Calypso Ceili Band
- Going Home
- Reel Beatrice/ An Caipan an Airt
- John O'Dreams



**WDIY Studio Sessions - Volume 2**

- Colligan Spring

**Lehigh Valley Christmas - 1998**

- The Boars Head Carol

**Lehigh Valley Christmas - 1999**

- Glocestershire Wassail/The Three Sea Captains/The Lost Penny Jig

**Lehigh Valley Christmas - 2000**

- Here Comes Santa Claus

**Lehigh Valley Christmas - 2001**

- Fum, Fum, Fum

**Lehigh Valley Christmas - 2002**

- Christmas in the Trenches

**Lehigh Valley Christmas - 2003**

- I Saw Three Ships/Bring a Torch/Xmas Eve Reel

**Lehigh Valley Christmas - 2004**

- Christmas Day I'da Moarnin/O Come Little Children

**Lehigh Valley Christmas - 2005**

- Fairytale of New York with Zen for Primates

**Celtic Classic - A Compilation**

- John O'Dreams

**Friends of Joe Foley**

- Littlebridge Inches



# Merchandise

Through affiliations with recognized on-line merchandising leaders CD-Baby.com and CafePress.com, Blackwater offers on-demand purchase, fulfillment and delivery of CD's and promotional items.

In addition, the band provides purchase opportunities at all live performances and can accept, payment via cash, checks or credit card.

Seasonal items are rotated through the stock at appropriate times during the year. (i.e. Christmas ornaments, seasonal clothing items, etc...)

Arrangements can be made in advance for co-branded merchandise to be pre-ordered and shipped to your venue for sale before, during and after the performance. Pricing for this merchandise would be at very near wholesale allowing for a potential revenue sharing opportunity.

Some of the items available...

T-Shirts  
Sweatshirts  
Hats  
Boxer Shorts  
Henley Shirts  
Fleece

Baby Bibs  
Stuffed Animals  
Flying Discs  
Bumper Stickers  
Posters  
Prints  
Mugs

Messenger Bags  
Tote Bags  
Calendars  
etc...



To view these items and find more detail go to our web site [www.blackwatermusic.com/gear.html](http://www.blackwatermusic.com/gear.html). Or feel free to contact us to discuss merchandising options.

# BLACKWATER

Realizing that not all venues are suited to a 5 piece stage band, Blackwater offers you the flexibility of adapting to your needs. In addition to our full complement, we can offer you smaller configurations geared to meet the requirements of your event or the limitations of your venue.

In addition to the members of Blackwater, we also have access to a wide variety of musicians to meet most every need. We can also provide Irish step-dancers when desired.

Some of the performance choices available are:

**Vocal Duet:**

Fionna & Sean in a vocal based performance consisting of guitar & flute and their fantastic vocal harmonies. Their popular repertoire consists of traditional, original and contemporary ballads and pub songs. Sure to please any fan of Irish music with a variety to suit all tastes.

**Instrumental Duet or Trio:**

Alison, Tom & Al in instrumental based performances with some of Tom's inimitable vocals thrown in for good measure. You can enjoy Alison's dynamic fiddling richly accompanied by Tom and Al. Irish, Scottish & Cape Breton tunes from the familiar to the beautifully obscure are all presented with the intricacy and talent that Blackwater fans have come to love.

All bookings are consolidated through Scart Productions to ensure that no scheduling conflicts arise.

Please contact us to discuss your needs and how we can help.

See the Contacts Page for more information.



## Information and Bookings

Blackwater  
c/o Scart Productions, Inc.  
103 Deepdale Drive  
Middletown, NJ 07748  
732.796.0944 Office  
908.451.4367 Mobile



Booking email: [bookings@scartproductions.com](mailto:bookings@scartproductions.com)  
Information email: [info@scartproductions.com](mailto:info@scartproductions.com)

## Use Rights and Mechanical Licenses

Blackwater  
c/o Bummer Tent Records  
Attn: Miriam Huertas - Executive Producer  
P.O. Box 9350  
Allentown, PA 18105-9350  
610-433-4436 Office



email: [bummertent@rcn.com](mailto:bummertent@rcn.com)

## Technical, Sound & Staging Information

Al Keller  
610.282.3147

## Merchandising

Sean Hennessy  
732.796.0944

## Public Relations, Press & Promotion

Dorianne Hennessy  
732.796.0914

## Visit Blackwater on the Web at:

<http://www.blackwatermusic.com>

# BLACKWATER

# Technical

Blackwater uses 15 inputs  
3 monitors on 3 busses

Sound company provides all mics on boomstands  
with the exception of instrument mic position 5

Position 1 stage right 3 inputs - Al  
Direct XLR - mandolin  
Direct XLR phantom on - banjo  
Instrument mic on boom stand - accordion

Position 2 stage right center 2 inputs - Fiona  
Direct XLR radio headset Fz 617.100 - flute  
Vocal mike on boomstand - lead and harmony vocal

Position 3 stage center 4 inputs - Sean  
Direct XLR radio pickup Fz 598.625 - guitar  
Direct XLR phantom on - bodhran  
Instrument mic on boomstand - bouzouki  
Vocal mic on boomstand - lead and harmony vocal

Position 4 stage left center 2 inputs - Alison  
Direct XLR radio condenser Fz 603.900 - fiddle  
Vocal mic on boomstand - backup vocal

Position 5 stage left 4 inputs - Tom  
Direct XLR - guitar  
Direct 1/4 " - bass guitar  
Instrument mic on boomstand - guitar  
Vocal mic on boomstand - lead vocal

## Monitor Position and Mixes

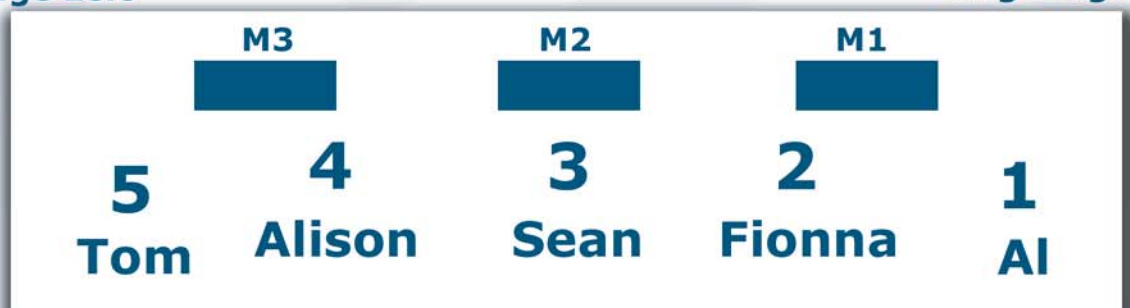
Monitor 1 - position 2 stage right center - mix positions 1, 2, and 4

Monitor 2 - position 3 stage center- mix positions 3 and 4

Monitor 3 - position 5 stage left - mix positions 5 and 4

**Stage Left**

**Stage Right**



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