



Classic Album Concert combining the 'old & new boys' at Celtic Connections 2009



Taking place in Glasgow every January, the Celtic Connections Festival is well established as Scotland's premier winter music festival & features artists from around the globe alongside the very best Scottish talent.

Battlefield Band will be appearing at Celtic Connections on Saturday 24th Jan 2009 to play a 'classic album' concert: performing tracks from their 1980 *'Home Is Where The Van Is'* album. Produced by their long-time producer Robin Morton, this widely lauded & critically acclaimed recording set a benchmark and became a seminal album for many.

The album pioneered many new directions which others have followed, and firmly established the integration of bagpipes with fiddle, keyboards, guitar and voice; mixing the old songs and tunes with new self-penned material & becoming a record that defined the sound of Scottish music for a long time.

This concert sees the current line-up & the 1980 line up unite to perform tracks from that album, and also gives an opportunity for the 'old boys' & the 'new boys' to join forces and play together on some of the more recent Battlefield Band tunes & songs

Donald Shaw, the artistic director of Celtic Connections & one of the founder members of the group Capercaillie, stated at the festival's press conference that this particular album had been particularly influential on him & had a very important effect on the way that he thought about Scottish music.

The combined ensemble for this event features:

- **Ged Foley** (guitar, mandolin, northumbrian pipes, fiddle, vocals)
- **Mike Katz** (highland & small bagpipes, bazouki, whistles, bass)
- **Brian MacNeill** (fiddle, guitar, bouzouki, viola, mandolin, cittern, concertina, bass, vocals)
- **Duncan MacGillivray** (highland bagpipes, guitar, whistles, harmonica)
- **Sean O'Donnell** - (guitar, vocals)
- **Alasdair White** (fiddle, whistles, bouzouki, highland bagpipes)
- **Alan Reid** (piano, synthesiser, accordion & vocals)

Celtic Connections Event Details:

'As classic albums arguably should, the Battlefield Band's 1980 album *Home Is Where the Van Is* enraged purists aplenty on its release, but is now justly regarded as a landmark in the contemporary evolution of Scottish folk music.

Its pioneering integration of non-traditional instruments like synthesiser, electric piano and harmonica with fiddle and bagpipes proved an enduring inspiration to countless other musicians – among them being current Battlefield Band fiddler, Alasdair White, who recalls hearing it in his father's record collection as a child. It also marked longtime member Brian MacNeill's first notable emergence as a songwriter, in *The Lads O' the Fair*, and was the group's debut release in America.

Tonight's one-off show will feature the 1980 line-up alongside today's, uniting Alan Reid, Brian MacNeill, Duncan MacGillivray, Ged Foley, Mike Katz, Alasdair White and Sean O'Donnell, to perform material from both *Home Is Where the Van Is* and the band's recent repertoire'

Saturday 24th January 2009, 7.30pm, ABC, Glasgow, £15

www.battlefieldband.com

find *'Home Is Where The Van Is'* on CD at www.templerecords.co.uk