



Prydein (pronounced pry'den) is a Celtic rock band from northern Vermont. By mixing traditional Celtic repertoire with a rock-music sensibility, Prydein has created a unique sound that has propelled them to the national stage.

For more information, audio and video examples, please visit:

www.prydein.com

For booking information and other inquiries, please contact:

info@prydein.com or

Prydein

215 North Main St.

Saint Albans, Vermont 05478

Biography:

In an effort to take music in new directions, a group of college friends at the University of Vermont started “The Experimental Music Program.” They had some fun, but the group produced lack-luster results and strange arrangements of Dueling Banjos played on marimbas by guys in overalls.

Then one day, a bagpiper came into their midst. What strange beastly creation was this? There was no place to plug in an amp. The piper tuned it with... electrical tape? Could this have been what they were searching for? It was.

Aron Garceau grew up listening to the music of Stevie Ray Vaughn and Led Zeppelin. Often experiencing delusions of grandeur, he actually thought that maybe, just maybe, Led Zeppelin would re-unite and he would get to see them live. He imagined that halfway through the show, some freak accident would claim the left hand of Jimmy Page, forcing Robert Plant to turn to the audience holding up Jimmy’s impotent guitar and plead, “please, is there anybody out there who knows how to play ‘Stairway to Heaven’?”

Bring in Iain Macharg. The son of one of the premier bagpipe builders in the world, Iain grew up listening to the music of The Battlefield Band and the Tannahill Weavers. Often experiencing delusions of grandeur, he actually thought that maybe, just maybe, the Tannies would play a show in his hometown and halfway through the show, some freak accident would claim the left hand of Gordon Duncan, forcing Roy Gullane to turn to the audience holding up Gordon’s flaccid bagpipes and plead, “please, is there anybody out there who knows how to play ‘Maggies Pancakes’ and ‘Dancing Feet’?”

It was like chocolate and peanut butter, although it’s tough to say who is which. From this unlikely pairing came a band unlike any other thanks to Aron’s hard-rocking edge and Iain’s mastery of the bagpipes and Celtic music. (In fact, Iain is a well-respected competitive piper and was promoted to the professional grade after earning the title of EUSPBA 2001 Grade One Season Champion! He competes at the highest level in solo bagpipe competitions.)

They thought about band names and since both The Led Weavers and Tannahill Zeppelins sounded lame, they decided on Prydein. After they figured out the pronunciation (pry'den) and the whole “I” before “e” thing, they

had a band.

Fast forward a few years and Iain and Aron add the bass and drums team of Andy Smith and Caleb Bronz. Andy and Caleb are both versatile players and had played together for years in Mighty Sam McClain's touring band as well as various other configurations playing all kinds of music. They jumped at the chance to join and the band played as a four piece, rocking Celtic festivals and highland games from New England and the Southeast to the Midwest.

Then Dan Houghton came into the picture. When Dan first sat in with the band, the sound of two bagpipers playing in harmony was enough to make blood shoot out of your eyes. Dan also plays flutes, bouzouki, mandolin and just about anything else he can get his hands on. He grew up surrounded by Scottish traditional music and has played and taught throughout Europe, Asia, the New World and the Antipodes. In New Zealand Dan played pipes, bouzouki and banjo and sang in the Irish band Blackthorn. More recently he has been half of several musical duos in Europe including Musion with Chris Wright, The ASBO Duo with Cammy Robson in Edinburgh and The Boussens Which Project with Franck Delieuvin in Toulouse. Also, in 1999 he co-founded the Scottish traditional power band, Cantrip.

In addition, Prydein likes to invite other pipers onstage. They often welcome an entire pipe band to play. If you haven't experienced a rock band playing with 13 bagpipers and drummers, then you probably haven't seen Prydein play at a highland games! The sheer power of the sound will make you shiver!

Whether you call it Celtic-rock, kilt-rock, bagpipe rock, Scottish-rock or maybe sham-rock, Prydein delivers a high-energy performance loved by young and old. A typical Prydein audience is a pretty even mix of folks; elementary kids, disenchanted youth with hair the color of toxic waste and holes in their body that they weren't born with standing next to elderly couples holding up cell phones in the air so that their middle-aged children can hear the amazing sound coming from a rock band with bagpipes. Call it what you will, they call it fun.

Prydein's studio recordings capture the band's amazing ability of staying rooted in tradition while raging. In 2007 the band released, "Loud Pipes Save Lives" to great reviews. This CD features the group's high-energy concert closer, "Stairway to Scotland", an arrangement of what they consider the "Stairway to Heaven" of Scottish music; "Amazing Grace" and "Scotland the Brave." In 2010, Prydein released its most impressive CD yet, featuring a truly diverse collection of music. This is music in all sorts of time signatures styles and feels, including jigs, reels, 5/4, 3/4, 6/8, waltzes, 80's pop, funk and, of course, rock. It ranges from acoustic to distorted, ancient to modern, sensitive to tear-your-head-off.

Reviews:

"You are each fine musicians, but something magical happens when you play together. You are true Celtic Rock" (Jo Sarnelli, Westfield on Weekends).

"Awesome show at Pipes in the Valley in Hartford, the audience loved you! Prydein is New England's best Celtic rock band!" (Charlie Zahm, guitarist/singer of Celtic and early-American music)

"Prydein's music is no-holds-barred and will leave you wanting more." (Christopher Toler, THE Blathering Gommel on ShitenOnions.com)

"Who put the jalapeños in the haggis?" (Paul Gibson, Seven Days)

Notable Festivals and Venues:

- The Celtic Classic, Bethlehem, PA
- New Hampshire Highland Games, Concord, NH
- Pipes in the Valley, East Hartford, CT
- Western Mass. Highland Games, Greenfield, MA
- Higher Ground, South Burlington, VT
- Highland Games, Livonia, MI
- Solarfest, Tinmouth, VT
- Maine Highland Games, Topsham, ME
- The Fort Ticonderoga Scottish Festival, Ticonderoga, NY
- The Big "E" Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, MA
- The New World Festival, Randolph, VT, and many, many others.

Instrumentation:

- Aron Garceau: guitar and vocals
- Iain Macharg: highland bagpipes, flutes and tin whistles
- Dan Houghton: highland bagpipes, flutes, tin whistles, bouzouki, mandolin, and vocals
- Andy Smith: bass and vocals
- Caleb Bronz: drums

Discography:

Heads up -2010

1. Devil's in the Kitchen
2. Loch Lomond
3. Thyme changes
4. Centerfold
5. The Drunken Piper
6. Longing for the Homeland
7. 1/4 Short
8. Whisky You're the Devil
9. Horny-pipes
10. Breton Tunes
11. Feelin' Alright
12. The Big Apple Heist

Loud Pipes (Save Lives) -2007

1. Loud Pipes (Save Lives)
2. Minstrel Boy
3. Run Runaway
4. Backdraft
5. Nancy Whisky
6. Emi's Jig
7. Johnny Jump up
8. Aria's Waltz
9. The Wild Rover
10. The \$17 Redhead
11. Stairway to Scotland

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