

Scotland's  
**TANNAHILL WEAVERS**



*“...an especially eloquent mixture of the old and the new...”*

NEW YORK TIMES

Now in their 53<sup>rd</sup> year, the Tannahill Weavers are one of Scotland's premier traditional bands. Their diverse repertoire spans the centuries with fire-driven instrumentals, topical songs, and original ballads and lullabies. Their music demonstrates to old and young alike the rich and varied musical heritage of the Celtic people. These versatile musicians have received worldwide accolades consistently over the years for their exuberant and humorous performances and outstanding recording efforts that seemingly can't get better...yet continue to do just that.



**ROY GULLANE**  
lead vocals, guitar



**PHIL SMILLIE**  
flute, whistles, bodhran, vocals



**MALCOLM BUSHBY**  
fiddle, vocals, bouzouki



**IAIN MACGILLIVRAY**  
highland bagpipes, scottish small  
pipes, fiddle, whistles, vocals

SCOTLAND'S PREMIER TRADITIONAL BAND

[www.tannahillweavers.com](http://www.tannahillweavers.com)

[tannahillweavers@aol.com](mailto:tannahillweavers@aol.com)

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## Press Quotes

"...the group has found an especially eloquent mixture of the old and the new.

– *Stephen Holden, New York Times*

“The music may be pure old time Celtic, but the drive and enthusiasm are akin to straight ahead rock and roll.” – *Winnipeg Free Press*

“Formed from a Paisley pub session in 1968, seminal trailblazers the Tannahill Weavers now also rank as national treasures.” – *Glasgow Celtic Connections 2018*

“...the Tannies are the best that Scotland can aspire to (and believe me, that is THE BEST).” *- The Living Tradition*

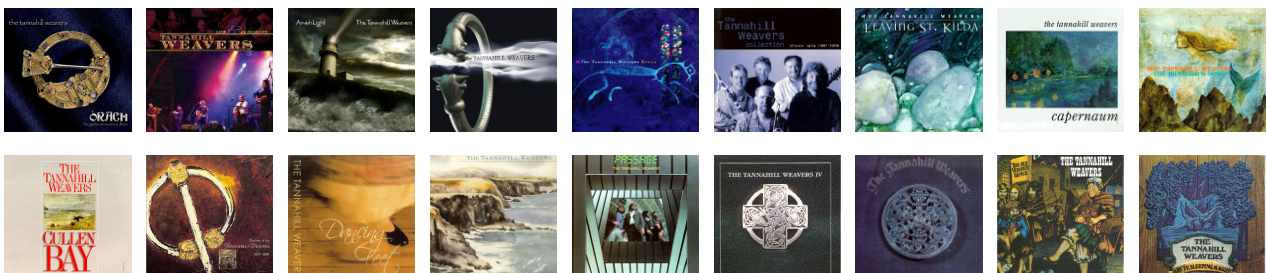
“Scotland’s Tannahill Weavers play acoustic instruments, but the atmosphere at their shows is electric. The quintet is as tight and as versatile as any band in the Celtic music revival. They can summon rock ‘n’ roll intensity or haunting introspection.” – *The Boston Globe, Boston MA*

“The group that introduced a generation raised on rock ‘n’ roll to the power and joy of Celtic music.”      - *The Oregonian, Portland OR*

“...the Weavers’ unpretentious manner and superlative playing set them apart from most other Celtic groups... In a world where good taste has become a scarce commodity, the Tannahill Weavers are a wealthy bunch.”      – *The Charleston Gazette, Charleston, SC*

"...their great humour and superb musicianship make them on of the finest bands on the circuit."  
- *Rogue Folk Review*

"...there probably aren't too many bands hiding on the misty moors who can match the Tannahill Weavers for consummate musicianship, a grasp of the traditional canon and the kind of group cohesiveness that borders on telepathy.... one of the most exciting ensembles currently recording in any genre."  
 – Ron Hubbard, *Knight-Ridder Newspapers*



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## **Full Biography**

*In the late 18th and early 19th century Scotland was in a turmoil of change. Highlanders were being driven from their lands and into the burgeoning Lowland factory systems. This brought two quite distinct cultures together, the mystic Celtic culture of the North and the old Anglo/Scots culture of the Lowlands. They were married by the double barreled shotgun of necessity and the Industrial Revolution. But this forced union brought forth a cultural heritage which, thanks to people like Robert Burns and Robert Tannahill, outlasted the worst of the Industrial Revolution. It married the mystic beauty of the Celtic music to the coarse, brawling, but vitally human music, poetry and ballads of the Lowlands. It is precisely this strangely moving yet lustily stirring quality that the Tannahill Weavers have captured in their arrangements of the traditional music and songs of Scotland. All of their material is traditional, but as good musicians should, they have transformed it and brought it into the modern world, vitally alive and kicking.*

*- HT, Stringbark and Greenhide, Newcastle, Australia*

Born of a 1968 session in Paisley, Scotland and named for the town's historic weaving industry and local poet laureate Robert Tannahill, the Tannahill Weavers have made an international name for their special brand of Scottish music, blending the beauty of traditional melodies with the power of modern rhythms. The Tannahills began to attract attention when founding members Roy Gullane and Phil Smillie added the full-sized highland bagpipes to the on-stage presentations, the first professional Scottish folk group to successfully do so. The combination of the powerful pipe solos, Roy's driving guitar backing and lead vocals, and Phil's ethereal flute playing breathed new life into Scotland's vast repertoire of traditional melodies and songs.

Three years and a dozen countries later, the Tannahills were the toast of Europe, having won the Scotstar Award for Folk Record of the Year with their third album, The Tannahill Weavers. Canada came the next summer, with thousands at the national festivals in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto screaming an approval that echoed throughout the Canadian media. The Regina Leader-Post wrote, "The Tannahill Weavers personify Celtic music, and if you are given to superlatives, you have to call their talent 'awesome'."

Since their first visit to the United States, the Tannahills' unique combination of traditional melodies on pipes, flute and fiddle, driving rhythms on guitar and bouzouki, and powerful three and four part vocal harmonies have taken the musical community by storm. As Garrison Keillor, then host of "A Prairie Home Companion", remarked, "These guys are a bunch of heroes every time they go on tour in the States".

The Tannahills have turned their acoustic excitement loose on audiences with an electrifying effect. They have that unique combination of traditional melodies, driving rhythmic accompaniment, and rich vocals that make their performances unforgettable. As the Winnipeg Free Press noted, "The Tannahill Weavers – properly harnessed – could probably power an entire city for a year on the strength of last night's concert alone. The music may be old time Celtic, but the drive and enthusiasm are akin to straight ahead rock and roll." >>



Over the years the Tannies have been trailblazers for Scottish music, and their tight harmonies and powerful, inventive arrangements have won them fans from beyond the folk and Celtic music scenes. In 2011 the band was inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame, and in 2018 they released their highly acclaimed 50th Anniversary album Òrach ("Golden" in Gaelic) on award-winning label Compass Records.

2021 has seen an exciting change to the band line-up, with the addition on bagpipes and fiddle of Scotland's youngest Clan leader, Iain MacGillivray. Iain speaks (and sings) Gaelic fluently, and has performed on such high profile projects as Outlander and with Martha Reeves and the Vandellas amongst many others. With Iain, Roy, Phil, and fiddle and bouzouki player Malcolm Bushby, the Tannahill Weavers are firmly established as one of the premier groups on the concert stage. From reflective ballads to footstomping reels and jigs, the variety and range of the material they perform is matched only by their enthusiasm and lively Celtic spirits.



Tannies 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Concert Celtic Connections 2018

### **FURTHER INFO:**

<https://tannahillweavers.com>

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### **FOR PROMOTERS AND PRESS:**

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