

# SKWEEZ THE WEEZLE - A Celtic Band

Skweez The Weezle is an acoustic band that has been proudly carrying on the Celtic music tradition since March 1999 from their base of operations in the southeastern area of Washington State. Their current repertoire includes traditional and original tunes and songs from Highland and Lowland Scotland, Ireland, Cape Breton Island, Wales, and the USA. For the past nineteen years, the band has kept a busy schedule performing throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana at festivals, Highland games, concerts, coffeehouses, wineries, book stores, universities, weddings, and private parties. Their first CD "A Celtic Band" was released in May 2002.



(left to right) Mike Day, David Lanigan, Troy Hanford



Skweez The Weezle's current line-up is founding member David Lanigan on Scottish Lowland pipes (a bellows-blown bagpipe with three drones in a common stock), whistles (commonly called tin or penny whistles, although they are not currently made of tin or cost a penny!), and Irish Tenor Mandola (a four-course stringed instrument in the low end of the mandolin family, tracing its roots to the Greek bouzouki); Troy Hanford on guitar (either a McMartin or MacMartin, depending on if he's playing an Irish tune or a Scottish one) and vocals; and Mike Day on bodhrán (an open-backed Irish frame drum played with the hand or a wooden tipper), snare cajon (Afro-Celtic hand drum), and backing vocals.

Many of the tunes the band plays are arrangements of traditional pipe tunes David has found in music books from the 1800's and early 1900's. Other tunes are ones that David has composed within the past 23 years. As the saying goes "something old, something new". In January, 2001, several of David's original compositions and arrangements were published in Cape Breton piper Barry Shears' book "The Gathering of the Clans Collection, Volume 2". In May, 2010, several of David's original compositions were published in piper John Dally's tune book "The Northwest Collection of Music for the Scottish Highland Bagpipe."

While having the bulk of their sets comprised of instrumental tunes, the band has built a large Celtic song repertoire. Troy has brought in songs both traditional and modern, and has even composed a few himself. For the songs, Troy handles the main vocals, while Mike helps out with backing vocals. David (thankfully!) sticks to introducing the sets.

Troy says he "enjoys playing the fast paced, high energy music, the unique music structure of the tunes, and the smiles and foot tapping the band's music generates."

Mike likes the stories that are involved with the music from a historical and folk lore perspective.

David just "loves this stuff!" "And who wouldn't?" he asks. "It's all good craic!"

After 19 years, the band is going strong. Celtic music, after all, is "in their blood."



For more information on the band, and to book them for your venue or event, visit [www.skweeztheweezle.com](http://www.skweeztheweezle.com) or contact them by phone at (509) 528-0131 or by email at [info@skweeztheweezle.com](mailto:info@skweeztheweezle.com).

*"Skweez The Weezle picks you up with the first set and then won't let you down. The drive and excitement this band brings to their music is hard to find this side of Glasgow and Dublin." - John Dally, host of Celtic Aire radio show*